

## Superstar 1261

Chapter 1261: The tenth episode begins recording!

In the following few days.

A short video clip that was taken by a bystander had stealthily been shared like crazy. Zhang Ye featured impressively in the video and was seen leading a group of aunties dancing to "Small Apple" in an open space garden in a neighborhood. He was also occasionally dishing out guidance and pointers for the dance moves. There were even the plaza dance moves for The Hottest Ethnic Trend seen during the last 10 minutes of the video.

"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!"

In the video, Zhang Ye was constantly speaking like he was giving a lecture.

On Weibo.

"Ah, is that Zhang Ye?"

"This fellow is teaching dancing?"

"Does he know how to dance?"

"Fuck, these moves really look standard!"

"Zhang Ye is the top A-list celebrity in the country, but he seems to be doing really well at the grassroots level too?"

"\*faints\* This fellow has really become the founder?"

"Lord Zhang, I'll kneel to you!"

"Yeah, hahahaha, he's even teaching others the dance now!"

"It looks like it's a full set of moves!"

"But honestly speaking, this version by Zhang Ye really looks pretty good."

"Yep, every move is simple but carries a deep meaning. The choreography is very logical too."

"But if he has the time to do this, why doesn't he go and write better songs? Why is he expanding into the field of plaza dance? Teacher Zhang, can we focus on the proper business first, please?"

"Shouldn't you know Zhang Ye by now? His most proper business is having no proper business!"

The views on the clip soared!

1 million!

5 million!

10 million!

20 million!

A lot of people had come to watch in curiosity. They became more and more amused as they watched on, thinking how this weirdo Zhang Ye was always able to do something that no one could expect!

The impact of this clip was huge too!

The most direct effect it brought about was that the entire country's aunties were all starting to learn this version's plaza dance routine by Zhang Ye!

A Downtown Tianjin version?

The Xicheng District version?

A Shanghai suburbs version?

They all disappeared!

Beijing fell!

Shanghai fell!

Tianjin fell!

Nanjing fell!

All of those versions had been unified!

There was no need to fight over it anymore!

With the founder imparting his moves, they were all learning the most proper version of the dance!

At that moment, people in neighborhoods and plazas all over the country started dancing to Zhang Ye's version of "Small Apple" and "The Hottest Ethnic Trend." There was no longer a different set of moves seen!

The media interviews were endless.

The aunties gave a very good evaluation.

"Teacher Little Zhang is amazing!"

"This dance is good, it's really good."

"We've danced it a few times already, but no one's feeling tired yet."

"That's right. Our neighborhood's version of the dance was too tiring to keep up with. The motions were too big, and there were even some moves that those of us who are older could not perform. But this version by Teacher Little Zhang is really up there. Every move feels comfortable to execute, and they're even beautiful to look at when we're dancing to it!"

"Everyone here really loves this set of dance moves!"

"We've never chased after celebrities in the past as we felt that it was something that only young people would do. But today, all of us sisters have become particularly fond of Zhang Ye. We also catch every episode of his show each week.

"Little Zhang is truly a good celebrity. He understands what we older people like."

"He's basically our spiritual leader!"

"He is the spokesperson for us middle-aged and elderly women!"

Another dance craze was sweeping the nation!

In the end, even the official Weibo of the Sports Administration Liked that clip.

Even an official from the Sports Administration came forward to give an interview. He reaffirmed this set of dance moves by Zhang Ye and expressed that they had also gotten experts in the field to analyze and come up with a set of dance moves. However, they could not come up with anything good. It was only after they saw this clip that they realized Zhang Ye's version was more logical. Afterwards, the officials also started promoting it and suggested that the middle-aged and elderly learn Zhang Ye's version of the dance. They should also stop dancing to those self-choreographed moves as it might not match well with their physicality and could cause them to get injured. After all, plaza dancing was considered a body strengthening exercise, so of course it had to meet the scientific and health standards set by the authorities.

With that, Zhang Ye's plaza dance version became even more popular!

It was officially endorsed by the Sports Administration!

In the past, Zhang Ye and the sports world had conflicts, and he even scolded one of their executives. But during the Olympics, Zhang Ye had sung praise of the sports world and also helped the Chinese athletes seek justice over unfair refereeing, even to the point of tussling with the foreign referees. This eased the relationship between Zhang Ye and the sports world, leading them into a honeymoon phase.

Some people rejoiced while others were in sorrow.

But for Zhang Ye, he was both rejoicing and feeling sorrowful.

He was rejoicing about this large group of fans that was made up of these Chinese aunties. Their appearance and attention would undoubtedly be crucial in helping Zhang Ye raise his popularity. But at the same time, it was also very worrying. Having experienced the plaza dance "storm" 1 of his world, Zhang Ye knew this was a double-edged sword. It could harm his enemies but also injure himself. If anything went awry and caused a conflict on a large scale, he would have to be the one to bear the blame for it!

Founder?

Spokesperson?

Spiritual leader?

The moment Zhang Ye taught his old neighbors how to dance, these labels firmly became his!

You sang the songs?

And you taught the dance as well?

And even suggested that plaza dancing was a guiding principle for the people's art?

Damn! If you aren't the fucking founder, then who would be!

Zhang Ye wouldn't be able to rid himself of those labels even if he jumped into the Yellow River to try to wash them off. These names would probably follow him throughout his life as he became the "specialist" scapegoat of the plaza dance industry. Just thinking about that gave him a throbbing headache. Hai, come what may. It was more important to gain the popularity that he needed before anything else. At least, he thought so to lessen his bitterness.

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At Beijing Television.

In the program team.

The new episode's recording was about to begin.

When they saw that Zhang Ye had just arrived, many of them started teasing him.

"Director Zhang, you've become famous again."

"When did you learn how to dance? That was so professional."

"Brother Hu informed us just now that the station has decided to get us to dance to 'Small Apple' at Beijing TV's annual party in two months' time. Why don't you teach us a few moves later?"

Zhang Ye grunted listlessly.

From a distance away, Chen Guang, Xiaodong, and the others came over.

"Director Zhang, what are you going to sing today?" Chen Guang asked with a laugh.

Xiaodong giggled and said, "Zhang'er, don't tell me you're going to sing another plaza dance tune?"

Zhang Ye rolled his eyes. "Why would I sing another?"

One was "plaza dancing."

The other was "founder."

Zhang Ye was sick of these two phrases. Just hearing them get mentioned was enough to send a shiver down his spine!

Amy said happily, "You better be careful. This episode is the knockout round."

Zhang Ye said, "I can't sing whatever for this episode. I've selected a good song this time after thinking it through. I finally realized that it is better to sing a song with more depth and substance to it."

Xiaodong was flabbergasted. "You mean you've only just realized? That should have always been the way."

Chen Guang said in a speechless manner, "So it's finally gotten through to you!"

Zhang Ye grunted, "Mmm, let's not talk anymore. Everyone, quickly go and get your makeup done. We'll start recording soon, and I want to rest my vocal chords a little too. It won't be easy to sing the song that I've chosen for today."

Zhang Xia came over. "Is it very difficult?"

"Yes, it won't be easy to sing." Zhang Ye nodded with a wry smile.

Zhang Xia reassured him, "It shouldn't be a problem with the singing skills that you have. The crucial part is the song selection. As long as it has substance, it'll be alright even if you don't sing it flawlessly. The audience will definitely be able to accept it, and you'll gain a few extra points too."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "I hope so."

Chapter 1262: The difference between a veteran and a newbie!

On the stage.

Zhang Ye was the fifth singer to perform.

When the instruments were finally brought up onto the stage, around eight musicians sat down at them. At this moment, it felt like everyone in the studio was holding their breath.

A sheng 1 ?

A dizi 2 ?

A cello?

A yangqin 3 ?

What were all these for?

What was with this grand setup?

Some of those in the audience even recognized the musicians!

"Look!"

"Chen Di? He's that famous cellist!"

"Old Zhao? The great yangqin percussionist!"

"Sun Li? The famous folk music master?"

"They're all big names!"

"Damn, what a big move!"

"Zhang Ye has invited this many musicians onto the show?"

"How awesome is this!"

"This is gonna be great!"

"Zhang Ye has finally come to his senses. He's not going to sing a plaza dance tune!"

The audience was shocked by this lineup!

The singers backstage were also shocked. It was only now that they believed Zhang Ye was doing something big. Every one of those instruments was full of killing intent. These musicians were all capable of putting on a solo show by themselves. By convincing so many of them to come onstage to play for him, one could only wonder what kind of song Zhang Ye had used to convince them. They were all masters who could not be invited with money alone!

There was a bit of shock on Zhang Xia's face.

Xiaodong straightened up a little in her seat.

Chen Guang starting leaning forward as he kept his eyes on the screen.

Everyone was staring at Zhang Ye and the folk music musicians onstage in the most anticipated of ways, waiting for their stunning performance to begin.

The song began.

The accompaniment played suddenly.

Zhang Ye instantly looked lively. With a droop of his eyelids, he got into the groove of the song and looked like he couldn't free himself.

The sound of the yangqin was a constant presence!

The tempo got faster and faster!

Then Zhang Ye abruptly started singing 4 .

"Ahhh, ohhh!

"Ahhhhhh, oh ay!

"Ah seh dee, ah seh doh!

"Ah seh da geh dee ga doh!

"Ah seh dee, ah seh da geh dooooh!

"Ahhh, ohhh!

"Ahhhhhh, oh ay!"

Chen Guang was dumbfounded!

Amy was in complete wonder!

Xiaodong was also staring wide-eyed in disbelief!

Director Zhang!

Was this what you meant by substance?

Was this what you meant by depth?

I'm gonna faint!

Why don't you just ascend to the Heavens!

Why don't you just fly out into the universe!

But Zhang Ye was incredibly invested in his singing.

"Ah seh dee, ah seh doh!

"Ah seh da geh dee ga doh!

"Ah seh dee, ah seh da geh dooooooh!

"Ahh—

"Ahh—

"Ahh—

"Ahh—

"Ah ya yo!

"Ah ya yo!"

The audience was also staggered!

So this was Zhang Ye's big move? It was another song without any lyrics? There was only vocalizing? Zhang Ye, you are really something! Do you still have any seriousness left in you!

A lot of people started laughing hard as they listened!

Some of them found it interesting.

Some of them found it hilarious.

Everyone thought that Zhang Ye was trying to be funny, but no one seemed to have noticed that tinge of seriousness in Zhang Ye's eyes. He was really trying his best. Perhaps only Huang Cheng had somewhat realized it.

Backstage.

The singers who already performed were all seated together.

Amy said, "This song's title is 'Perturbed'? Pfft, it really is perturbing! It makes me unable to sit still as a listener. That's really enough, Zhang Ye!"

Xiaodong smiled and said, "I really have nothing I can say about him anymore."

Chen Guang said helplessly, "It looks like Director Zhang is having so much fun."

Hearing them say that, Huang Cheng suddenly said, "He's not playing around."

Chen Guang was taken aback. "Huh?"

Huang Cheng said sternly, "I also play an instrument myself, so I'm more sensitive of the emotions the instruments portray. Can't you all see it? All of those musicians onstage are really focused, especially Zhang Ye. He isn't playing around, nor is he trying to be funny. He's actually singing very seriously."

Singing seriously?

How does this song have anything to do with being serious?

Nobody could really understand.

Onstage, the performance came to an end.

The audience was ridiculing him.

"I really have to hand it to him!"

"To think that I believed that he was coming up with something big!"

"I'd be a fool to believe him again!"

"Hahahaha! Hurry up and eliminate him, I've had enough already!"

"Yeah, we mustn't vote for Zhang Ye. Let's vote for someone else!"

"Just let this fellow be eliminated. If not, I'd surely laugh myself to death eventually!"

"Let's allow Zhang Ye to rest in peace."

"Yep, yep."

"But why do I find the song to be not that bad?"

"Get lost, what do you mean it's not that bad!"

"From a certain perspective, this song has indeed shocked the studio. It's just that it's not the same kind of shock that we got from Chen Guang and Xiaodong's performances. It's an entirely different thing!"

"I just like Zhang Ye. He's really too good at bringing laughter to people!"

"Yeah, any place with him will never be missing fun."

"He's having so much fun that it feels like he's at a karaoke session!"

"Yeah, this is completely not a competition type song. It's more like a song to warm the audience up. We mustn't let this fellow through to the grand finals. Otherwise, who knows what kind of stunt he'll pull again!"



"But that's what I want to see!"

"I'm also quite looking forward to what Zhang Ye will sing in the grand finals."

"Grand finals, my ass. With a song like this? It'll be a miracle if he can even get into the grand finals!"

"Yeah, he was already in sixth place last episode."

The audience was coming up with all kinds of possibilities.

The next singer to appear was the replacement singer from last week.

But the moment he opened his mouth to sing, he made a mistake. His voice cracked when he attempted a high note in his song. By rights, this was very normal, and no singer could guarantee that every performance of theirs would be perfect. But because of this replacement singer's inexperience in the industry and onstage, coupled with the fact that he was still considered a newcomer, this voice cracking incident caused him to lose his rhythm. He forced himself to finish singing with a hint of self-blame and regret.

Backstage, Chen Guang, Xiaodong, and everyone else were sympathizing with him. Among the newcomers, this singer was truly one of the more capable ones who could sing without rushing. He had the vocals and the ability to back it up too. What he lacked was only an opportunity, some good songs, and a little stage experience. Otherwise, there would surely be a spot for him among the top singers of the music industry. But it seemed like this stage might have been too big for him. He had taken a step up too quickly. Sometimes, pressure could push a person forward. For example, no stage seemed too big for Zhang Ye, and he was always able to bear the pressure no matter how great it was. Even the fiercest of criticism did not faze him. This was also the reason why Zhang Ye could make it to where he was today. But for many people, they lacked such an ability. If there was too much pressure, it would make them so nervous they would break down when facing it.

The audience also felt pity.

"Your sister!"

"That was such a huge mistake!"

"I guess Zhang Ye will be advancing into the grand finals then?"

"That fellow's luck is too good!"

"This replacement singer couldn't live up to his hype!"

"Hai, this newbie is really lousy at withstanding the pressure."

"If there's anyone who's the best at withstanding pressure in the entertainment industry, it has got to be Zhang Ye. If it were anyone else who went onstage to sing that song, I'm sure their faces would be flushed completely red. But look at Zhang Ye? He just finished singing the song without a trace of embarrassment. Just how thick does his skin have to be? This fellow is really not afraid of people scolding him"

"Who can compare with him?"

"He's just shameless, haha!"

"You can see the difference between a veteran and a newbie from this!"

The performances ended after everyone had their turn.

The rankings were announced.

First: Chen Guang

Second: Zhang Xia

Third: Xiaodong

Fourth: Huang Cheng

Fifth: Amy

Sixth: Zhang Ye

Seventh: Li Naran

The replacement singer came in at seventh place over the two episodes and was eliminated.

Being in the second to last place, Zhang Ye had narrowly qualified for the grand finals of I Am a Singer!

Chapter 1263: The eve of the grand finals!

The next day.

The tenth episode of I Am a Singer was broadcast.

Countless people were waiting before their television sets.

This episode was going to be very exciting as all the singers were fighting to get a place in the grand finals. All of them gave it their all and brought out their specialty skills for the performances. Zhang Xia surprisingly performed a rock song, while Chen Guang sang an emotionally charged love song and dedicated it to his wife, Fan Wenli. Xiaodong explosively leveled up her singing by performing an old classic to perfection. Even Amy managed to pull herself out of last place with her rap song shocking many people. Every line's delivery was fast and good as she showcased a strong ability that even a lot pro rappers could not achieve. Only the replacement singer failed to perform to expectations and had to miss out on the grand finals of the show.

As for Zhang Ye?

This fellow was still the same as before!

"That was so wonderful!"

"This episode is the best!"

"Yeah, the songs are great!"

"They're all powerhouses, all of them are extremely capable singers!"

The audience was very excited!

The evaluation from the industry was also extremely good!

Some people were amazed by Zhang Xia's song.

Some people were moved by Chen Guang's song.

And some people were touched by how tenacious Amy was.

But no one could have guessed that the most popular song of the tenth episode was none of their songs. It just had to be that goddamn song Zhang Ye sang, "Perturbed," which left everyone at their wits' end!

Another viral tune was created!

It swept across the nation!

The moment "Perturbed" appeared, it took a spot on practically all of the music charts!

The netizens broke down once again.

"Again?"

"Oh my God!"

"Why is this happening?"

"His song has made it onto so many of the music charts again?"

"This crappy song can even get number one?"

"Wasn't he just randomly humming? I can do that too!"

"Hahaha, I've finally realized something. Zhang Ye is only here to be funny!"

"It's a catchy song, so of course it would spread fast. But that's not important. Just refer to the rankings and you'll know, Zhang Ye was still placed in the bottom two."

"I'm not optimistic about Zhang Ye in the grand finals."

"Who's optimistic about him, the fraud!"

"It's a miracle that he scraped into the grand finals, haha!"

"Yeah, that guy should've been eliminated long ago. Who could have thought that he would make it into the grand finals by stumbling through the competition in either last or second to last place every time? That was super unexpected."

"There's still Zhang Xia and Chen Guang to watch in the grand finals."

"Xiaodong is pretty good too."

"Yeah, the three of them all have a chance of getting crowned champion."

"It's time for the revival round, and there's only one spot in the grand finals up for grabs. Let's see who can get it."

"He Huan and Xue Kaiqi have the best hopes."

"I'm more optimistic of Zhao Wuliu's chances."

"In any case, we can just ignore Zhang Ye as the grand champion."

"Yeah, Zhang Ye is no longer good."

"That might not necessarily be true. We'll still have to see who Zhang Ye invites for the grand finals."

"That's right! I think they're still using the two-round format. The first round will have a celebrity guest partner like before. If Zhang Ye manages to invite Zhang Yuanqi again, that would be quite something."

"Yeah, true."

"Let's see who he'll invite then."

"I don't see it that way. With Zhang Ye's current form and the songs that he's written, whoever he invites won't matter. If I have to put it bluntly, of the singers who have qualified for the grand finals, Zhang Ye is the only one unworthy of his place. He only managed to get in on luck. I won't mention Zhang Xia and Chen Guang, or Xiaodong and Amy, but even the eliminated singers are much stronger than Zhang Ye. We can clearly see that he's lost his touch and can't come up with any more good songs with substance. All he knows is to produce these catchy tunes that we've heard. But are such songs suitable for competition? They won't be able to get him a ranking at all. Zhang Ye has performed a song with no lyrics before. It was 'Opera' that he sang on King of Masked Singers that I found so amazing when I heard it. But look at 'Perturbed.' It's also a song without lyrics but the taste has changed. This shows that Zhang Ye is really out of ideas."

"Hai, this is the downfall of a singing champion."

"It's quite a pity."

"What has happened to Zhang Ye?"

"Who knows!"

"He suddenly became like this, so it's quite regrettable."

"That's right. I used to anticipate his songs, but who could've expected that he can't write good songs anymore. Those garbage songs that he's been singing recently shows that he's of a different class from the other singers. Just listen to Grandma Zhang and Old Chen's singing, they're totally on a different level from him. That's what you call real singing and real singers. That's what true art is about. Otherwise, what's the difference between the songs Zhang Ye sings and the songs that normal people sing at the karaoke?"

"I'm a fan turned passerby."

"Hai, the higher the expectations, the greater the disappointment."

"The main thing is that the opponents are too strong. Even if Zhang Ye can still write a good song, he can't beat Zhang Xia and Chen Guang."

"Agreed."

By this point in the broadcast of I Am a Singer, everyone had lost confidence in Zhang Ye. Many of the music industry's insiders came forward to give their evaluations as well. They felt Zhang Ye had entered a bottleneck and was losing his touch. It seemed like he could only go back to his old job from now on since he couldn't write any more good songs. It got so bad that even Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, Xiaodong, and the others were feeling the same way. A singer like Zhang Ye who had amazed countless people had faded to nothing overnight. He could no longer find that feeling that inspired his singing and songwriting. It was such a shame!

Criticism!

Doubt!

Derision!

Such voices were constantly keeping Zhang Ye company.

Even his studio's staff were panicking.

Ha Qiqi said anxiously, "Director Zhang, your reputation these days has been tumbling."

"Why don't we buy a song or two?" Zhang Zuo suggested. "We might be able to turn it around in the grand finals that way. We can't keep going on like this."

Buy songs?

Zhang Ye said, "I've already written the songs."

Zhang Zuo sighed. "But the songs that you have been writing recently..." He was too scared to continue.

Everyone in the studio was frowning and sulking. Zhang Ye was getting more and more popular by the day, which was a good thing. But similarly, his reputation was just as important. Now that everyone was saying Zhang Ye couldn't sing anymore, they were getting very anxious. However, it seemed like Zhang Ye did not take it to heart and did not say anything about it no matter how much they asked. Actually, they understood Director Zhang quite well since they had known him for many years. On the surface, it might look like Zhang Ye was unaffected. He was always laughing, yet each time they could feel that Zhang Ye wasn't as happy as he looked after a performance.

Ring, ring, ring.

Hu Fei's call came in.

Zhang Ye answered: "Brother Hu, what's the matter?"

Hu Fei laughed loudly. "The viewership rating has hit a new high! It has set a new record again! It's fantastic!"

"That's good then," Zhang Ye said cheerfully.

"The grand finals will be coming up soon, great work."

"It was nothing."

"For the celebrity guest partner segment, are you sure about inviting that person?"

"Yup."

"But isn't that a little too...you know?"

"Hur hur, nobody'll be able to guess who it is. But I'm sure the viewers will enjoy it."

Hu Fei said: "Well, alright then. We'll do it however you say. But your results might..."

Zhang Ye said: "I know."

After hanging up, Zhang Ye did not say another word. He quietly headed back into his office and sat there having a smoke, staring blankly at the empty wall. No one knew what Zhang Ye was thinking right now, nor did anyone know how he was feeling.

The task was completed.

This was good enough, right?

This...was all he had to do, right?

But for some reason, after Zhang Ye put out his cigarette, he clenched his fists so hard that his fingernails dug into his palms, leaving several deep, red marks!

Chapter 1264: Anyone can win, except me!

On the day of the grand finals.

A tense atmosphere had built up!

The phenomenal variety show I Am a Singer was no longer watched just by those who liked it. It had long become the subject of heated discussions by people all over the nation!

In the streets.

In the neighborhoods.

In the offices.

In the schools.

Everyone was talking about who would end up as the grand champion!

Those who were initially scheduled for overtime at work even asked for time off in advance to go home to catch the live broadcast.

"Brothers, remember to cast your votes for Grandma Zhang!"

"Right, it hasn't been easy for an old comrade like her!"

"Where are Grandma Zhang's fans at?"

"Where are Chen Guang's fans at? Form up!"

"Who has tickets to tonight's live broadcast venue? I'll buy them for 2,000 RMB each!"

"The LED boards for Sister Dong are ready. Everyone, take a look and see if they're OK."

"Everyone, please get others to vote for Amy. Please support her!"

"Vote for He Huan! It wasn't easy for him having to come through by the revival round!"

"Tonight's voting will be done through our cell phones. The grand finals are really too close to call. But it's very important, so can everyone please give your votes to Teacher Huang Cheng? I'd appreciate it if you can."

The fan groups of the singers were already teaming up to campaign for votes. The early statistics of the online poll's support were also published. The usual suspects of Chen Guang and Zhang Xia were still the favorites to win the championship. Both their support numbers kept increasing as it became a two-horse race where their stats constantly overtook each other's. Sometimes, Old Chen was in the lead. But at other times, Grandma Zhang was in first place. Coming in behind them were He Huan, Xiaodong, Huang Cheng, Amy, and Zhang Ye, respectively. He Huan, the Prince of Love Songs, had performed exceedingly well during the revival round to take his place in the grand finals today. His support numbers were also extremely high as he surpassed Xiaodong in the poll. Although this poll was only a Weibo statistic, it clearly showed the problem. For the singers the viewers were optimistic about, their rankings were generally not too bad.

Only Zhang's fan club kept on the down low throughout. There was almost no one helping Zhang Ye get votes. This was the most direct cause of Zhang Ye's low rankings on the stage of I Am a Singer.

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Zhang Ye's parents' house.

After lunch.

His mother asked, "Son, when are you setting off for the TV station?"

"I'm just about to leave." Zhang Ye checked his watch. "Everyone's waiting for me."

His mother complained, "Why are they hurrying you. The live broadcast is at night, so why can't they let you rest a bit more?"

"That I can stay home for lunch today is already a break for me," Zhang Ye said with a smile.

His father said, "There's quite a lot of prep work to handle before a live broadcast. Our son is the executive director, so of course he has to go earlier. A heap of people are waiting for his instructions."

His mother harrumphed and said, "In the future, stop taking roles like the executive director. It's bad enough that you're working so hard, but look at how many people are scolding you online."

Zhang Ye nodded. "Alright."

Wu Zeqing was on her day off today and had come over as well.

Wu Zeqing said, "Go over there, I'll help you with your makeup."

Zhang Ye exclaimed, "Aiya, there are professional makeup artists at the station."

"I'd be worried if they put your makeup on." Wu Zeqing insisted on doing it for him.

Zhang Ye could only say, "Well, alright."

They went into his room.

Old Wu immediately started to meticulously apply his makeup.

His eyebrows.

His nose.

His lips.

Zhang Ye suddenly looked at her in the mirror and said, "Old Wu, I might not be able to get a good place for this round, so don't bother watching tonight."

Wu Zeqing said, "I'll definitely watch."

Zhang Ye said firmly, "I only want you to see me when I'm winning."

Wu Zeqing laughed. "I'll still watch it."

Zhang Ye said, "But..."

Wu Zeqing combed his hair for him. "I understand."

"I—" Zhang Ye hesitated a little before going on, "I can't allow myself to sing well."

Wu Zeqing nodded, then said with a smile, "I knew that you'd already made your decision when you went up onstage for the first time. You were only doing it to save the show, to accompany them on this journey. But none of them could see that you'd never planned on winning in the first place. The show was made by you, the rules were set by you, you're the host, the vote counter, and everything related to the show is overseen by you, including the compilation of the voting numbers. Everyone in the program team are your subordinates, so anyone can win, except you. Only you are not allowed to win. They're all so stupid to not see that. This decision must not have been easy for you. The others might not know, but how could I not know? You're someone who never likes to admit defeat. The stage is your life, so if you're standing on it, you must want to win. No one knows how much you've sacrificed until now. No one knows how much you've endured. But I know, I understand, and I will support your decision."

In the end, only Old Wu knew him!

In the end, only Old Wu understood!

Yes. Anyone could win, except Zhang Ye!



Zhang Ye sighed. "I was just afraid that you'd be disappointed."

Wu Zeqing smiled. "I'm not disappointed. I know what kind of person you are. My fiancé is a valiant man who no one can compare to." With a pause, she started filling in Zhang Ye's eyebrows and said, "Therefore, even if you came in last place, I would still watch the live episode tonight."

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Later that afternoon.

It was getting busy at Beijing Television.

Everyone was putting in their best effort for the live episode that was going to happen in a few hours. As they worked, some of the staff were also excitedly discussing tonight's grand finals.

"I like Zhang Xia."

"Old Chen is quite good too."

"Yup, the grand champion has to be one of them."

"But I still prefer Director Zhang."

"Director Zhang is out of the running."

"The Director Zhang of the past was really awesome, but..."

"Has Director Zhang really lost his touch?"

"Everyone's saying that he's dropped to a level comparable to that of a karaoke singer. But as for why? Who knows? Talent has never been easy to assess since it's intangible. When you have it, you can even control the weather. But without it, you can't even write a good song. But what can you do about that? Haven't there been a lot of famous songwriters who have completely disappeared from the scene? They couldn't keep up with the times, so they got filtered out."

"Hai."

"Hey, Director Zhang is here!"

The few of them immediately shut their mouths.

Zhang Ye came over. His ears were sharp, so he actually picked up on a bit of their conversation. However, he did not say anything.

Hu Fei soon came looking for him. "Where's Director Zhang? Has he arrived yet?"

Zhang Ye looked at him. "What's the matter?"

"We have to add another host. Shanshan can't handle it alone," Hu Fei said with a frown.

But Zhang Ye said, "She'll be fine."

Hu Fei immediately said, "I wouldn't be worried at all if you were the one hosting. I wouldn't raise an objection at all. Even if you dismantled the entire stage, I wouldn't be worried that things would go

wrong. You've seen all kinds of major events and your adaptability is great. Besides, you've also done many live broadcasts. However, Shanshan hasn't. For a huge stage that's broadcasting live to the entire country, all of the hosting, stage control, and atmosphere has to be handled by Shanshan alone? I'm not saying that she doesn't have the ability. Shanshan was also brought up by me, so of course I want the best for her. But this jump is too big and too risky for her. It's fine if you can't host the grand finals since you have to sing. But why can't we arrange for another one or two hosts to support her?"

Zhang Ye asked, "Did Shanshan request this herself?"

"I'm just worried," Hu Fei said.

Zhang Ye waved it off. "Then there's nothing to talk about. We won't be discussing this anymore."

Hu Fei said in a speechless manner, "Little Zhang!"

"If she could host King of Masked Singers, why couldn't she handle this?"

"The hosting lines for King of Masked Singers were only announcements, and there was only a page of it. But it's different today with there being more than 10 pages of hosting lines and a need for spontaneous additions during the entire broadcast!"

Seeing the two heads of the program team arguing, the people around them were all too scared to speak out.

Finally, Dong Shanshan came over when she found out. "Zhang'er, why don't you assign me another—"

Before she could finish speaking, Zhang Ye said decisively, "Stop bringing up things that have already been decided. We're going ahead with what we planned. Teacher Shanshan will go onstage alone. If anything goes wrong, I'll be responsible for it!"

Hou Ge said anxiously, "But a station head said this morning..."

Zhang Ye pointed at himself. "Which station head? Get him to come look for me!"

Hou Ge coughed.

There was nothing that Hu Fei could do about it either.

Xiao Lu blinked and said, "I also think that Teacher Shanshan alone is enough to get the job done."

In fact, Zhang Ye and Hu Fei often had differences in opinion over work matters, but it did not affect their personal relationship. After the issue passed, they would be back on friendly terms. Any disagreements were just over work. Zhang Ye had not considered any other person for the role of the host. When Dong Shanshan lowered her status to take the host-manager role, Zhang Ye said that he would leave the best position for her. And it was precisely this hosting role for the live broadcast of the grand finals that was the best position. He knew that many of the Beijing Television hosts were eyeing this role as anyone could understand that whoever managed to take it would surely become the big brother or sister of Beijing TV. That would definitely cement their future status in the industry. As such, who wouldn't be tempted? So when they heard that Zhang Ye would not be hosting the grand finals, a lot of people started having thoughts about it. But unfortunately for them, they could not get past him!

Other than Dong Shanshan, no one would be allowed to do it!

Zhang Ye was sometimes just this unreasonable!

Chapter 1265: Zhang Ye's shocking celebrity guest partner!

On the same night.

Counting down to the live broadcast.

"Three!"

"Two!"

"One!"

The live broadcast of I Am a Singer's grand finals officially kicked off!

...

Back at home.

His mother was holding a packet of melon seeds and pointing at the television. "Little Wu, it's about to begin!"

"Coming, Auntie." Wu Zeqing walked over gracefully and sat down.

His father asked, "When does Little Ye come on?"

His mother, who was munching on the melon seeds, said, "I don't know."

...

At the studio.

Everyone was putting in overtime today and stayed behind to watch the live broadcast.

Ha Qiqi gasped and said, "It's starting!"

Little Wang said excitedly, "Just who could Director Zhang have invited?"

Zhang Zuo said, "I'm not sure, he said it was a secret."

Tong Fu laughed and said, "He didn't even tell us about it. Could there be a surprise?"

Little Wang said, "I still believe that Director Zhang will emerge as the champion!"

When the others heard that, they could only respond with a bitter laugh.

Emerge as the champion?

Was that even possible?

...

At Peking University.

In the student dormitories.

"The live broadcast is starting!"

"Sisters, come over quickly!"

"Aiya, I don't feel like watching it anymore."

"Why not?"

"I'm a diehard fan of Zhang Ye. If he can't write any good songs and his singing has declined, what's there left for me to watch? It will only make me feel worse!"

"Maybe Professor Zhang will be able to turn things around?"

"Yeah, let's just watch."

"Alright."

...

At this moment.

Viewers around the country were all waiting before their televisions.

Dong Shanshan appeared in a stunning red dress and amazed countless people. The opening advertising messages were presented and an introduction of the grand finals' rules was announced. She also did so with humor within her professionalism, making many people laugh to tears. It was only now that a lot of them realized that this sexy goddess they thought only relied on her looks and figure was actually able to front a show by herself. Ignoring her looks and figure, she was still an excellent host!

On Weibo.

"Shanshan's popularity is going to soar!"

"She's always gonna be my goddess!"

"I really like her!"

"She doesn't have any scandals and even keeps a low profile!"

"Right. Maintaining such a good reputation despite going the sexy route, there's really no one who could do it except her!"

"Teacher Shanshan is doing better and better these days."

"That's because she has the support of Zhang Ye."

"That's right. As long as Zhang Ye makes a show, the host will be Dong Shanshan. No one stands a chance against her. Their relationship as classmates goes way back."

"Zhang Ye is indeed a loyal friend."

"Yeah, Shanshan and Zhang Ye's fan clubs have almost become a family."

After that, the buildup performances began. The eliminated singers from before all returned to sing for the show.

Zhao Wuliu...

Xue Kaiqi...

Li Naran...

Good songs kept coming one after another.

The television viewers and live studio audience were all mesmerized from listening.

"They're all such great singers!"

"I feel that every one of them could have made it into the grand finals!"

"Yeah, they sang amazingly."

"At the very least, they're still better than Zhang Ye."

"Heh, don't mention that fellow anymore. We still don't know which celebrity guest partner he invited for today."

"That's right. All the other singer's guest partners have already been exposed. Even though it might not be true, there's still a general idea of who's coming. It's only Zhang Ye's guest who hasn't been revealed!"

"We'll find out very soon."

"He better not pull some stunt again!"

"Pfft, yeah, he's always full of surprises!"

The buildup performances ended.

The competition proper finally began!

When Dong Shanshan reappeared onstage, everyone's hearts jumped into their throats as they stared hard and pricked up their ears, as though afraid of missing a scene or a note.

In the studio.

On the stage.

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "Next up, we're going to officially begin the competition. The order of appearance for the grand finals will still be decided by picking lots. However, our first singer today did not partake in the lot picking and requested to be the first one to come onstage to perform. After seeking the consent of the other singers, our program team chose to respect this decision." With a pause, she added on, "But of course, we didn't dare to not respect this decision either since it is our executive director we're talking about."

The entire studio audience laughed.

"Zhang Ye!"

"Zhang Ye will be singing first?"

"Who's his guest partner?"

"There's a fool who would request to go first?"

"The first one to sing will be very disadvantaged!"

Everyone started whispering.

Dong Shanshan said, "So, let's welcome the first singer and his celebrity guest partner on. We'll hand the stage over to them."

She left the stage.

The spotlights immediately shone on the moon gate.

The live studio audience turned and stared in that direction!

No one blinked at their televisions!

Even the singers backstage were waiting anxiously to see who Zhang Ye had invited!

With the lights on them, two figures slowly walked out. One of them was smiling and the other was waving to the audience. When they saw who it was beside Zhang Ye, each and every person was flabbergasted. At this moment, it was as though 10,000 grass mud horses were rampaging through their mind's eye without taking a single wisp of a cloud away!

People screaming!

People passing out!

People staring!

There was disbelief!

It blew up in the studio and in front of the televisions!

"Ah!"

"Why is it him?"

"What the heck!"

"Zhang Ye! You really don't have a shred of decency in you!"

"I really burst out laughing! Hahahaha!"

"Th-This is way too goddamn unexpected!"

"My mom just asked why I was kneeling watching TV!"

"Zhang Ye, I really have to give it to you!"

"Th-This is something that only you can fucking think of!"

His mother was stunned.

His father was dumbfounded.

Wu Zeqing quirked a corner of her lip up.

Ha Qiqi nearly fell out of her seat!

Zhang Zuo stared with wide eyes.

Xiaodong burst into laughter!

Amy was at a loss for words!

Zhang Xia: "..."

Chen Guang: "..."

No one had expected it to be him!

everyone has speculated and come up with many possible candidates as to who might be Zhang Ye's celebrity guest partner. If Zhang Ye wanted to turn things around, then the first round of the grand finals was incredibly important. At a time Zhang Ye couldn't produce any more good songs, finding a powerhouse singer was the best way for him to get more votes. But to everyone's surprise, Zhang Ye actually found someone no one could have ever thought of. Yes, it was someone who didn't even cross their minds!

It was Yao Jiancai!

Zhang Ye's best partner!

"I'm gonna cry!"

"Old Yao, don't fool around! Hurry back home!"

"Old Yao, did you come to the wrong studio?"

"This is I Am a Singer, not some crosstalk contest!"

"I'm gonna faint too!"

"What's the meaning of this? Are you two going to put together a crosstalk? Pfft!"

"I'm cramping up with laughter! Zhang Ye is too good at starting things!"

"If Old Yao can really sing, I'll fucking streak in public! I'll do it right now!"

"I'll go as well!"

"I would really like to see how these two fellas are going to sing!"

"Damn, they've brought out a crosstalk table!"

"Are they really going to fucking perform a crosstalk?"

"This is a singing competition, why would they perform a crosstalk?"

"If these two can really do a crosstalk with music, I'll call them both daddy!"

"I'll call them mummy!"

"Come on, how the hell can there be a musical crosstalk!"

A group of professional music critics and fellow peers sitting in the front row were also stunned when they saw Zhang Ye picking up a " gavel 1 " block.

The table had been carried out onto the stage.

Both Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai were dressed in their crosstalk costumes.

Suddenly, with a bang, the gavel block was slammed onto the table!

Zhang Ye opened his mouth and recited.

"Speaking and acting out the right way to live life.

"Walking the straightest of three tracks.

"What goes around comes around.

"Change is the only constant."

After the introduction poem was said, the sound of a gong cut in and the musical instruments started playing!

Zhang Ye sang.

"I was born to an impoverished family,

"with six maids and a dozen or so security guards.

"But to be straightforward, and to embody righteousness,

"I beat up Southern Mountain Nursing Home,

"trample on North Head Preschool,

"I make anyone over 90 and under 9 cower in fear!"

Zhang Xia laughed. "Pfft!"

Xiaodong burst into laughter on the spot!

Born to an impoverished family?

Is this what you call being born to an impoverished family!



Over 90 and under 9?

Aiyo, why don't you just die or something!

Amy was stunned. "Rap? Is this rap?"

Some of those in the audience were laughing while others were taken aback. Fuck, he could really sing it!

The audience was shocked watching!

Zhang Ye calmly sang at a fast pace.

"He says the Analects have recorded

"the world was evil. Can't deal, leave.

"You can't have your cake and eat it too.

"You don't have a house or a car, but you're not mean.

"Worship me so that whoever tries to bully you, will be slashed by me three times!"

Yao Jiancai latched onto that. "How?"

Zhang Ye said, "By slashing his car tires, geddit!"

The audience was in stitches!

"Hahahaha!"

"Aiyo!"

"These two are so terrible!"

"These lyrics are so damn funny!"

By now, the song was finally coming to the end.

The audience was also getting more and more intrigued as they listened!

Zhang Ye sang, "But right then, a fearsome being stood next to me, staring, putting his hand in his bag like a mugger." He looked at Yao Jiancai.

Yao Jiancai already had his hand in the bag with a fierce look on his face.

Zhang Ye continued singing, "How could Lord Zhang take this lying down? With dignity at stake, he swaggered over cool as could be and said—" Then his voice faded. "Bro, is there something you want?"

The audience cramped up with laughter again!

Do you call this cool?

Do you call this swagger?

Yao Jiancai sneered, pointing with his chin, "Do you know who was responsible for last year's mutilated corpse in the moat?"

Zhang Ye said, "Huh?"

Yao Jiancai snarled, "Do you know who was responsible for beating someone up last month until they became a retard?"

"Huh?"

Yao Jiancai pointed at his feet. "Then surely you know who was responsible for that fatal stabbing right here two days ago?"

Zhang Ye said in fright, "Huh? I don't know, what do you want?"

The audience was also listening attentively!

What did he want?

Were they going to start fighting?

Did he bump into some vicious guy?

Yao Jiancai stared hard as he said, "You really don't know?"

Zhang Ye said, "I real-l-l-l-ly don't know!"

All of a sudden, Yao Jiancai took a newspaper out of his bag as he switched to a sharp, high-pitched voice and said with a grin, "Hey, then why don't you buy a copy of Legal Daily?"

Everyone in the studio saw red!

Legal Daily?

So you're just a fucking newspaper hawker?!

The song ended!

Applause rang out instantly!

At the same time, the sound of laughter went on for a very long while. Even Dong Shanshan looked like she was tearing up from laughter offstage. It was also her first time hearing this!

Excitement was running high online too!

"I passed out laughing!"

"That was so much fun!"

"Musical crosstalk? They really could do it?"

"I'm convinced!"

"I was on my knees early on in the song!"

"Who was the one who said that they'll call them daddy and mummy? Who mentioned that they'd go streaking? Get out there! They've really used rap music to perform a crosstalk!"

"Even this is possible?!"

" Nonsense Has Its Nonsense Logic 2 "!

A musical crosstalk song from Zhang Ye's former world!

The people of this world had obviously not heard something like this before, nor had anything like it ever appeared!

Even the music critics and professionals in the music industry who were sitting in the front row had been stunned and overwhelmed by Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's musical crosstalk!

Chapter 1266: Zhang Ye switches songs!

Back at home.

His mother couldn't stop laughing. "That rascal!"

His father was also pretty amused by the performance. "This song is not bad."

"He's really enjoying his singing," his mother said while munching on melon seeds.

However, when Wu Zeqing, who was sitting next to them, saw the seemingly happy Zhang Ye smiling on screen, she said with heartache, "He's actually not enjoying himself."

His mother was taken aback and turned to look at her. "Why?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Because this isn't a song he wants to sing."

...

In the studio.

"He's created a new genre!"

"That's pretty impressive of him then."

"But there's no chance of winning with this song."

"Yeah, he won't be able to get into the top three like this. Zhang Ye isn't fated to be the grand champion."

"Grand champion? I doubt he'll even break into the top five! But I do kinda like this song, it's pretty relaxing and funny. If it wasn't a competition today, I would've found it rather interesting to listen to."

"That's right, but aren't his other songs on this stage all like that too?"

"With the best matched duo of the crosstalk world singing together, I wonder if the viewership ratings will shoot through the roof again? Haha! He's really full of surprises! A song like that will surely become

very popular in the karaokes. And then there's also 'The Hottest Ethnic Trend' and 'Small Apple.' Those are definitely songs that will get played a lot in the karaoke sessions of ordinary people."

"Pfft, did you guys see what they're calling Zhang Ye now?"

"I saw it, they're all saying that he's the King of Karaoke. Haha!"

"Karaoke won't be a problem for him for sure. He can certainly bring up the atmosphere during a session. But for a stage like this, it's still a place to compete on artistic value and singing abilities."

Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai left the stage.

Quite a few audience members came rushing forward.

"Teacher Zhang!"

"I like you so much!"

"You're really funny!"

"Can I get a hug, Teacher Zhang?"

"Your song was so funny! But I still won't be voting for you."

"When it comes to singing, I still find that the other singers are doing better. However, I like your songs."

Zhang Ye gave them a hug one by one. "Thank you, thank you."

When Yao Jiancai heard that, he tried to pull in some votes for Zhang Ye. Their microphones were still on at the moment, but when Yao Jiancai was beginning to say, "Please vote for—"

Zhang Ye nudged him.

Yao Jiancai was startled and shut his mouth.

Zhang Ye didn't say anything and left with Old Yao from the wings.

There was no need to canvass for votes.

This was good enough.

This was all he needed.

Backstage.

In the singers' waiting rooms.

Zhang Xia specially came out to welcome them. "Old Yao, you're crossing over into our music industry too?"

Yao Jiancai laughed and said, "Me? How could I possibly join the music industry? I even had to force myself to come here today. I was so surprised when Zhang Ye called and asked me to be his celebrity guest partner. I said that I wouldn't go but he threatened to tear down my house. So I just thought that it'd be better to come since I just had my house renovated last year."

Zhang Xia said, "It was a very good song. I suppose only the two of you could sing something like that."

Yao Jiancai sighed. "I only came to support this kid."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Grandma Zhang, are you the third person to sing?"

"Yes, I picked the number three lot earlier." Zhang Xia had been through many big occasions before and was one of the singers here with strong mental fortitude. "Xiaodong is going second. I think she should've already gone up onstage?"

Zhang Ye said, "Alright then, I'll head back into my room to listen to her performance. I'll be cheering you on too. I'm optimistic about both you and Old Chen's chances to be crowned as the grand champion."

Zhang Xia smiled. "Sure, I'll do my best."

Yao Jiancai headed back to the celebrity guest partners' waiting room.

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye went into Room #1, which was his designated waiting room. On the television, Xiaodong had already started singing. Her celebrity guest partner was Li Xiaoxian, the other member of Spring Garden. The moment they started singing, the audience became very excited and seemingly forgot all about Zhang Ye and Yao Jiancai's musical crosstalk. Xiaodong and Li Xiaoxian were singing a love song that depicted the story of two women fighting over a man!

"Please leave him."

"No, you should leave."

"Don't hurt him anymore."

"It was you who hurt him."

Their singing was outstanding!

The song was very touching too!

The cameras panned to the audience and showed their amazed expressions.

Zhang Ye also found the performance to be quite good. However, he started clenching his fists tightly again for some reason.

Xiaodong finished singing.

Zhang Xia took to the stage.

Followed by Huang Cheng.

Followed by Chen Guang.

Then Amy.

And finally, He Huan.

Everyone gave their best and did great!

Their performances were either moving, touching, explosive, or sorrowful. It really felt like a feast of delicacies as the grand musical event touched countless of people!

On the Internet, an endless debate was going on.

"Zhang Xia must be the grand champion!"

"Get lost, victory to Chen Guang!"

"I have a good feeling about Xiaodong!"

"Amy might just cause an upset."

"Huang Cheng's song selection wasn't that good."

"Well, anyone could become the champion but Zhang Ye, haha."

"Of course! Did you even have to say that? The songs he sang were utter garbage!"

"Yeah, they were really crap! They're all just catchy tunes!"

"Zhang Ye has lost his touch."

"After listening to everyone else perform and thinking back to Zhang Ye's song, they're indeed on a different level to his performance. He really can't write those touching songs he wrote in the past!"

"It's the decline of a hero."

"That 'Nonsense Has Its Nonsense Logic' of his left me so sleepy."

"What the hell happened to Zhang Ye?"

"Who knows! He lost his talent overnight. He's even so stubborn that he doesn't want to sing the songs that he's sung before, nor cover another singer's songs, so who can be blamed for that?"

The first round of performances ended.

Everyone was waiting for the results of the first round now. The singer in last place for the first round rankings would have to perform first in the second round, and so on and so forth. Every singer was waiting in their individual rooms and hoping they would not have to perform so early in the second round, because that would mean that their number of votes was not ideal.

Only Zhang Ye was not waiting for the results. Instead, he was browsing through his cell phone to see the reviews from the people.

Crap?

Lost his touch?

On the decline?

He showed no expression but felt a heavy weight in his heart. He couldn't get rid of this feeling and it felt unbearable.

Suddenly, the door was pushed open.

Dafei and Xiao Lu both came running in. "Director Zhang!"

Zhang Ye looked at them both. "What is it?"

Xiao Lu said pleasantly surprised, "We went past it! We went past it!"

Dafei also sounded extremely excited. "The viewership ratings have surpassed 4%! It just managed to pass that mark by a little! We've broken the record for the viewership ratings of variety shows! That ceiling of the variety world!"

Zhang Ye laughed. "Good, very good!"

All of a sudden, Dong Shanshan, who was in the studio, announced the rankings. She said, "The results are now in my hands. Regrettably, the first round's lowest ranked singer is—Zhang Ye. So then, could Teacher Zhang please get ready while we get ready to begin the second round of performances?"

The voice sounded from the television in the room loud and clear.

Dafei was stunned.

Xiao Lu did not say anything either.

Zhang Ye just smiled and said, "Alright, it's my turn soon. Both of you hurry up and get back to work."

Xiao Lu said, "Director Zhang!"

"Go on." Zhang Ye waved her away.

Dafei and Xiao Lu gave each other a look and walked away silently.

With only five minutes left to prepare, Zhang Ye sat in his waiting room for a bit before slowly getting up. He straightened his shirt and arranged his hair a little before lightly stepping out of the room.

Along the way, the staff all turned to look at Zhang Ye, not knowing what to say.

Director Zhang was in last place!

Many of the staff members didn't know how to feel about it!

"Director Zhang..."

"Director Zhang..."

"Director..."

Zhang Ye smiled and nodded at everyone.

The viewership ratings had broken 4%! I Am a Singer had created history! His mission was finally complete, and it was done so beautifully too. It was carried out perfectly without anything to nitpick!

I've done all that I was supposed to do!

Then for the last song, can I be a little headstrong?

I don't want any votes!

I really don't!

I just want to sing!

I just want to seriously sing something that I wish to sing!

Can I?

In the opposite direction, Hu Fei was walking over cheerfully. "It's time to go onstage, Director Zhang."

Zhang Ye stopped in his tracks and said, "Is there still time if I want to change my song?"

Hu Fei said, stunned, "Change songs?"

Zhang Ye shook his head. "No, it's nothing, I was just saying."

But Hu Fei pulled him back and said sternly, "Just what's going on?"

Zhang Ye laughed at himself. "Just pretend you didn't hear me."

The nearby staff and camera operators who heard him were also taken aback!

There are only two more minutes until the performance starts, and this is even a live broadcast, yet you're asking to change songs now? How would that be possible! How could there still be time! No one could agree to it!

No one understood what was with Zhang Ye!

Moreso, no one could understand what Zhang Ye was thinking!

Hu Fei fell silent. He did not say anything in response.

Zhang Ye continued making his way to the front.

One step.

Two steps.

Three steps.

Before him, the stage was getting closer and closer.

Suddenly, Hu Fei called out to him from behind, "Zhang'er!"

Zhang Ye looked back.

Hu Fei looked him in the eye. "...Just sing what you want to sing! Leave the rest to me!"

The people around them were frightened!

"Producer Hu!"

"Have you gone mad!"

"Fuck!"



"This—! This—!"

Zhang Ye looked at Old Hu. "Are you sure?"

Hu Fei laughed. "You're the executive director, and I'm the executive producer. Our words are law, so who would dare disobey?" He then turned to an employee nearby. "Inform Shanshan! Get her to stall for another five minutes no matter what!"

The employee was almost in tears. "Producer Hu...this—!"

Hu Fei said loudly, "Hurry up!"

The employee wiped his sweat away. "Understood!"

Chapter 1267: 'The King of Karaoke'!

Watching television.

Many viewers were wondering what was going on.

"Eh? What's with this?"

"Why is Dong Shanshan still talking?"

"Won't Teacher Zhang hurry onstage already? I'm really looking forward to seeing another funny performance by him."

"Hahaha, it better not be another plaza dance tune. If it is, I'll really have to kneel!"

His mother said, "Where is he?"

His father said, "Probably getting ready."

Wu Zeqing just quietly watched the TV.

The singers backstage were finding it rather strange too.

Zhang Xia wondered, "Why hasn't he gone onto the stage yet?"

Amy laughed to her host-manager and said, "What kind of big move is Teacher Zhang pulling?"

Xiaodong guessed, "It was a musical crosstalk for the first round, could he be doing a musical talk show for the second round?"

Xiaodong's host-manager couldn't stop laughing at that. "With Director Zhang's personality, it might really be possible!"

Countless people were waiting.

Zhang Yuanqi and Fang Weihong were watching the competition.

Fan Wenli was watching.

Ning Lan was watching.

A Heavenly King was watching.

The students and teachers of Peking University were watching.

The students and teachers of Media College were watching.

Suddenly, Dong Shanshan said, "Alright, let's hand the stage over to our first singer."

Finally, Zhang Ye appeared. The entire nation's viewers' attention was on him. They were either in stitches, yawning in boredom, or railing at him. Voices like these were also present on a smaller scale within the live studio audience of I Am a Singer's grand finals.

The stage was located not far from the live studio audience, so anyone talking in there could be heard quite clearly.

"Let's see what kind of nonsense he's gonna come up with this time, haha!"

"I like Zhang Ye, he gave me a hug after his first performance."

"So why didn't you vote for him since he hugged you? I saw you voting for Zhang Xia instead."

"Uhh, don't you tell me off. Teacher Zhang gave you a hug too, but didn't you vote for Chen Guang?"

"That's because Chen Guang has true skill. Teacher Zhang only knows how to sing casually now, and those songs aren't even touching anymore."

"Go karaoke king!"

"King of Karaoke!"

"King of Karaoke!"

Quite a few audience members were heckling him.

Even the TV viewers were finding this rather amusing when they heard the noise!

King of Karaoke?

What an appropriate title!

Karaoke standard songs!

And a karaoke level of singing!

A piano was placed on the stage. Usually, when a piano was put on stage, it would be placed at an angle. But this one wasn't. It faced the audience.

Zhang Ye sat in front of it and stretched out his hands, suddenly trembling a little.

Was it excitement?

Was it nervousness?

Was it sadness?

Looking at the stage lights, looking at the densely packed audience, Zhang Ye had the urge to cry for the first time. His heart was pounding like mad, so he took a deep breath but couldn't slow it down no matter what.

Did you guys know? Be it "Perturbed," "Small Apple," or even "Nonsense Has Its Nonsense Logic," none of those songs were what I wanted to sing. But I still sang each song very seriously; none of them were perfunctory performances. I practiced them time and again, I rearranged the music over and over, I used all the spare time that I had to polish those songs. I just wanted to sing them to the best I could, because I thought that since I couldn't win, then I should at least bring some smiles and laughter to all of you.

Did you guys know that?

Did you really know that?

His hands landed and the sound of the piano cut through the air.

A sad melody hit everyone right in the heart. The contrast was too great. It was so great that everyone was caught off guard. The audience was dumbfounded for a moment, clearly because this was not the viral tune they were expecting. Could there be a surprise coming up? Would Zhang Ye suddenly jump onto the piano and dance?

The atmosphere turned quiet!

The sound of the piano seemingly transported them to another world.

There was only a person with a piano in this world.

Zhang Ye lightly closed his eyes and sang 1 .

"My singing isn't touching enough, but please don't frown.

"I want to be with you til death do us part.

"I just want to have fun and sing til the next century's countdown.

"So please don't mind me playing to the emotions of your heart."

The audience was stunned!

Everyone was stunned!

This!

This song!

Zhang Ye opened his eyes.

"What else can I do?

"If cuddling cannot excite you?

"Cheaply singing,

"the emotions written in love songs.

"What else can I do?

"If love no longer inspires?

"Those clichéd lyrics spur your compassion."

The two girls Zhang Ye hugged earlier had their eyes turn red and teary!

Hu Fei was stunned!

Dafei exclaimed!

Xiao Lu covered her mouth in disbelief!

Why?

Why was it like this?

Zhang Ye's voice was getting louder.

"Who still believes in shallow words like 'for all of our days'?

"Come, I will gift you a song that made millions of people cry!

"A never before heard vow is like a happy Ferris wheel.

"Only that can make me scream how deeply I love, love, love, love you."

All of a sudden, he stopped playing the piano and singing!

Countless people looked at Zhang Ye's face and saw that his eyes had reddened while his hands were shaking!

One second!

Two seconds!

Three seconds!

I only know how to sing casually?

I was singing garbage?

Zhang Ye pressed the keys.

"Throwing my heart and soul into the Milky Way.

"Who is garbage?

"If you don't want me to be sad, please spare me a bit of your love."

Backstage, Zhang Xia stood up!

Chen Guang was amazed!

Xiaodong was dumbfounded!

Huang Cheng was stunned!

Amy's tears started falling!

Lost his touch?

Couldn't write a good song?

His singing was declining?

Garbage?

Bullshit!

Bull fucking shit!

Clearly, you can still sing great!

Clearly, you can still write great songs!

Clearly, you could have beat everyone else!

So why?

Just why?!

Zhang Ye sang sadly.

"I cry whenever I sing what's on my mind.

"If you're afraid of getting sad, just take my hand.

"I have thousands of things to tell you, combined.

"It's simpler than wishing to be together forever, it's no rare demand.

"Who still believes in shallow words like 'for all of our days'?"

"Come, I will gift you a song that made millions of people cry!

"A never before heard vow is like a happy Ferris wheel.

"Only that can make me scream how deeply I love, love, love, love you."

The live studio audience and television viewers had never seen this side of Zhang Ye before. They were all shocked by it!

Zhang Ye's singing was too shocking. His voice was like a knife, cutting bit by bit into their hearts. There were no high notes, but his perfected singing could still reach them through the TV. This type singing was something they had not heard in Zhang Xia's or Chen Guang's performances. Even they could not achieve this!

How could someone who could write this sort of song have lost his touch!

How could someone who could sing like this be a fallen hero!

You were obviously standing at the peak!

So why?

Just why?

Many of the live studio audience members stood up!

Zhang Ye's face was dripping with sweat. He sang loudly.

"Wrote twenty songs for you to show that I haven't given up!

"And even included that your love went over the line!

"Singing these twenty songs for you to show that I mean it!

"Even the microphone feels for me!"

It's not that I don't know how to sing!

It's really not!

However many songs you guys want in the future, I can sing all of them for you!

Are five songs enough?

Are ten songs enough?

Are twenty songs enough?

I can sing them!

I can sing to all of you for my entire life, or even two lifetimes!

Then, he went quiet.

The air was still.

Zhang Ye closed his eyes.

"I'm more than anyone else,

"Yet you're saying that,

"the King of Karaoke, is me."

You're more than anyone else?

No one is your match?

The music critics in the front row looked at one another in shock!

Zhang Ye looked at everyone in the audience below stage:

"I just wanted to always be in love with you.

"But that terribly ruthless yawn of yours,

" utterly destroyed me. 2 "

The expression on all of their faces at this moment was shock!

A song could convey emotions and feelings. A song could also speak. In this instance, a lot of people realized that the incomparable Zhang Ye, who could even make the microphone feel for him, had only been singing those catchy tunes to make everyone laugh for one reason. They finally understood what this reason was. It was the only reason he didn't sing well even though he could!

He wasn't allowed to sing well!

He couldn't win!

Because he was the executive director!

Because he was the one who made the rules!

Anyone could win, except Zhang Ye!

After listening to the song.

Hu Fei understood!

Zhang Xia understood!

Xiaodong understood!

Amy understood!

A lot of people understood!

They only just realized how much Zhang Ye sacrificed for this show, for all of them, and for the audience. How much had he given and lost? It was much greater than they could have imagined. This was a sacrifice that no celebrity in the entertainment industry would ever want to pay the price for!

They should have known better!

Hu Fei took off his glasses and wiped his tears away with a sleeve.

Xiao Lu crouched down and cried with her head in her arms.

Many of the Beijing Television staff were crying!

All of a sudden, an angry roar came from the audience!

"Champion!"

A second voice shouted!

"Champion!"

A third one!

A fifth one!

A tenth one!

"Champion!"

"Champion!"

"Champion!"

"Champion!"

The entire audience got to their feet!

The entire audience was cheering in unison!

Xiao Lu raised her head to look at it with streaks of tears still visible on her cheeks!

Hu Fei, Hou Ge, and the others all looked at the audience in shock!

Chapter 1268: It's been hard on you!

At the Heavenly Queen's house.

Zhang Yuanqi turned her head and said with a smile, "Didn't you say that Zhang Ye doesn't know how to sing anymore?"

Fang Weihong feigned ignorance and gave a wry smile. "Did I say that, Sister Zhang?"

Zhang Yuanqi nodded. "I think you did."

"Oh, then you just remembered wrong," Fang Weihong said.

...

At Chen Guang and Fan Wenli's house.

Watching TV, Fan Wenli looked stunned!

She muttered to herself at home, "I knew it!"

"I was thinking that you couldn't have suddenly lost your ability to sing!"

"If you had sung like this from the beginning, how many people in the entire music industry would be a match for you!"

...

At the studio.

Little Wang was wiping away her tears!

Ha Qiqi's eyes reddened!



Zhang Zuo and the others were also unable to control their emotions!

"Who fucking says that Director Zhang doesn't know how to sing!"

...

At an entertainment company.

Several new singers were amazed.

"Wonderful!"

"This singing has to be the top in the industry!"

"The song is really good too!"

...

At Zhang Ye's house.

His mother's eyes were wet. "This is the song that Little Ye wants to sing?"

Wu Zeqing said, "Yes."

"That was a really nice song."

"Yes, it was."

His mother wiped her tears away and said, "But I still prefer 'Small Apple.'"

Wu Zeqing laughed. "That's right, anything he sings is good."

...

A song.

And a piano.

That was all it took to move everyone!

In the live broadcast studio.

"Champion!"

"Champion!"

"Champion!"

The audience's shouting was deafening!

Some of the fans who had been holding up LED boards of Zhang Xia, Chen Guang, Spring Garden, and the other singers' names also stood up and screamed for Zhang Ye. It was as if everyone at the venue had gone crazy!

Zhang Ye simply shook his head.

Champion?

Forget that.

I can't accept that honor.

He only wanted to sing well for this last song. It was a luxury and a headstrong thing to do, but it was more than enough for him. He didn't want anything else. Zhang Ye was pretty happy. So many people listened to him sing, shed tears for him, and shouted his name, which was all he needed. He had nothing to regret now that he had expressed his true feelings at the fall of the curtain.

Dong Shanshan went up onstage. "Director Zhang, this is your final performance on the stage of I Am a Singer. Do you have anything to say to the audience?"

Zhang Ye thought for a bit and looked into the crowd. "Thank you."

Dong Shanshan said, "Everyone is given a minute to campaign for more votes."

Zhang Ye hesitated for a moment, then said again, "Thank you."

He didn't say anything other than thanking everyone twice.

Zhang Ye exited the stage and walked past the audience as he left.

A young man suddenly stood up. "Zhang Ye! Good luck!"

A teenage girl shouted in tears, "Go Teacher Zhang!"

"Zhang Ye!"

"Good luck!"

"You're the best!"

"You're just the best!"

Once he left the stage, Hu Fei, Hou Ge, and the others were waiting for him.

Zhang Ye smiled. "Whoa, what's with this?"

"Director Zhang!" Xiao Lu came up to him, sobbing.

"Hey, hey, hey." Zhang Ye quickly gave her a token hug and patted her on the back. "Alright, enough, what's with this, what's with all of you? Good god, we still have a show to record. With over half of our program team's senior leadership gathered here, can we still record? Let's get back to work."

Han Qi was also wiping away her tears.

Hu Fei said, "Zhang'er."

Dafei said emotionally, "You've suffered!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "What do you mean I've suffered? Making such a good show and standing on such a big stage for so many people to hear me sing, how is that called suffering? If that is suffering, then what about those who are really suffering? I'm very fortunate. In fact, I should apologize to

everyone. Changing the song, having everyone change the lyrics in a hurry, and getting a piano for the performance at the last minute during a live broadcast, I'm sorry, I promise this will be the only time it happens."

Hu Fei also laughed. "You're speaking like you haven't done this before."

During King of Masked Singers, he had requested a song change many times.

Zhang Ye said in embarrassment, "Brother Hu, don't expose me like that."

Hu Fei kept quiet for a moment. "Director Zhang, it's...been hard on you."

Zhang Ye said, "I was just serving the people, nothing hard about it."

Hou Ge said, "I don't think it's possible to catch up on in the voting. The champion should have been—"

Zhang Ye waved it off. "Oh come on, we should leave that fight to Old Chen and Grandma Zhang."

Xiao Lu suddenly stopped crying. She turned around and said, "What's Shanshan saying?"

"Eh?" Dafei, Hou Ge, and the others also turned around to look.

The door that connected to the soundstage was shut, but faint sounds from inside could be heard from here.

When Zhang Ye heard it, he was also taken aback for a second.

...

On the stage.

A lot of the audience members were still immersed in the shock of that song, "The King of Karaoke."

Dong Shanshan raised her microphone and said quietly, "Since Zhang Ye does not want to ask for votes, let me use the remaining time to say something. I've known Zhang Ye for many years. We sat together for our four years in university as well as shared the same office cubicle for a year after our graduation. Later on, we even worked together on quite a few shows and also shot a music video together. If we have to identify those in the industry who know him best, I should probably count as one of them. All of you should know full well what kind of a personality he has. He's very straightforward and always speaks his mind, doing whatever he deems fit. But to tell you the truth, today's also my first time seeing him like this."

The audience nodded.

Yes, they've never seen him like this before!

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "That guy's always eager to win. Be it any competition, even if it's just a simple comparison, he always wants to get first place." With a pause, she continued, "But he did not do so this time. Ever since joining the show as a competitor, he's also been working in his roles as the director, vote counter, and host. He was fine with however much overtime he had to put in at work, just so that the show would be able to go on without a hitch. In order to protect the other singers, he endured? Compromised? Kept silent? In the past, these were words that I would never link to Zhang Ye.

But I saw all of that in him this time. It's only now that I realized that the Zhang Ye I knew could sacrifice so much. For the show, for his colleagues, for the greater good, he was willing to endure it and take a step back."

The audience went silent.

In the crowd, the music critics and fellow professionals were also silent.

Dong Shanshan smiled and said, "The reason why I'm saying this is not because I want to get votes for Zhang Ye. I just wanted to tell him this. Director Zhang, it's been hard on you."

Silence.

There was not a sound.

Then, in the span of a pin dropping, applause broke out from the audience!

The music critics were applauding!

The audience was applauding!

There were even some people who stood up and gave a thumbs up high in the air!

One person!

Ten people!

A 100 people!

The cameras panned over to them instantly!

Countless audience members were giving a thumbs up in the direction of the door that Zhang Ye had left through. The sight was astonishing, and every home viewer also felt very touched when they saw this on TV!

They had not understood!

Didn't Zhang Ye lose his ability to sing?

Then how did he suddenly regain that ability?

After listening to Dong Shanshan's speech, they finally understood!

So it was because he was only here to accompany them!

So it was because he had been protecting everyone all this while!

So it was because he couldn't win right from the moment he took on the role of the singer-host. He was destined to be a supporting role working in the shadows of the others!

What kind of feeling was that?

What kinds of emotions did he feel?

It was something they couldn't understand, but they knew that this was an extremely difficult choice for a person like Zhang Ye to take!

Chapter 1269: Be serious, we're showing off here!

On Weibo.

The netizens were getting very excited!

"I was wrong!"

"Motherfucker, I take back the words I said about Zhang Ye!"

"I'll take my words back too. I've already deleted my old Weibo posts!"

"In so many years of listening to people sing, this is the first time I've shed a tear while listening to a song, fuck!"

"So it wasn't that he didn't know how to sing anymore. It was just that he couldn't do it. It was only because we've come to the final round of the grand finals when he could no longer catch up in voting that he finally sang for real!"

"It's too good!"

"I'm crying too, my tears are falling all over the place!"

"To put a person like Zhang Ye onstage and not allow him to sing properly? That was probably even worse than killing him! It really wasn't easy!"

"I won't slander Zhang Ye anymore in the future!"

"Passerby transforming into a fan!"

"Fan transforming into a diehard fan!"

"Me too. Diehard fan transforming into a braindead fan!"

"'The King of Karaoke' is so touching!"

"Ahhh, how can it be so good!"

"Let's vote for it!"

"Yeah, let's vote for Zhang Ye!"

"I've already done so!"

Zhang Ye's fans all came out of the woodwork!

Zhang Ye's fan club, which had maintained a low profile, appeared out of the blue and overwhelmed Weibo, the forums, and Tieba with the force of an avalanche!

"Please vote for Zhang Ye!"

"He can't win anymore."

"I know, but we have to at least let Teacher Zhang know that we're still around!"

"Right!"

"Please vote!"

"Let Teacher Zhang know that we're here!"

Dong Shanshan's fan club also appeared.

"Count us in!"

"Vote for Zhang Ye!"

"Our friends from Zhang Ye's fan club, we're here!"

"As allies, we must support Zhang Ye!"

Yao Jiancai's fans also popped up!

"We're here, we're here!"

"How can the party start without us!"

"Old Yao's fans, let's all vote for Zhang Ye!"

"OK!"

"Like that needs to be said!"

Fan Wenli suddenly posted on Weibo: "I just cried. It was an indescribable feeling. Although Old Chen and Grandma Zhang both sang very well, my vote will still go to Zhang Ye. I don't even have someone else that I want to vote for, I just want to vote for him."

Below, many replies came in.

"Sister Fan, aren't you going to support your husband?"

"\*faints\* Sister Fan has defected!"

"Looks like Zhang Ye really did sing well!"

"Alright, I'm gonna vote for Zhang Ye too."

Suddenly, Zhang Yuanqi's manager appeared.

Fang Weihong posted on Weibo with a screenshot of her vote on her cell phone: "Sister Zhang and I are watching I Am a Singer's live broadcast together. We've just voted for Zhang Ye. There's nothing to say except that it was spectacular!"

Many of the netizens exclaimed.

"Even the Heavenly Queen has voted for Zhang Ye?"

"I thought that Sister Zhang would vote for Grandma Zhang!"

"Wow!"

"That was unexpected!"

"Zhang Ye's last song moved so many people!"

"It didn't only move us, it shocked us!"

"Yeah, I got the goosebumps all over!"

Even though they knew he couldn't win!

Even though they knew there was no time left!

A lot of people were still voting for Zhang Ye!

The live broadcast continued.

Amy.

Xiaodong.

Chen Guang.

Zhang Xia.

Everyone took their turn.

As the live broadcast neared its end, the grand champion was going to be revealed!

Countless people were either seated in the live studio or before their televisions waiting to see the final results.

In her flowing red dress, Dong Shanshan held the results with the rankings on it and announced, "The grand champion of the grand finals of the first season of I Am a Singer is—" With a deliberate pause, she raised her head and looked into the audience before saying the singer's name, "Zhang Xia!"

Zhang Xia was startled, clearly not expecting this!

Applause from the audience rang out!

Chen Guang applauded with a smile on his face!

Xiaodong applauded in celebration of Zhang Xia's win!

Zhang Ye gave her a thumbs up!

The number of votes was displayed on the big screen, and the champion emerged. Zhang Xia had beaten the favorite, Chen Guang, by just a few votes to take the title of champion for the first season of I Am a Singer. This title was undoubtedly a big deal to Zhang Xia as it signified her switch from bel canto to pop music. It was also the greatest affirmation to the achievements of Zhang Xia's work in the artistic singing field over the years!

On the same night.

The news reported on this!

"Zhang Xia wins title of grand champion!"

"Chen Guang defeated in the grand finals!"

"Zhang Xia reaches the peak of her career!"

"Zhang Ye's amazing performance in the grand finals!"

"The mystery behind Zhang Ye's non-singing!"

"Unveiling the secret backstory of I Am a Singer!"

"'The King of Karaoke' drops onto the Internet!"

"I Am a Singer's viewership ratings defy the heavens by surpassing 4%!"

"Zhang Ye creates yet another legend in the variety field!"

"A successful finale to I Am a Singer. Surprises, shock, and regrets!"

The dust settled.

The public also expressed their opinions.

"This is such a great show. Zhang Ye is indeed deserving of being called the best director in our domestic variety show market. I really have to give that to him!"

"That's right, I've never watched such a good show before. If Zhang Ye stops making variety shows, I Am a Singer might just go on to become a monumental standard in the industry forever, with no one else able to surpass it. The only regrettable thing was that Zhang Ye did not become the grand champion!"

"That was such a pity!"

"To me, the grand champion is Zhang Ye!"

"Just with 'The King of Karaoke' alone, Zhang Ye deserved to be the grand champion. That one song can easily top 10 or 20 songs by the others!"

"Yeah, didn't Grandma Zhang also say that when she won the title of grand champion? She said that she was rather lucky to be holding the trophy. Thinking about it now, it was truly very hard on Zhang Ye. Does anyone still remember the 'Zhang Ye Sprawl' that went viral recently? I found it really funny at that time, but looking at it again now, I feel a little sad. He is the greatest contributor behind the scenes, yet he didn't get crowned as the grand champion in the end."

"Will there be a second season?"

"Of course there will!"

"I hope that Zhang Ye will return for the second season!"



"Yeah, don't make Zhang Ye the director when the time comes. Let him take part as a competitor so that he can sing whatever he wants. We owe him a title!"

At this moment.

Zhang Ye's fan club's current leader spoke.

Big Saber Bro: "Brothers and sisters of our fan club, allow me to say a word or two. Ever since Teacher Zhang became famous, regardless of scolding battles, bumping threads, competitions, or viewership ratings, we have never lost before, not once. But this time, we lost. I know that this is because Teacher Zhang is not supposed to become the grand champion. He didn't sing well because he couldn't do so. He had to ensure that the show would not have any flaws or controversies. But the fact remains that we've lost. I know that everyone must not be feeling good and probably feel sorry for Teacher Zhang. I feel the same as you guys; I also can't calm down. As the stand-in leader of the fan club, let me guarantee one thing to all of you today. This will be the first time we lose, and also the last time we lose! From here on out, we'll never lose again!"

In an instant, tens of thousands of people responded!

"Alright!"

"Understood!"

"Got it!"

"Got it!"

"Got it!"

"Got it!"

Quite a few netizens watching this quietly clicked their tongues!

Who could ever guarantee that they would win forever? Never lose again? Who would ever dare to make such claims? In the entire entertainment circle, was there anyone who dared to say something like that? No matter how you thought about it, only these fearless fans of Zhang Ye's would dare to say such a thing! These people were really not afraid or worried about anything!

Their momentum was too strong!

Zhang Ye had too many people on his side!

In the end, this post actually made it to the front page of Weibo. Below the post, the replies from Zhang Ye's army of fans were getting showier and more posturing!

"We won't lose again!"

"We owe Zhang Ye the title of grand champion!"

"We'll take that title someday!"

"Whatever we've lost, we'll take it back with our own hands!"

"Wow, we're on the front page. This is great, hehehe!"

"Hey, be serious. We're showing off here!"

The industry was speechless!

The netizens were all watching!

Finally, even Zhang Ye himself was flushed out. Seeing this group of people's declarations of war, he also got quite a shock. He immediately said to Big Saber Bro: "Sis, can we be more low-key? Please?"

How could I not lose?

Do you think I'm a god!

You even want me to take the title?

Are you asking me to go and steal the trophy from Grandma Zhang's house?!

However, Big Saber Bro replied with: "Go away, it's none of your business."

ZhangYeFan#22: "Go away, it's none of your business."

AIDDD: "Go away, it's none of your business."

FlyFlewFlown: "Go away, it's none of your business."

OnlyConvincedByTeacherZhang: "Go away, it's none of your business."

Ctrl+C, Ctrl+V!

A bunch of Zhang Ye's fans were copy-pasting!

What do you mean it's none of my business!

This is totally my fucking business!

Zhang Ye nearly vomited blood. These fuckers!

The countless netizens were greatly amused. Hahahahaha! This was such a funny scene that could only happen between Zhang Ye and his own fan club. Of all the celebrities' fan clubs in the country, the most disparate group was Zhang Ye's fan base. Yet, it was also this group of Zhang Ye's troll army that was not to be provoked. If they got frustrated, even Zhang Ye would have to bear their scolding. Once they got their showy swagger going, they wouldn't even leave a shred of respect for Zhang Ye. But if anyone else were to scold Zhang Ye, they would never allow it. They would take it up with the offender and make sure they wouldn't get away "alive.". Frankly, each was weirder than the last. There were really no others like them!

A comedic celebrity!

And a comedic bunch of fans!

In the entire Chinese entertainment industry, you wouldn't be able to find another group like them!

Chapter 1270: Countdown to the big wedding!

The next day.

At home.

Zhang Ye slept until noon.

He couldn't help it. His recent days had been a nightmare. It was always all about work the moment he opened his eyes. Even when he was asleep, he would be dreaming that he was instructing the staff at work. Going home for a warm meal felt like he had been given a long vacation from work. The show's planning, directing, tasking, vote counting, hosting, and managing of singers were all overseen by Zhang Ye. No details that happened within the program team did not involve Zhang Ye's decision. As a result, you could imagine how tiring it was for him. He really couldn't get any rest throughout an entire day. The show had finally come to a successful end yesterday, and Zhang Ye's mission was complete. He dozed off the moment he laid down and slept until now. If it weren't for his mother coming to wake him up, he could probably have laid in bed for three whole days and nights.

The door opened.

His mother said, "Son, get up."

Zhang Ye yawned. "Is breakfast ready?"

"Breakfast?" His mother said amused, "The sun is shining on your butt. Get up and brush your teeth, it's time for lunch. Hurry, I've cooked all the dishes that you like."

Zhang Ye got up from bed. "OK."

His father was working in the living room. "Little Ye, did you silence your cell phone? Ha Qiqi from your studio called our house just now, but your mother wouldn't let me wake you up."

His mother harrumphed and said, "Wake him up for what? Do you want my son to get worked to death!"

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "It might be business. I'll drop by the studio later this afternoon."

His mother said, "Your business now is to rest up for a few days. Don't keep running around."

Zhang Ye scoffed. "It's not like you don't know me. I've never been one to idle. Besides, I'm preparing for a big job!"

"Which bank are you robbing?" his mother asked.

Zhang Ye said floored, "Why would I be robbing a bank!"

His mother chuckled and said, "If you have the time, you should be taking those fans of yours in hand first. They caused a ruckus that lasted past midnight. I kept seeing the ruckus they were making all over Weibo."

Zhang Ye waved his hand and said, "Heh, don't even bring those jerks up. I get angry at the mention of them. Look, all of them are even better at showing off than me. They've totally stolen this bro's thunder

by shouting those slogans and whatnot. Won't lose again? In the end, doesn't it all still depend on me? Those people are too unreliable!"

His mother said, "Well, they learned from you."

Zhang Ye: "When did I ever teach them that?"

His mother said, "In any case, you've never taught them anything good."

Zhang Ye had no reply.

His mother said, "Hurry up and eat. When you finish, your dad and I will be going out too."

Zhang Ye asked, "To do what?"

His mother said, "To plan your wedding, of course. The hotel has already been decided on, and it was even the Wus who found the place. We cannot continue to let them worry about the wedding. For the other matters, I'll be going with your dad to discuss with the relevant parties. There are still quite a few things that we need to order, like the flower baskets, the letterings, the decorations, and the wedding dress. I think you and Little Wu should go and choose that yourselves. Oh, the wedding photos have to be taken in advance too. Don't leave it til the last minute and end up trying to catch up. And there are the wedding invitations as well. I'll need a list from you so that I know who'll be invited, then you can leave the rest to me."

Zhang Ye broke into a smile. "Dad, mom, it's been hard on you both."

His mother cut him off. "Save it."

Later that afternoon.

At the studio.

"Director Zhang is here!"

"Director Zhang!"

"You're finally here. Have you seen it yet?"

"It's amazing!"

The moment he arrived, everyone started chattering.

Zhang Ye said, "Seen what? I just woke up."

"The popularity rankings, of course." Ha Qiqi said with a laugh, "The latest rankings have been published again. We've already sorted it out for you, so please have a look at your current popularity score."

It was only then that Zhang Ye remembered that the Celebrity Rankings Index should have been refreshed at midnight last night. Ever since making the show I Am a Singer, Zhang Ye had been focused on Beijing Television. He hadn't really been checking on the rankings index much, so it was now time to analyze the results thus far. The fifth step of the "Reach the Summit" plan had been successfully completed, but as for how much of an impact it had, that would still have to depend on how he did in the Celebrity Rankings Index.

After getting hold of the statistics charts.

The first thing Zhang Ye saw surprised him very much. "Whoa! This much?"

Zhang Zuo belly laughed. "During yesterday's update, your popularity score increased by a huge amount!"

"There are numbers from earlier too." Little Wang pointed to the form and said, "Look here, this is during the time I Am a Singer's first episode was broadcast. This was for the second episode. This one was the episode where you took on the role as the singer-host and participated in the competition. It was also at the start of this episode that your popularity score jumped up in steps. It kept increasing by the day, until yesterday, when it went up by the most. It's too scary!"

Tong Fu smiled and corrected, "You must mean it's terrifying!"

Zhang Ye snapped his fingers. "That's pretty good."

He was still in first place in the A-list rankings, but his popularity score was no longer the same as before!

This fifth step of the "Reach the Summit" plan had brought him an unimaginable amount of popularity!

Whether it was the show's heaven-defying and record-breaking viewership ratings, or Zhang Ye being the executive director who announced the singers' rankings in each episode, or Zhang Ye joining as a competitor and hosting the show, then debuting those songs like "I Feel So Drained," "The Hottest Ethnic Trend," "Small Apple," "Nonsense Has Its Nonsense Logic," and "The King of Karaoke," all of it had brought Zhang Ye a great deal of attention. Especially for "The King of Karaoke." It was now sweeping the various music charts to the point that the two songs performed by Zhang Xia in the grand finals combined were not one-third as popular as "The King of Karaoke"!

This show had really helped a lot of people become very popular.

Like Zhang Xia.

Like Chen Guang.

Like Xiaodong.

Like Dong Shanshan.

Even a has-been celebrity like Zhao Wuliu was getting more attention and becoming popular again because of the show. Two months ago, Zhao Wuliu's commercial appearances would only command a fee of several hundred thousand RMB. But now the rumors were that a single song performed by him would fetch close to a million RMB in fees, as highlighted by his recent concert at a rich businessman's wedding. But of course, nobody really knew whether that was true.

Let alone the others!

Their popularity was exploding with growth!

But if there was really a need to pinpoint who experienced the greatest growth in popularity, that person would definitely not be Zhang Xia, nor Chen Guang, much less Dong Shanshan!

It would be Zhang Ye!

He didn't take the role of the executive director for nothing!

The plaza dance wave was not for nothing too!

Even more, "The King of Karaoke" amazed the nation!

Zhang Ye undoubtedly reaped the most benefit!

Ha Qiqi laughed and said, "The fifth step of Reach the Summit was completed just perfectly. It was definitely completed with the most outstanding result and was much better than we had expected. At that time, we were still thinking that it would be best to do a reality TV show and believed that a show like I Am a Singer would not be the best choice. Unexpectedly, Director Zhang had to compete. Although it was pretty tiring and he didn't win grand champion, the effects were still much better than what a reality TV show could achieve. That was really the most unexpected gain of all. We're now getting closer and closer to those seven spots above us. No, I shouldn't put it that way. I mean to say we're finally able to see those seven spots before us!"

Little Wang snickered. "More importantly, no one else seems to have realized it yet."

Zhang Zuo gave a wry smile. "Don't count on that. We can't keep this a secret for much longer. I think they'll find out soon."

Ha Qiqi nodded and said, "Director Zhang's popularity score isn't that far apart from theirs. I believe we can't hide this fact for long either. As of now, those seven people have yet to come to their senses and are not thinking about this. After all, the Heavenly King and Queens' spots haven't changed in many, many years. They're used to the fact that no one can catch up to them. By the time they realize what's going on and start preparing, that's when the real fight will begin. It will definitely be a bloody battle, so we should be trying to catch up as much as possible while they haven't yet realized."

Wu Yi said, "But we should at least give Director Zhang some time to rest. He's been overworked in recent days."

Hearing that, Zhang Ye laughed and said, "I'm fine. There's no need to be so considerate of me. I've said that if I don't get into the S-list, I'll never rest. If there are any good projects, let's hurry up and take them. We'll push for higher popularity while they haven't noticed. I slept all day yesterday, so I've recovered pretty well. When it comes to stamina? Energy? No one in the entire entertainment industry would dare to claim they are number one if I say I am number two!"

This was not an exaggeration!

A guy who was infinitesimally close to becoming a martial arts grandmaster was in no way comparable to a normal person.

Zhang Zuo said, "Actually, there's no need to rush."

Zhang Ye waved his hand and said, "We have to, hur hur. Because in another few days, I'll probably have to take five to ten days off from work. I won't be able to work on those days, so we have to make the most of it right now."

"Apply for leave?"

"Why?"

"What are you going to do?"

Everyone was surprised.

Then they saw Zhang Ye smile and say, "I'm taking time off to get married!"

Ha Qiqi was stunned. "In just a few days?"

Little Wang said in surprise, "Right away?"

Zhang Ye nodded and said, "It's currently getting arranged, so it should be very soon!"

The wedding was slated for this year anyway, so the day was about to arrive!

Instantly, congratulatory voices filled the studio!

"Congratulations!"

"Congratulations, Director Zhang!"

"Hope you have a lifetime of love and happiness!"

"May you be blessed with a child soon!"

"Just who is our sister-in-law going to be?"

"When are we getting a raise, Director Zhang? I don't have any money left to contribute to your wedding gift!"

"When are you and Sister-in-law going to have a child?"

This last sentence was a shot to Zhang Ye's heart!

I haven't even touched her yet, so why are we talking about a child!