### Superstar 671

#### I'm Really a Superstar

### Chapter 671: A tug of war between the coaches!

Two minutes earlier.

In the second recording studio.

Luo Yu's parents were here as well. Before their daughter went up on stage, the two of them repeatedly asked Zhang Ye some questions. They didn't seem to be in high spirits regarding her appearance on television. Instead they felt surprised and puzzled simultaneously without much excitement.

Her father said, "Teacher Zhang, my daughter has never known how to sing well."

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Is that so?"

Her mother answered, "She has liked singing ever since she was young, singing by day, singing while eating, and sometimes even hiding under her blanket and singing at night. She sang quite well when she was younger, but after going through puberty, her voice was damaged and her voice turned raspy. Her teachers and classmates even commented that it was better if she did not talk. Once she did, she sounded just like a boy. With this voice, don't mention singing, just hearing it is enough for anyone to find it a nuisance."

Zhang Ye asked, "Your family does not support her music endeavors?"

Her father sighed, "We also wish to support our child and let her fulfill her dreams. But the problem is that she can't sing, she's not suited for this at all."

Her mother said, "This child has a loud voice. Every time she starts singing at home, my husband and I will always go out for a stroll, otherwise we'll get annoyed. The neighbors also have a very negative opinion of her and sometimes even come over to our house to ask Luo Yu to lower her volume. We've already told her many times that she is causing a disturbance to the others and tried talking to her, but she doesn't listen. No matter how others talk about her or criticize her, she will still sing every day without caring what others say to her. Now that she has been invited to this competition called The Voice of China, when I heard it from her, I still thought it to be a scam. With her lousy voice, how could it be called a good voice?!"

Zhang Ye said, "Your daughter is up on stage now. Let's see what the coaches think of her."

Her mother remarked, "They definitely won't turn around, right?"

Her father shook his head and did not say anything. The two of them didn't intend to come here today as they knew that their daughter couldn't sing, yet she was invited to participate in a singing talent show. Subconsciously, they felt that this did not make any sense and felt that their daughter would definitely be looked down upon by the coaches after performing and be mocked by the audience. When that happened, it would look bad for them too. However, they still agreed to come here because of Zhang Ye. They could not refuse Zhang Ye after he had personally made several calls to invite them over.

On the television screen, they could see everything that was happening in the main recording studio.

As her parents, when Luo Yu went up on stage looking very nervous, they knew straight away that she would not make it past the coaches.

The next moment, they saw their daughter with her eyes closed and holding the microphone tightly.

"I've always been told I don't understand lyrics, composing, or singing!

"I've always been told I don't understand comfort, laughter, or living!

"I've always been told I don't understand passion, women, or romance!

"I've always been told I don't understand restraint, flexibility, or smarts!"

This song...

These lyrics...

Suddenly, Luo Yu's parents were shocked as they involuntarily thought of the past!

Their neighbor Grandma Liu would grumble in front of them every day, "Don't let your Little Luo sing anymore. There are so many people who can't get famous even if they study music, so what could she do?"

Every time their Second Aunt came to visit them, she would say to Luo Yu, "Little Yu, you must learn to be flexible and face reality. Not everyone can realize their dreams of becoming a celebrity. To live means to be down to earth!"

"You rascal, why don't you listen no matter what we tell you? Why are you still continuing to sing? Can't you hear that we mean well for you, Little Luo? Why are you being so thick-skinned and shameless?"

"Little Luo, don't sing anymore."

"Little Luo, you won't make it."

"Little Luo, just do your job well as a teacher."

"Little Luo, be filial to your parents and do well at your job. That's honorable. What will singing do for you!?"

"Little Luo..."

"Little Luo..."

Suddenly, a loud and high-pitched screaming "lept" out from the television screen!

"Who told you I can't sing!"

At that moment, Luo Yu's parents each felt a punch in their guts!

"Who told you I don't understand living!

"Who told you I don't know the blues!

"Who told you I don't know glory!"

A continuous, soprano voice came wave after wave!

It felt like a roar that carried a tinge of unwillingness buried deep inside the soul!

Suddenly, Zhang Ye pointed at the television screen. "Someone has turned around! Teacher Chen Guang has turned around!"

"Ah!" Her father stared with his eyes wide open!

Her mother was also stunned!

Within three seconds, Zhang Ye said again, "Teacher Fan Wenli has also turned around! Quick, look, Teacher Zhang Xia also tapped the button! There's only one left...only one left...oh! Teacher Zhang Yuanqi has also turned around! All four coaches have turned around! All of them have chosen your daughter! Teacher Chen Guang is standing up now and giving a thumbs up! Look at the audience! The audience is bubbling with excitement! It's fantastic! Luo Yu is really fantastic!"

Her father asked in shock, "They turned around? All of them turned around?"

Zhang Ye said, "That's right!"

Her father said excitedly, "The coaches like my daughter's singing?"

"That's for sure." Zhang Ye said, "The coaches want Luo Yu to join their own teams, that's why they chose to turn their chairs around. Next they will have to fight for her to get her to join them!"

Her father said in a shaky voice, "Are you saying the coaches and audience felt that my daughter...sang well?"

Zhang Ye said, "Yes! Look at everyone's expressions and their cheers! All of this is for your daughter! Everyone likes her!"

Upon hearing this, Luo Yu's mother looked at her daughter on the stage and the cheers coming from the audience. She did not know why, but her tears started to flow down uncontrollably. She couldn't stop crying!

My daughter really knows how to sing!

So there actually were many people who liked listening to my daughter's singing!

So it's us who had been wrong!

Seeing his wife cry, Luo Yu's father also cried, but it was out of happiness. His tears also carried some guilt in them because they had never supported their daughter's dreams before!

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In the main recording studio.

Onstage.

The music ended and all the lights in the studio came on.

"How exhilarating!"

"Right, it was awesome!"

"I listened until my back was sweating!"

"Where did this woman come from?! Is she a professional singer? How did she sing so well?"

"If she isn't a professional singer, then she's definitely professionally trained in music!"

"This voice has a lot of impact to it! It's even stronger than a man's voice!"

"Isn't it surprising that such a fat woman could sing until she touched the hearts of people? I have listened to many people singing this song before, but none of them could sing it like she did and make my blood boil with excitement!"

"Splendid!"

"She sang this song in such a divine manner!"

The audience was heatedly discussing her!

Ha Qiqi and the staff of the program team were totally surprised. The scene's effect was fantastic. Only Zhang Ye could have had such foresight! Luo Yu's voice was too awesome! This odd voice had somehow ignited the entire studio!

After the lights came on, Luo Yu, standing on stage, clearly saw the vista around her for the first time. When she saw the four coaches and realized that they were actually facing her instead of with their back toward her, and the numerous audience members who were screaming and applauding her, Luo Yu was also stunned. She stood there without moving a muscle, dazed on the spot!

What's the matter?

What was going on?

Luo Yu could not believe the image in front of her eyes!

Chen Guang could no longer wait and praised, "You're amazing!"

Fan Wenli exclaimed, "Your voice is so special! It's really nice to listen to!"

Luo Yu still felt confused. "I-I did not get eliminated?"

Zhang Xia smiled and said, "Of course not! All four of us have already turned around."

Upon hearing this, Luo Yu mind was blown then it turned blank. Afterwards, she did something that made everyone laugh. She threw out both her arms with the microphone in one of her hands and let out a long scream. "Ahhhhh!" She was so excited she did not know what to do!

They really turned around!

They've really acknowledged me!!

### I'm Really a Superstar

Chapter 672: The second contestant comes on stage!

Backstage.

In the second recording studio.

The door opened and Luo Yu came rushing in. "Dad! Mom! I did it! The coaches have chosen me!"

Her father said with excitement, "We saw it! We saw it all!"

Her mother said with tears in her eyes, "My child, I'm sorry. We haven't given you any support all these years!"

"Mom, what are you saying, it's OK!" Luo Yu went over to hug her mother, while also crying. "It's alright!"

Her mother was choking back tears. "Wu wu wu, in the future...In the future, sing all that you wish to sing...wu wu...your dad and I...we will not stop you anymore!"

Luo Yu said while crying, "Mom!"

Her father's eyes were also becoming wet as he said, "Child, in the future, just do what you enjoy. Your mom and I will support you!"

"Dad! Thank you!" Luo Yu felt that at this moment she was probably the most fortunate person in the world!

Zhang Ye and the cameraman were both beside them, looking on but not interrupting the moment. This was a scene that left Zhang Ye very satisfied, making him feel that his hard work in recent days did not go to waste. He had fulfilled the goals and expectations he had set for himself, setting up this stage and making it a place where dreams could come true—this was important to Zhang Ye.

Luo Yu had done beautifully!

After this, it was up to the others!

Truthfully speaking, Zhang Ye still felt a little nervous, not because he doubted the quality of the contestants he chose, but their ability to perform on a stage. Most talent shows usually did not re-record the round in which the contestants performed unless it was due to equipment malfunctioning or external factors. Recording again because a contestant did not perform up to their potential? The coaches would not agree and neither would the audience. Whether they could make it or not depended on the three minutes they were given. Everything would be determined then and there. Naturally, this was a very big test for the contestants.

Who was the next contestant?

Yes, it was time for the train driver to step up!

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In the main recording studio.

On and offstage, everyone quieted down.

The lights were also turned off as everyone focused their attention to the stage without blinking.

At this moment, a burly man appeared in sight of the audience. He was very tall, around 1.85 meters, and with just a few steps, he had already walked to the center of the stage. He looked visibly nervous, holding the microphone tightly in his hands, then loosening his grip, then tightening and loosening again. Finally, he was able to calm himself.

The music started.

A melody began playing.

At the coaches' chairs, the four of them were talking to one another.

"What song is this?" Chen Guang apparently thought that this melody sounded rather familiar.

Fan Wenli, who had started out as a music teacher and was more professional in this area, had identified the song with just the starting melody. "This is 'Please Fall In Love With Me,' but I think it's an arranged version."

Zhang Xia closed her eyes out of habit to listen.

Zhang Yuanqi also appeared to be was anticipating something.

The melody danced and sounded very touching. The next moment, the voice of the contestant rang out.

"Hey..."

This voice that came out immediately made the coaches look at each other.

Zhang Yuanqi smiled and said, "It's a guy."

Fan Wenli said, "For a love song like this one, I don't think many guys would attempt it, isn't that right?"

Chen Guang made a sound of confirmation. "And to sing it well is even more difficult as this song is more exquisite."

Zhang Xia said with her eyes closed, "His voice sounds quite fine, so we'll have to see how he performs it. The first contestant, Little Luo, was simply too stunning, so with her opening performance, the contestants that come later would definitely be more pressured."

This song was the same one Sun Daxuan had performed for Zhang Ye in the preliminary auditions of The Voice. Later on, the music arrangement teacher and Zhang Ye both thought that he sang this song well and it fit his singing style too, so instead of making him change songs like Luo Yu did, they stuck to using the same one.

Sun Daxuan had come to the main part of the song and had dived into its emotions.

"Hey..." "Hello...It's me." "Hey..." "Please...Love me." "Hey..." "Have you ever heard the wind blow?"

"That's me, softly speaking."

That haunting feeling, that exquisite enunciation of the lyrics. Although it was a man's voice, the entire audience was still touched by it as they couldn't help but clap a little.

"Hey..."

"Hello...It's me."

"Hey..."

"Please...Love me."

Singing skill, intonation, level of exquisiteness, there was nothing to nitpick at all!

The first contestant was already very good, but no one could have expected the second contestant to be this good either. For a burly man, he could actually sing a love sing to this degree!?

Amazed, Fan Wenli breathed in and raised her hand up with some hesitation, hovering it above the red button.

But suddenly, before she could move, Zhang Xia beside her hit the button with her hand. Her chair turned around as Fan Wenli was left stunned, then subconsciously hit the button quickly as well!

If she didn't hit the button for this contestant, who would she hit it for?!

If it were any other talent show, such a voice would have the potential for a top three finish. From a certain angle, it could even be said that this voice was comparable to theirs as professional singers!

Just a split second separated the two coaches, as they both turned around at almost the same time. When they saw the burly man on stage, Zhang Xia's eyes narrowed while Fan Wenli was surprised. The exquisiteness and emotions portrayed in that voice were not really something they would connect to someone who looked like that. Based on Fan Wenli's experience and feelings, she had thought that the person on stage would turn out to be a fair, thin, and scrawny guy, but little did she expect that he would turn out to appear so rough and tumble!

Seeing Fan Wenli's expression, Chen Guang immediately asked, "What's the matter?"

Fan Wenli looked at him and immediately beamed while shaking her head. "Nothing."

Chen Guang said, "Hah?"

Fan Wenli warned, "You better not turn or else you'll regret it!"

Pfft! When the cameraman positioned for shots of their angle heard this, he couldn't help scoffing. The scene of the couple bickering was such a tease, starting from the time they were fighting over the contestant earlier.

Chen Guang wouldn't have any of it. "I'd be stupid if I believed you."

Pa. He also hit the button. Chen Guang was also a crooner of love songs, but he didn't usually sing it in such a smooth way. Logically speaking, this contestant would not suit his style, but since it was a competition, the composition of the teams they chose would definitely have to be better balanced. Chen Guang couldn't possibly go and choose all the contestants who had the same style as him to be on his team, could he? If he did so, then the entire competition wouldn't have much meaning anymore! This person clearly could sing, so if he could be pulled onto the team, then Chen Guang would surely welcome it. The more the merrier. Besides, as a professional, as long as it wasn't jazz or some other forms of foreign music he wasn't familiar with, he could still coach the contestants.

Three out of four coaches had turned!

When Chen Guang saw the person on stage, he also let out a "wow" in surprise.

Every time a coach turned around, the audience would give a round of excited applause!

"Another one has turned!"

"The singing is really good!"

"It's nice to listen to this!"

"Although he does not have the explosive force of the first contestant, his smoothness in singing is too awesome. It sounds even more touching than if it was sung by a woman!"

"This person is definitely going to be a key contestant!"

"I like him, I like him!"

"He isn't as good as Luo Yu."

"He can't be worse than her. They're both very good!"

"Everyone has their own judgment. In any case, I think that this person sings amazingly!"

"There's so much emotion in his singing!"

Earlier, Luo Yu had taken the stage with a rock song to pump up the entire atmosphere of the studio, but when Sun Daxuan took over, it changed the charged up atmosphere to a beautiful and graceful one. The beautiful picture that existed in his singing voice had infected everyone and they all moved to a different mood and feel!

The song was over.

Compared to Luo Yu, Sun Daxuan was much calmer. Only the look in his eyes revealed just how excited he was at this moment as three of the coaches had turned around for him!

Ahhh!

In his mind, Sun Daxuan was already shouting out loud!

Zhang Yuanqi smiled and said, "Hello, please introduce yourself first."

Sun Daxuan promptly said, "My name is Sun Daxuan and I'm 26 years old. I work as a train driver!"

The audience burst into an uproar.

"Eh?"

"Holy shit!"

"He drives a train?"

Earlier, it was a physical education teacher, and now a train driver? The occupations of The Voice's contestants are too f\*\*king complicated!

Zhang Xia was very curious about this. "You have a very interesting job."

Sun Daxuan quirked a lip and said, "It's a pretty busy job since I have to be on the train every day, but when I have nothing to do, I sing. There's nothing to be afraid of since no customers will be listening."

Zhang Xia asked, "Why?"

Sun Daxuan replied, "Because I drive a cargo train."

Amused, Zhang Yuanqi inquired, "What made you want to come and join this competition?"

Sun Daxuan answered very honestly, "It is because I really like Teacher Zhang Ye. I am a hardcore fan of his, so for his programs, his poems, the songs that he has written, I've watched, read, and listened to them more than once. Since Teacher Zhang Ye had created a new program and sent out an invitation to apply for the show, I just came without thinking. Actually, before coming up on stage, I hadn't really thought that any of you coaches would turn around for me. I, I thought I would leave after singing this song!"

The coaches were all laughing. One of them said, "Too bad Zhang Ye isn't one of the coaches then."

Sun Daxuan lightly mocked, "It's not that. I also really, really, really like you all as well!"

Fan Wenli said, "I would like to hear from Sister Zhang on why she did not turn around."

Zhang Yuanqi looked over at Fan Wenli. "That's because I don't really sing such exquisite-sounding love songs. I do not have the voice to do so. That's why I feel that Little Sun's style would be more suitable for you, Wenli, and I decided that I wouldn't want to take him from you."

Fan Wenli said happily, "Thank you, Sister Zhang!"

Zhang Xia didn't like the sound of that. "Yuanqi, why aren't you pulling for me instead?"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed gleefully. "Maybe in the next round."

Zhang Xia then said to Sun Daxuan, "Little Sun, come and join me."

Sun Daxuan said, "Grandma Zhang, my parents especially like you."

Zhang Yuanqi laughed, "Oh, seems like Grandma Zhang has no chance with him at all."

Zhang Xia: "..."

The audience all laughed.

Sun Daxuan felt even more embarrassed. "Then ... "

Fan Wenli immediately said, "Little Sun, our style of singing is exactly the same. If you join me, I will teach you well. On top of that, I will invite you to be my guest for my concert that's happening in the middle of the year!"

The audience gasped in astonishment.

Chen Guang immediately said, "I will also invite you to be my guest for my concert this year!"

Fan Wenli stared at him. "What's the meaning of that, Old Chen?"

Chen Guang smiled and replied, "It's just normal competition."

Fan Wenli said, "You already have a good contestant with you, so if you steal a contestant from me again, I better check if our feelings for each other are still as deep as before!"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed and remarked, "Whoa, their relationship is already breaking down!"

Hearing this, the audience all burst out in laughter.

Chen Guang also withered but just rolled his eyes.

In the end, Sun Daxuan's choice was of no surprise to everyone. He said, "Thank you, teachers, I will...I will choose Teacher Fan Wenli!"

Hearing her name, a glittering grin appeared on Fan Wenli's face. She told him, "You've made a smart choice!"

The audience was once again discussing what was happening.

"Haha, Old Chen was terrified!"

"But the contestant's choice of Fan Wenli was absolutely correct."

"Yes, Fan Wenli's style is the same as his!"

"This person's singing is really nice to listen to. When the program gets broadcast, I will definitely download the live version's MP3!"

"I'm wondering why we have never seen such good contestants before in the past? Why did they only appear on the stage of The Voice? How did Zhang Ye find them?"

"Who knows!"

"I find it strange too. On the other talent shows, only the top two or three will have such a level of singing, no? Those contestants are even mostly professional musicians or artists, so how come the contestants on The Voice have jobs such as being a train driver or a P.E. teacher and yet still sing on a similar level to them? They might even turn out to be better than the champions on those other programs? Could it be down to whoever had the highest-end audio equipment?"

"It kind of has to do with the equipment, but it's still mainly because of the program's production concept. The Voice focuses only on finding the best voice, regardless of looks or occupation, so anyone

can apply and take part. There's a saying that goes: 'The talented are among us.' Those words are definitely not false, but it's just that those singing talent shows in the past always judged based on voice and looks, so naturally, those who looked too average would have been eliminated! In the other shows, it's likely that such people did not even make it past the preliminary auditions!"

"This program is indeed interesting!"

"Yeah, the more I watch it, the more I find it to be really good!"

"Ai, there comes the next contestant!"

#### I'm Really a Superstar

### Chapter 673: Starring Qian Pingfan in the finale!

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The door opened and Luo Yu came rushing in. "Dad! Mom! I did it! The coaches have chosen me!"

Her father said with excitement, "We saw it! We saw it all!"

Her mother said with tears in her eyes, "My child, I'm sorry. We haven't given you any support all these years!"

"Mom, what are you saying, it's OK!" Luo Yu went over to hug her mother, while also crying. "It's alright!"

Her mother was choking back tears. "Wu wu wu, in the future...In the future, sing all that you wish to sing...wu wu...your dad and I...we will not stop you anymore!"

Luo Yu said while crying, "Mom!"

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"Dad! Thank you!" Luo Yu felt that at this moment she was probably the most fortunate person in the world!

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Luo Yu had done beautifully!

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Zhang Xia asked, "Why?"

Sun Daxuan replied, "Because I drive a cargo train."

Amused, Zhang Yuanqi inquired, "What made you want to come and join this competition?"

Sun Daxuan answered very honestly, "It is because I really like Teacher Zhang Ye. I am a hardcore fan of his, so for his programs, his poems, the songs that he has written, I've watched, read, and listened to them more than once. Since Teacher Zhang Ye had created a new program and sent out an invitation to apply for the show, I just came without thinking. Actually, before coming up on stage, I hadn't really thought that any of you coaches would turn around for me. I, I thought I would leave after singing this song!"

The coaches were all laughing. One of them said, "Too bad Zhang Ye isn't one of the coaches then."

Sun Daxuan lightly mocked, "It's not that. I also really, really, really like you all as well!"

Fan Wenli said, "I would like to hear from Sister Zhang on why she did not turn around."

Zhang Yuanqi looked over at Fan Wenli. "That's because I don't really sing such exquisite-sounding love songs. I do not have the voice to do so. That's why I feel that Little Sun's style would be more suitable for you, Wenli, and I decided that I wouldn't want to take him from you."

Fan Wenli said happily, "Thank you, Sister Zhang!"

Zhang Xia didn't like the sound of that. "Yuanqi, why aren't you pulling for me instead?"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed gleefully. "Maybe in the next round."

Zhang Xia then said to Sun Daxuan, "Little Sun, come and join me."

Sun Daxuan said, "Grandma Zhang, my parents especially like you."

Zhang Yuanqi laughed, "Oh, seems like Grandma Zhang has no chance with him at all."

Zhang Xia: "..."

The audience all laughed.

Sun Daxuan felt even more embarrassed. "Then ... "

Fan Wenli immediately said, "Little Sun, our style of singing is exactly the same. If you join me, I will teach you well. On top of that, I will invite you to be my guest for my concert that's happening in the middle of the year!"

The audience gasped in astonishment.

Chen Guang immediately said, "I will also invite you to be my guest for my concert this year!"

Fan Wenli stared at him. "What's the meaning of that, Old Chen?"

Chen Guang smiled and replied, "It's just normal competition."

Fan Wenli said, "You already have a good contestant with you, so if you steal a contestant from me again, I better check if our feelings for each other are still as deep as before!"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed and remarked, "Whoa, their relationship is already breaking down!"

Hearing this, the audience all burst out in laughter.

Chen Guang also withered but just rolled his eyes.

In the end, Sun Daxuan's choice was of no surprise to everyone. He said, "Thank you, teachers, I will...I will choose Teacher Fan Wenli!"

Hearing her name, a glittering grin appeared on Fan Wenli's face. She told him, "You've made a smart choice!"

The audience was once again discussing what was happening.

"Haha, Old Chen was terrified!"

"But the contestant's choice of Fan Wenli was absolutely correct."

"Yes, Fan Wenli's style is the same as his!"

"This person's singing is really nice to listen to. When the program gets broadcast, I will definitely download the live version's MP3!"

"I'm wondering why we have never seen such good contestants before in the past? Why did they only appear on the stage of The Voice? How did Zhang Ye find them?"

"Who knows!"

"I find it strange too. On the other talent shows, only the top two or three will have such a level of singing, no? Those contestants are even mostly professional musicians or artists, so how come the contestants on The Voice have jobs such as being a train driver or a P.E. teacher and yet still sing on a similar level to them? They might even turn out to be better than the champions on those other programs? Could it be down to whoever had the highest-end audio equipment?"

"It kind of has to do with the equipment, but it's still mainly because of the program's production concept. The Voice focuses only on finding the best voice, regardless of looks or occupation, so anyone can apply and take part. There's a saying that goes: 'The talented are among us.' Those words are definitely not false, but it's just that those singing talent shows in the past always judged based on voice and looks, so naturally, those who looked too average would have been eliminated! In the other shows, it's likely that such people did not even make it past the preliminary auditions!"

"This program is indeed interesting!"

"Yeah, the more I watch it, the more I find it to be really good!"

"Ai, there comes the next contestant!"

### <u>I'm Really a Superstar</u> Chapter 674: A laborer contestant?

In the main recording studio.

Everyone on set had already rested for a long time now.

Jiang Yuan turned his head and asked, "What's going on?"

Fu Sihong said, "I don't know, let me check it out."

Some distance away, Zhang Zuo was walking over from afar right when Fu Sihong and Jiang Yuan called him over.

The executive producer of The Voice, Fu Sihong, asked, "We've had a break for more than 20 minutes already, haven't we? Why are we still not continuing to record then? The show is set to be broadcast tonight, but we still have to finish recording and post-production."

Fu Sihong was sitting below the stage, feeling more like an outsider. During the show's production to recording, he barely took part in any of the work. Right now, everything regarding The Voice was dictated by Zhang Ye alone, so Fu Sihong had no reason to try to barge in and take over at this point. He himself understood that well, so he did not try to blindly pass along any instructions either. After all, in

terms of the pulling in of sponsors, the program planning, and the production, he could not hold a candle to Zhang Ye. Even if he tried to order the team around, they would probably not follow his instructions and instead seek Zhang Ye's opinion. That would cause him more embarrassment, so of course he would rather just continue being the figurehead executive producer that he was and occasionally check in on the progress of the show.

Zhang Zuo immediately answered, "Director Zhang was waiting for the contestant's family members. They have only just arrived, so there was a slight delay."

Fu Sihong said, "Then couldn't we have just switched a contestant to record?"

Zhang Zuo said, "I don't know about that. The order of appearance was told to us by Director Zhang."

Jiang Yuan suddenly suggested, "Did he plan the appearance order properly? The two contestants at the beginning were great and amazing, lifting everyone's mood to a high. But now, the ones who appeared later could no longer keep that atmosphere going. You all should have just arranged for Luo Yu to appear at the end so that the televised effect would be better."

Zhang Zuo said, "Director Zhang should have already considered that, but I don't know too much about it."

Jiang Yuan lamented, "The trump cards should never be used at the beginning, they should always be left for last. We have to be flexible about such things, or else it will affect the overall quality of the show."

Fu Sihong also chimed in, "If Luo Yu was the final act, she would definitely be able to excite the whole audience. It's just too bad that she was the first contestant because it's too difficult to find someone as amazing as Luo Yu."

Even though they said that, the first episode of The Voice's recording had given them a huge surprise. They were really just nitpicking details now. In reality, they were amazed by it all. They had not expected that this proposal of The Voice by Zhang Ye, which they did not feel optimistic about at the beginning, could actually be done in such a way. With the mindset of achieving perfection, they naturally wanted someone who was as good as Luo Yu to be the final act of the episode. However, they also knew that it was not practical to think that way since a contestant like Luo Yu was hardly ever guaranteed and not likely to appear again!

At this moment, the earpiece of the program team staff crackled, with Zhang Ye issuing some instructions.

"Everyone get into position. We will begin recording in one minute."

"Yes!"

"Received!"

"OK, Director Zhang!"

"Understood!"

"Already in position."

The staff members responded in succession.

.....

At the backstage entrance to the main stage.

Qian Pingfan was already waiting here.

Ha Qiqi handed the microphone to him. "There's still one minute before you step on, Little Qian."

Qian Pingfan was a nervous wreck at this moment and beads of sweat were rolling off his head onto the floor. He was a simple laborer who came from the countryside and had never witnessed such a grand situation before. He asked, "My parents really came?"

Ha Qiqi said, "Yes, they're backstage."

Qian Pingfan pulled a long face as he said, "My parents have never heard me singing before. I, I never sang, not even once, when I was at home, so they don't know anything."

Wu Yi smiled and told him, "It's time to show them what you can do then."

Qian Pingfan was clearly very respectful of his parents. "But I'm afraid that I won't sing well. Those contestants before me all performed extraordinarily well. I definitely can't do better than them."

Wu Yi said, "Says who?"

Qian Pingfan said, "I'm not better than them, really!"

Ha Qiqi encouraged, "Do you know what Director Zhang said about you? He said that the final act for the first episode of The Voice would be you. It has to be you no matter what!"

Qian Pingfan felt even more pressured now. "But just look at my clothes..."

The program team provided makeup services but not the clothes and costumes the contestants wore. Those would have to be arranged by the contestants themselves. Qian Pingfan was just a bicycle repairman and did not even earn 2000 RMB a month, so he obviously couldn't afford a good wardrobe. He was just wearing his usual getup today, an old outfit whose color had already faded from washing. It did not look too appealing.

Wu Yi said, "That's fine. Director Zhang has said that there's no need to dress well to hide your identity. Just wear your own outfit and present yourself as you. There's nothing to hide, so just let everything go and sing. Let your parents hear your voice, and let everyone else hear it too!"

In the audience.

When many of the staff members saw Qian Pingfan getting ready to go on stage, they started whispering.

"It's Qian Pingfan's turn!"

"I know about him, he's up as the final act today, right?"

"Yeah, Director Zhang specifically arranged it."

"Can he do it? That voice of his is a little..."

"I think he's very good! I heard him sing during the preliminary auditions and I sincerely like it!"

"Even if you like it, that doesn't mean that the audience and coaches will be able to accept it."

"That's true, Qian Pingfan is unlike the other contestants and is a little bit special. If we're talking about all the contestants of The Voice, then he is definitely the most controversial one. He's going to be a risk!"

"Let's see how everyone reacts!"

The countdown began.

Three...

Two...

One... .

The recording started!

"Now let's welcome the next contestant!"

This voiceover was Zhang Ye's recorded introduction.

Suddenly, the stage lighting dimmed in accordance to pump up the atmosphere in the studio.

Qian Pingfan hesitantly took a few steps, then gripped the microphone tightly and walked up on stage while trembling. Compared to Luo Yu and a few other contestants, he was much more nervous and had already subconsciously hunched his back.

Ha Qiqi was extremely worried about him. She shouted to him from below, "Little Qian, straighten your back!"

Only then did Qian Pingfan slightly straighten his back, although his movements were still very stiff.

Wu Yi said, "All the best! It's all up to you now!"

At the same time, Qian Pingfan's figure on stage became visible to the audience.

Jiang Yuan was stunned.

Fu Sihong also blinked his eyes doubtfully.

The audience were also having similar reactions, feeling especially surprised.

To put it in perspective, the earlier contestants who had appeared were made up of people like a housewife, a physical education teacher, a train driver, or white-collar workers, etc. Some of them also did not have good looks and were even fat or skinny, but at least they all looked like city dwellers, having a decent fashion sense. Even if they wore t-shirts or a tracksuit with athletic shoes, they looked clean and groomed. After all, they knew they were going to be appearing on television, so they found a decent-looking dress or shirt to wear. But this person standing in front of everyone now stunned them a little. This contestant's fashion sense was too low-class. And even though his clothes had been cleaned

very well, they looked very old and worn. His white athletic shoes also looked like they had been washed so many times that they had turned yellow. As for his hairstyle, it was similar to his fashion sense. He sported a buzz cut and looked a little backwards without any makings of a singer. Furthermore, everyone who saw him knew he did not seem like the kind of person who purposely made his clothes look old to sensationalize himself. It was obvious to all of them that he was a laborer.

"Man!"

"This person is a contestant too?"

"This competition really has all kinds of people."

"Yeah, why is there a laborer?"

"This contestant doesn't look at all like the type of person who knows how to sing!"

"Could this person have joined to try to gain notoriety by shocking everyone?"

"I think he might be. Who knows, he just might belt out a viral internet tune1 and shock the entire studio."

### "Haha, that's totally possible!"

"What the hell, even a laborer has come knocking on the doors of a talent show! The contestants from earlier had performed their songs very well. Although the ones who appeared in the middle were not as good as those who started the show, at least they were all above average. But this last performance of the day? They're actually letting a laborer be the final act? What is the program team thinking!"

"It's definitely not the program team's problem. They must have no other, better contestants to send out anymore. Didn't we analyze the situation already? That there were only so many good contestants and Zhang Ye had arranged for them to all appear first to create a spectacular effect for the show, so the contestants after that could be a mix between good and bad. This is not something that can be controlled, so I can understand what the program team is doing. They actually have no more good contestants left, so what else could they do? Why not just send out a laborer contestant to shock everyone by singing a ridiculous song as a publicity stunt in order to force discussion onto the topic."

"Oh, that's probably true."

"Yeah, there's that possibility too."

"Still, they shouldn't have rounded out the number of contestants by inviting just anyone. Isn't this a show that keeps harping on its principle of only listening to the voice and nothing else? Yet they found a laborer to come here to make a fool out of us!"

# "How disappointing!"

"The greater the expectation, the greater the disappointment!"

After a fiery start to the program, everyone's mood was drummed up to a high and was kept there throughout until a few contestants who were clearly not as good as the ones before them performed, bringing the mood of the audience down by quite a bit and leaving them feeling letdown. When that

happened, they were still hoping that there might be someone worth watching in the final act, but it somehow ended with this contestant appearing in front of them. As a result, the disappointment they felt now was unavoidable.

The reaction of the audience was clear.

Jiang Yuan thought that they were in trouble now.

Several leaders of Central TV were also frowning in silence.

Even if you did not have any good contestants, you shouldn't have used a laborer to serve as a stopgap. It wouldn't matter if you had found someone average instead. At least that wouldn't stir up such a large controversy and disapproval. The Voice had gotten off to a good start and amazed everyone at the beginning, yet it ended with you guys screwing it up at the critical moment? This program could very possibly end up with nothing to show for despite all the effort and money spent, all because of a laborer?

Wasn't this a mess!?

How could Zhang Ye have possibly made such a mistake!

"Where's Little Zhang?" Jiang Yuan asked.

Fu Sihong said, "Probably backstage."

Jiang Yuan had wanted to stop the recording and summon Zhang Ye and force him to arrange for another contestant to take this laborer's place. This sort of stopgap measure would really destroy their reputation and destroy the victories they had secured at the beginning of the recording!

The coaches had already turned their chairs around and were facing the audience. They could not see what was behind them and could only analyze the situation of the contestant from the reactions of the audience members.

Zhang Xia said, "Eh, this contestant seems to be stirring up some kind of controversy?"

Chen Guang said, "I don't know, but everyone's faces look a little disappointed?"

Fan Wenli said, "I guess it must have not fulfilled everyone's expectations."

Zhang Xia said, "That can't be helped. How would there be so many voices that could amaze everyone. It's good enough that the show found one or two such people."

The coaches did not harbor much hope as a result of the audience's reaction. They also adjusted their mentality for the performance. In any case, they would just turn around if it was good, and not do anything if it was not. They understood very well that a talent show would also include less capable contestants since it was not possible for every one of them to be the very best!

### I'm Really a Superstar

Chapter 675: Astounding the entire venue!

In the main recording studio.

Everyone on set had already rested for a long time now.

Jiang Yuan turned his head and asked, "What's going on?"

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"I know about him, he's up as the final act today, right?"

"Yeah, Director Zhang specifically arranged it."

"Can he do it? That voice of his is a little ... "

"I think he's very good! I heard him sing during the preliminary auditions and I sincerely like it!"

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To put it in perspective, the earlier contestants who had appeared were made up of people like a housewife, a physical education teacher, a train driver, or white-collar workers, etc. Some of them also did not have good looks and were even fat or skinny, but at least they all looked like city dwellers, having a decent fashion sense. Even if they wore t-shirts or a tracksuit with athletic shoes, they looked clean and groomed. After all, they knew they were going to be appearing on television, so they found a decent-looking dress or shirt to wear. But this person standing in front of everyone now stunned them a little. This contestant's fashion sense was too low-class. And even though his clothes had been cleaned very well, they looked very old and worn. His white athletic shoes also looked like they had been washed so many times that they had turned yellow. As for his hairstyle, it was similar to his fashion sense. He sported a buzz cut and looked a little backwards without any makings of a singer. Furthermore, everyone who saw him knew he did not seem like the kind of person who purposely made his clothes look old to sensationalize himself. It was obvious to all of them that he was a laborer.

"Man!"

"This person is a contestant too?"

"This competition really has all kinds of people."

"Yeah, why is there a laborer?"

"This contestant doesn't look at all like the type of person who knows how to sing!"

"Could this person have joined to try to gain notoriety by shocking everyone?"

"I think he might be. Who knows, he just might belt out a viral internet tune and shock the entire studio." [1.]

"Haha, that's totally possible!"

"What the hell, even a laborer has come knocking on the doors of a talent show! The contestants from earlier had performed their songs very well. Although the ones who appeared in the middle were not as good as those who started the show, at least they were all above average. But this last performance of the day? They're actually letting a laborer be the final act? What is the program team thinking!"

"It's definitely not the program team's problem. They must have no other, better contestants to send out anymore. Didn't we analyze the situation already? That there were only so many good contestants and Zhang Ye had arranged for them to all appear first to create a spectacular effect for the show, so the contestants after that could be a mix between good and bad. This is not something that can be controlled, so I can understand what the program team is doing. They actually have no more good contestants left, so what else could they do? Why not just send out a laborer contestant to shock everyone by singing a ridiculous song as a publicity stunt in order to force discussion onto the topic."

"Oh, that's probably true."

"Yeah, there's that possibility too."

"Still, they shouldn't have rounded out the number of contestants by inviting just anyone. Isn't this a show that keeps harping on its principle of only listening to the voice and nothing else? Yet they found a laborer to come here to make a fool out of us!"

"How disappointing!"

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The coaches did not harbor much hope as a result of the audience's reaction. They also adjusted their mentality for the performance. In any case, they would just turn around if it was good, and not do anything if it was not. They understood very well that a talent show would also include less capable contestants since it was not possible for every one of them to be the very best!

### I'm Really a Superstar

### Chapter 676: The selection battle!

The second recording studio backstage was actually located very far away from the stage in the main recording studio. They were joined by a maze of walls and doors. Logically, the sounds should not escape from the main recording studio, even more so into the second recording studio. But at this moment, the program team's staff working at the backstage area were stunned to discover that they could hear the sound of cheering coming from the main recording studio. It was even a thunderous amount of cheering!

"What happened?"

"Did something happen out there?"

"Why is it so loud?"

"What's happening in the main recording studio?"

Most of these staff members here were only handling logistics for the program, so they basically had no idea of what was happening at the stage but felt something must have happened since the commotion was huge.

.....

In the second recording studio.

Zhang Ye also heard the rapturous applause and cheers from the door behind him. He too was very excited. "They've turned! All four coaches have turned around! He's done it! Little Qian has done it!"

Pingfan's father did not understand what was going on. "What is this about?"

Zhang Ye said, "That means all four coaches want your son to join their teams!"

His mother's was getting teary-eyed. "They feel that our son...our son sang well?"

Zhang Ye said, "That's right! Just listen to the cheers from the studio. All of that is for Little Qian!"

His mother's lips were trembling. "But our son's voice...he...in the past, many people constantly made fun of him. They...have always despised him!"

"I don't know about his past, but I know that right now, there are a few hundred audience members and coaches who do not despise him!" Zhang Ye pointed at the TV for the old couple. "Listen to that, does that sound like ridiculing? Look at that, do those look like reactions from hearing a joke? Little Qian's voice is indeed different from most people's, but I guarantee that this difference does not mean that he's worse off than other people. On the contrary, this difference is what makes him outstanding! Little Qian sang incredibly! Your son is definitely not worse off than anyone!"

His mother wiped her tears away.

His father clenched his fist, touched.

.....

Onstage.

The music gradually came to a stop.

The applause came wave after wave, becoming louder and louder!

Qian Pingfan caught his breath and lowered the microphone, then looked at the passionate audience and the four coaches who looked like they were very inspired. His confident self when performing the song earlier suddenly crumbled. All of a sudden, he had become that nervous wreck again from before he went up on stage. He couldn't help it; these four coaches were all big shots. He could not see them when he was singing since their backs were facing him, but now that all of them had turned around, and with the sharp screams from the audience, Qian Pingfan didn't know what to do. He raised his hands, then put them down, then raised them again, not knowing where he should place them. But he knew one thing! The four coaches had all turned around for him. The audience also did not give him strange looks because of his voice!

Qian Pingfan tightly gripped the microphone and said, "I...I..."

He did not say anything besides "I" repeatedly. From the audience, another round of shouting began!

"It's too good!"

"So good I'm crying!"

"Awesome!"

"Ahhh!"

"I really like this voice a lot!"

"It was sung even better than a woman!"

The audience was too passionate!

Zhang Xia did not wait for Qian Pingfan to introduce himself and impatiently asked, "Son, you're really great! You've surprised all of us! I've been in this business for over 40 years, but I've never heard a man sing a woman's song in a more womanly way than a woman could. I do not mean this in the bad way, it's just that your voice is incredibly special! You singing is also too outstanding! Every word of the lyrics, especially at the end of each line, carried feeling and emotion. It was very moving!"

Fan Wenli exhaled and said, "I need to calm my nerves first. You've given me a great shock, given us all a shock. Your voice is totally indescribable with words!"

Chen Guang kept repeating the same word: "Unbelievable!"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed. "How about we do this: let's let the coaches and audience calm down first while you introduce yourself?"

Qian Pingfan immediately answered, "My name is Qian Pingfan."

Fan Wenli said, "I'm very curious why you're dressed that way today."

He was wearing old and worn clothes that were torn, and to Fan Wenli, this did not match up with this contestant's voice and singing ability. It felt like he was trying to create a buzz on purpose by making himself look very pitiful. Could it be that this attire and fashion had some sort of a special meaning to the contestant?

Qian Pingfan replied, "This is what...I usually wear."

"Oh? What's your profession?" Zhang Yuanqi asked.

Qian Pingfan scratched his head. "I repair bicycles."

What?

Repair bicycles?

That's impossible!

Chen Guang said, "Little Qian, you better not be joking."

Qian Pingfan said, "I'm not joking."

Zhang Xia also doubted this and inquired, "How many years have you been repairing bicycles? When did you get into this line of work? Where do you work? We can investigate all of your claims."

Qian Pingfan answered, "I've been doing it for several years. I started learning from my master. Later on, I could repair them myself. I work at Lishuiqiao Station."

Zhang Xia sucked in a breath. "You're really a bicycle repairman?"

Qian Pingfan said, "I really am!"

The audience also nearly fainted at this reply. What the f\*\*k!

Fan Wenli was a little unsure of what to say. "Just based that singing of yours, there aren't many people who graduated from a university majoring in music that can do better than you. If you told us that you were a music teacher, we would have believed you too!"

Qian Pingfan was very flattered but quickly waved it off. "No, no, I've never been to a university before."

Chen Guang threw his hands up. "I have nothing to say to that. This is truly unbelievable!"

Zhang Yuanqi looked at him and laughed. "How many times have you already said 'unbelievable'?"

Chen Guang sighed. "But really, it's unbelievable!" He said it again!

The audience laughed.

Fan Wenli blinked, then said to Qian Pingfan, "But from the way you speak, you sound normal, so why did you sing with such a voice? Did you purposely impersonate a woman's voice? Was that imitation?"

Zhang Yuanqi finally said something. "That wasn't imitation."

"Oh?" Fan Wenli looked at her.

Zhang Xia said, "That's what he originally sounded like?"

Chen Guang also looked toward Zhang Yuanqi, not knowing why she could be so sure that he wasn't imitation.

Zhang Yuanqi said, "If I'm not wrong, Little Qian's singing voice should be his natural voice, the one that he doesn't control. Instead, it's his speaking voice that he is changing, purposefully lowering his tone by a lot."

Fan Wenli appeared deep in thought. "Is that so?"

Chen Guang said, "That means that in his everyday life, whenever he speaks, he purposely controls his voice? Surely not, right? Wouldn't that would be too tiring?"

Zhang Yuanqi explained to them, but mainly more for the audience, "At the beginning, it might be tiring, but after some time, it would become a habit instead. Let me illustrate with an example. If a person with the same genes grows up in either Beijing or Shanghai, they will definitely speak differently. Everyone knows that when Shanghainese people speak, their pronunciation and tone is slightly higher pitched, especially women. That is what everyone knows as the 'flirty' tone, which is really just a slightly higher inflection in speech. Meanwhile, Beijingers speak in a more 'abrasive' manner. If you listen to Zhang Ye speaking, you'd know what I mean. The spoken language in Beijing goes downwards in inflection and dialect practices, and not down to the genes or the natural voice."

Saying that, Zhang Yuanqi used two styles of speaking to illustrate.

"Like for this sound." — a very sharp way of speaking.

"And like this." — which sounded very low and deep.

Zhang Yuanqi said, "Personally, I can produce many types of intonation when I speak, so if I speak with one of these styles for many years, my natural way of talking will become that way. This is why a voice can be easily molded with practice." After she said that, she paused for a moment then continued, "However, no matter how much practice you have, your voice will not change too much at any particular time unless the vocal cords are damaged. My analysis is that Little Qian's voice did not break at puberty or that it came and went very quickly, thus causing him to still keep his prepubescent voice. When all the other boys' voices broke, his did not change much and that is why we have the fortune of listening to such an ethereal feminine voice. This should be the most natural state of Little Qian's voice that can't be covered up even if he forced his voice lower, like he does when he speaks."

Qian Pingfan gave a hollow laugh.

Zhang Yuanqi said, "Can you talk to us in your most natural voice?"

Qian Pingfan was feeling a little embarrassed, but after considering for a bit, he used his most neutral voice to say, "Uhh, will this do?"

His voice was immediately distinct from before. If anyone looked at him while he spoke, they might find his voice to be weird, but if their eyes were closed and they did not know the speaker's gender, 9 out 10 people would think that it was a woman talking to them. This voice that Qian Pingfan spoke with was clearly closer to the voice that he had used to sing.

Fan Wenli was astounded. "That's your real voice?"

Qian Pingfan scratched his ear and said, "It has always been. When everyone else at school had their voices change, mine didn't, so I was always made fun of by others. Later, I began to purposely lower my tone and learned to speak like them, but when it came to singing, I wasn't able to control it that way. I didn't know how to lower my pitch while singing, so that's why I have never sung in front of anyone before. I've always sung to myself with my MP3 player."

Zhang Yuanqi smiled and said, "Look, I'm still the one who understand you best, right?"

Qian Pingfan was also convinced that his little secret was immediately seen through by Zhang Yuanq and how he couldn't hide it from her. Everyone else always thought that he had imitated a girl's voice instead.

"That is why," Zhang Yuanqi laughed, "If you don't join my team, would you feel right?"

Hearing this, Zhang Xia realized something was wrong, so she quickly interrupted, "Ay, ay, ay, we're not at the taking of the contestant segment yet, are we?"

Chen Guang also said, "Yeah, Sister Zhang, we're still trying to understand the contestant's situation, so why did you start pulling for him to join your team? Even if we're allowed to start doing so, I should be the first one to do that. I was the first one who turned around after all."

Fan Wenli promptly said, "Little Qian, come to my team, I will use all of my resources to help nurture you, then together, I will lead you and my team to become the champion!"

Zhang Yuanqi reacted to that.

A commotion broke out in the audience!

Ah?

Become the champion?

Isn't that too too high of an evaluation!

Qian Pingfan also felt at embarrassed by this. "Ah!" Champion? He did not even have the expectation that the coaches would turn around for him, much less winning the competition!

Zhang Xia laughed. "Wenli, we're still in the blind auditions!"

Chen Guang rubbed it in by uttering, "Hur hur, just let Wenli continue dreaming, let's not wake her up."

Fan Wenli: "..."

The audience was all laughing at this when the couple started their bickering again. These two better not get divorced after just one episode of recording The Voice!

Zhang Xia said, "Little Qian, you ought to think properly. My team is not well-rounded yet, but Chen Guang and Wenli's teams already have all the big guns, so if you join my team, you'd definitely be my trump card. Didn't Wenli say that she would get you the championship? If you come and join me, then I have the confidence to say that I can also win us the championship!"

Zhang Yuanqi again reacted to this. She grinned and remarked, "Are we already in the finals of the competition? Are we already deciding who the champion should be!?"

Qian Pingfan quickly said, "I didn't sing that well, really, I didn't!"

Some people would be modest, but those words from Qian Pingfan were definitely not humble. He had only joined The Voice's preliminary auditions by chance. After he had an argument with his master one day, he threw a tantrum and skipped work. He coincidentally saw the poster calling for The Voice's auditions on the same day, so he submitted his demo and application, but he never expected that he would be called for an audition the very next day. When no one gave him a chance, Zhang Ye went against everyone else to let him pass the audition and even supervised Qian Pingfan's rehearsals all this while. Having been through all that, he could finally stand here on this stage! Qian Pingfan knew that his future all depended on this moment, or perhaps it had already changed.

The audience also felt that life was like a drama. No one had any expectations for this laborer, but he had now become the apple of everyone's eye. All the coaches were trying all sorts of tricks to grab this contestant for their teams, and the audience was getting a kick out of watching it all!

Chen Guang and his wife once again had another great battle!

Both Zhang Yuanqi and Zhang Xia who were good friends despite their age also fought over it!

In the end, the situation nearly got out of control as Fan Wenli ran up directly onto the stage. "Little Qian, I don't need you to come over, I will go over instead. I will wait for you here!"

Chen Guang also came to the stage. "I will wait for you too!"

Seeing that, Zhang Xia also stepped up and went to Qian Pingfan. "Although my legs aren't what they once were due to age, for the sake of winning the championship, I too must come forward!"

Qian Pingfan was feeling extremely embarrassed at this point and did not know what to do!

Only Zhang Yuanqi still remained in her coach chair. "Little Qian, make a decision! Don't get pressured by those around you. Just follow your heart and feelings and make your decision!"

The coaches all stopped talking.

The rest of the place was totally quiet as the audience all waited for Qian Pingfan to make his choice. This person was slated to be a key contestant and whoever got him into their team might really end up as the champion!

Qian Pingfan was conflicted as hell. "I, I thought about..." After struggling for a long time, Qian Pingfan finally clenched his teeth, knowing that he had to make a decision and couldn't drag his feet any longer. "After I passed the preliminary auditions, when the staff was getting me to fill out a questionnaire, there was a question that asked: should the four coaches choose me, who would be the first person I would choose, the second person, the third, and the fourth!"

Everyone concentrated.

Qian Pingfan took a deep breath and declared loudly, "The names I filled in were—Zhang Yuanqi! Zhang Yuanqi! Zhang Yuanqi!!!"

The audience cheered loudly!

Zhang Yuanqi snapped her fingers and laughed loudly! "Come on then! I've been waiting for you!"

Zhang Xia sighed, giving an expression of regret and a bitter smile!

Chen Guang also felt that it was unfortunate that he was unable to get a good contestant like this to join him. There was no way he could do it. He was up against the Heavenly Queen after all!

Qian Pingfan had written all four coaches names as Zhang Yuanqi? The song that he chose to perform for the competition was also Zhang Yuanqi's "Wishing We Last Forever"? Perhaps this segment of the contestant choosing the coaches had already been decided from the beginning. Even if they had tried to take him from Zhang Yuanqi, no matter how much they said, it was probably all for nothing!

Qian Pingfan immediately ran over and disclosed, "I-I really like you a lot, Teacher Zhang Yuanqi. I am your hardcore fan. Last year, I saved up two months of my wages wanting to watch your concert, but the tickets were sold out, so I have always had some regrets!"

Zhang Yuanqi laughed. "From now on, you won't need a ticket to watch my concert. Just come, just watch, just listen anytime you want. Listen until you're disgusted!"

Qian Pingfan was surprised. "Is that really OK?"

Zhang Yuanqi said, "Do you think my words mean nothing?"

"Thank you, Teacher Zhang!" In this instance, Qian Pingfan was fully satisfied. He felt that life was really too wonderful!

At this moment, a small incident happened. The cameras also managed to catch Fan Wenli and gave her a feature.

Fan Wenli was bitterly laughing and looking depressed. She was wiping the tears away from the corners of her eyes, dejectedly saying, "Why am I always the one who gets hurt!"

Zhang Yuanqi said to Qian Pingfan, "Look at that, Teacher Fan Wenli is even crying for you."

Zhang Xia laughed while patting Fan Wenli's back.

Qian Pingfan was feeling extremely anxious by now, so he rushed over to her. "Teacher Fan, I, I..."

Fan Wenli said annoyed, "I like you so much! Why didn't you choose me instead?!"

Qian Pingfan did not know how to reply and was about to cry from anxiety.

Fan Wenli said, "You still have a chance to change your decision, you should choose again."

Qian Pingfan: "..."

Zhang Yuanqi playfully said, "Wenli, don't be shameless and try to take my team member away."

Fan Wenli laughed bitterly. "But I really like him so much!"

Chen Guang said, "Yes, he really sang very well!"

The matter was decided and Fan Wenli did not say anymore. She gave Qian Pingfan a hug and said, "Do well and learn a lot from Sister Zhang. In the future, when I hold my concerts, I will definitely look for you to be my guest!"

Qian Pingfan immediately said, "Thank you, Teacher Fan, thank you!"

Eventually, with the audience clapping and cheering, Qian Pingfan went through the qualified contestant's corridor to the backstage. At this moment, he was finally showing his unsubdued excitement. He threw out his arms with all his strength and raise them into the air to express the joy that he felt!

•••••

Backstage.

Qian Pingfan pushed open the door and went inside.

His father called out, "Son!"

Qian Pingfan said, "Father, Mother, Sister Zhang has chosen me! I did it!"

His mother wiped her tears away and said, "We saw it too! Good! You've done great!"

Qian Pingfan and his parents were not people who were good with expressing themselves. The three of them stood there talking but there was no hugging at all.

Seeing that, Zhang Ye smiled and went over to give Qian Pingfan a hug. "Congratulations, Little Qian. Well done!"

Qian Pingfan quickly said, "Thank you, Teacher Zhang! Thank you so much!"

Zhang Ye said, "It has nothing to do with me, you did it by singing well."

However, Qian Pingfan knew that it was due to Zhang Ye that he had made it this far. It was because Zhang Ye had discovered and acknowledged him. During the preliminary auditions, when none of the staff of The Voice's program team acknowledged him, it was Zhang Ye who stood forward to acknowledge him with explanation. He did not care about other's opinions and insisted that Pingfan be allowed to go through the auditions. Now, he even fully trusted him to be the finale in the first episode's recording and never once doubted him or thought that he wouldn't be able to sing. This trust given made Qian Pingfan feel very grateful!

To Qian Pingfan, if not for Zhang Ye, he knew that he wouldn't be standing here today!

It was Zhang Ye who had given him the first chance of his life to prove himself!

# I'm Really a Superstar

# Chapter 677: The first episode's recording has ended!

The recording ended.

The first episode wrapped up with applause from everyone. Many of the audience members still had lingering feelings about what they had just seen and were still noisily discussing as they exited the studio.

"It was such a great show!"

"This show is too godly!"

"That's right, it's really too godly!"

"Zhang Ye's reputation is goddamn for real!"

"This is the best show I've ever watched, and has the most sincerity among all the singing talent shows. The stage, lighting, opening theme song, host, and contestants are all the best in the industry. Actually, I wasn't expecting much for a program like this but my friend gave me a free ticket and I didn't want it to go to waste. Who knew I would receive such a huge surprise!"

"I just wonder what the viewership ratings will be like."

"It shouldn't be bad in any case!"

"When Zhang Ye said he that would 'see other summits dwarfed, and savor the scene,' perhaps there might be a possibility that he can really do it!"

"That might not be the case. We still have to wait for the response after broadcasting. It's tough to say anything until the moment it gets broadcast. There's too many factors that affect a program in the variety industry nowadays, and the current demand is not that good either, so anything can happen. Don't expect too much from the viewership ratings!"

"Then it would at least get 0.8% of the viewership ratings, right?"

"Well, it surely can't get lower than the other talent shows!"

"Isn't 0.8% of the viewership ratings considered too little? I can see it will get at least 0.9% of the viewership ratings!"

"For the premiere episode, the viewership ratings will surely be slightly lower. To get 0.8% of the viewership ratings would already very good. If the following episodes can still maintain the quality of the first episode, then The Voice surpassing 1% of the viewership ratings is definitely possible!"

"Let's wait for tonight's broadcast and see how it turns out!"

"Right, I'll have to watch it again at night!"

"That was too fun! It was such an aural feast!"

The audience was chatting excitedly as they left the studio.

In the recording studio.

Most of the people who remained behind were the program team staff. They too were discussing this topic.

Little Wang said joyfully, "Do you think our viewership ratings can meet the target of the station's 0.7% that was set for us?"

A female editor smiled and said, "I'm sure it will definitely be higher than that. As for how much higher, I do not know. I just have a feeling that our program will become very popular!"

Ha Qiqi arrived and joined in, "No need for a feeling, it will definitely be popular!"

Wu Yi was also extremely excited. He stated, "Right, that definitely won't be a problem!"

A male editor said, "The contestants have performed very well today! Our audio systems' quality was also fantastic. Before this, I was still thinking if it was too exaggerated and expensive to spend over 10 million RMB on the equipment setup. But after listening today, it's doesn't feel like it was expensive at all. Just from the live studio effects alone, it was all worth it no matter how much we spent!"

At this moment, Zhang Ye returned.

"Director Zhang!"

"Director Zhang!"

"That was awesome! We were awesome!"

"The live studio effects were seriously awesome!"

"Director Zhang, your planning has really succeeded!"

"It won't go wrong as long as we follow Director Zhang's instructions!"

"From the audience's reactions, the viewership ratings certainly look good!"

"Our hard work for the past few days have not gone to waste! Every night we stayed up late was worth it!"

Some of the female staff thought about these days when they worked to the bone, feeling so tired that they almost could not take it anymore and felt like their bodies would just give way. A few times, they even wanted to give up, but in the end they managed to persevere. When they saw the results of their

hard work, their eyes teared up. In retrospect, those bitter days were nothing much because they had produced a surprisingly good program. Their names would be on The Voice of China's production credits, so they were...the makers of this legendary program!

Zhang Ye had not said anything yet.

Jiang Yuan and Fu Sihong walked over briskly. Jiang Yuan looked extremely excited as he found Zhang Ye. "Little Zhang, can you give us a preview of the viewership ratings of The Voice!"

Zhang Ye said helplessly, "It's not possible to give an estimate on that."

Jiang Yuan said, "What's your own estimate of the viewership ratings?"

Zhang Ye said, "Don't we just need to meet the viewership rating of 0.7% that was set for us?"

Jiang Yuan rolled his eyes. "0.7% for the viewership ratings was just the lowest target set by the station for you all. Would you be satisfied with only 0.7% viewership ratings? Right now, I feel that it's not going to be a problem for your program to achieve 0.9% in the viewership ratings!"

Before, Jiang Yuan and many others in Central TV Department 1 did not feel too optimistic when they heard Zhang Ye's proposal. A majority of them had reservations about it and only a handful of people felt that The Voice was a feasible production. However, at this moment, everyone's attitude did a complete 180. Not only did Jiang Yuan stop regarding The Voice as a cult program, he was getting much more confident about The Voice. He felt that this program was so exciting that it had surpassed his expectations of excitement. That was the reason why he was forcing Zhang Ye to give an estimate of the viewership ratings.

However, Zhang Ye could not give an estimate. Back then, when the program was not yet approved, bragging was necessary so that he could show his confidence and the program's strong points to get the station's support. But now that the program was about to be broadcast, Zhang Ye did not wish to say those empty words anymore. It was also difficult to say them.

Back in his previous world, there was a compilation of viewership rating statistics for The Voice, but Zhang Ye could only use it as a reference figure and a gauge. He could not directly use those figures in this world, as after all, it was a different world, with different coaches, on a different television station, broadcast on a different day and time, and even the viewership ratings were measured with a different formula. This was no longer comparing apples to apples, so he could only use his world's information as this world has its own set of rules, market environment, and audience understanding of entertainment and the arts. Everything was unknown. The best Zhang Ye could do was recreating The Voice as closely to the original as possible, so that the features and most exciting segments of the show could be presented to the people here. When all was said and done, the viewership ratings would be left up to fate to decide!

After engaging in a little more idle talk.

Jiang Yuan patted Zhang Ye on the shoulder. "Carry on with your work first. After you guys have finished up, I'll throw a celebratory feast for everyone tonight! This time, all of you have worked hard!"

All the leaders of Central TV Department 1 had smiles on their faces as they left the recording studio. After today, they had a brand new understanding of Zhang Ye's capability at work. They also thought

that their decision to invite Zhang Ye to join them and help turn the situation around while Central TV's variety shows were at its lowest point was the best decision they made. It had to be said that The Voice was rushed out for broadcast at the last minute and the program team's production timeline was cut by more than half. Even in that situation, they managed to completely fulfill their tasks. Not only did they manage to complete it, they even did it beautifully and created a great, unprecedented music show. The leaders of Central TV Department 1 were so impressed by Zhang Ye that there was nothing they could criticize him on!

This was what you called a talent!

This was what you called a capable person!

Onstage, only after the leaders left did Zhang Ye finally got the chance to speak. He hurriedly said to all the staff, "Everyone, listen to me, don't celebrate yet. We will have plenty of time for celebrations later if we want to, but for now, we've yet to finish the most important task. The post-production work has not started, so there's still plenty of work to do. Now, I want everyone to start their tasks following my instructions from earlier and get into action immediately! Make sure to finish editing the program by 8 PM so that we can make it in time for the 9 PM broadcast! We must keep our spirits up! It's the final push!"

"Understood!"

"Got it!"

"We'll definitely finish it!"

"We'll finish it even if we die!"

"Director Zhang, don't worry about it!"

Everyone responded in unison and with determination!

From the audience, the upper management of Brain Gold company had already left, but Wu Mo had stayed behind. When he saw that Zhang Ye was free, he walked up to him while laughing heartily. "Brother Zhang!"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "CEO Wu."

Wu Mo immediately said, "The show is fantastic!"

Zhang Ye said, "How is it? Asking you to invest 100 million RMB in the title sponsorship wasn't too expensive, right?"

"Not expensive at all! It's worth this price!" Wu Mo said, "I knew you wouldn't scam me. I can't go wrong following you. Looks like I have made the right decision again this time!"

At this point, Zhang Ye instead downplayed, "We still have to see what the viewership rating is at the end. It's difficult to have any opinion of it now. But I hope it can increase the sales of your Brain Gold by another 30%. If the viewership rating is screwed up, I really won't have any face to see you anymore."

Wu Mo said confidently, "The viewership ratings won't be lousy!"

Zhang Ye laughed, "I'm also looking forward to it."

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Backstage in the contestants' lounge, the contestants who had appeared in today's episode were called over. The four coaches wanted to chat with their team members privately and possibly point out some of their problems to improve on so that they could perform better during the group stages. All of this would help them choose their strongest team member to compete in a sing-off against the other three coaches' team members.

"Teacher Zhang!"

"Zhou'er, your performance was not bad today."

"Thank you Teacher Zhang."

"Director Zhang, I did not perform well today."

"It's alright. You were just a little nervous and sang slightly off-key. Next time, relax more."

Zhang Ye had praise and words of encouragement for them.

As they were talking, the coaches arrived to meet with their respective selected contestants.

Zhang Yuanqi had some other matters to deal with, so she did not say much and just smiled and waved. "Little Qian, come with me."

Qian Pingfan bid farewell to Zhang Ye and some editors of the program team whom he knew. Then he left with Zhang Yuanqi. For now, Zhang Yuanqi had only Qian Pingfan as her team member, so it seemed like she was going to give him some guidance individually.

Zhang Xia found Zhang Ye and asked, "Are there any more good young singers among the contestants in the next episode?"

Zhang Ye smiled and said, "Of course."

Zhang Xia nodded. "That's good, I'm looking more and more forward to the next episode! Back then, I joined the program because I couldn't refuse your push and pull tactics. But now, I realize it was right to come to this place. I did not expect that there would be so many good voices in our country. Furthermore, they are all regular folk!"

Chen Guang and Fan Wenli were quite shocked by Central TV Department 1's new show. Actually, in the past, they'd also participated in other television programs so they knew the market and had their own judgments. For a program like The Voice, they could only use the word "amazing" to describe it. They had reasons to believe that once the program got broadcast, it would absolutely cause a national sensation and bring about heated discussions. For such a program, if they knew it would turn out to be this good, even if the program team did not offer them a high joining payout, Chen Guang and Fan Wenli would've joined for free!

They were also celebrities and needed exposure and excellent work. For an outstanding program like The Voice, which was broadcast on a large platform, it was no doubt that it would only come along by chance, not by searching for it. It would greatly help to increase their popularity as well, so a great show was definitely a win-win situation for the guests, television station, program team, and advertisers!

## I'm Really a Superstar

Chapter 678: I know someone in senior management!

Night.

It was nearly 9 PM.

As the broadcast time for The Voice was nearing, the comments from the outside world and on the internet towards Central TV Department 1's new program increased. The majority of voices still inclined to the previous opinion. Looking at the number of votes on the topic in a Weibo poll, the netizens were still negative on The Voice. Most of the people still maintained the same attitude towards the program as per a few days ago, with the majority of them being pessimistic.

Interested: 27%

Uninterested: 71%

.....

On the Line 10 in the subway.

In a train compartment, some colleagues who had just left their night shift were chatting.

"What day is today?"

"It's Thursday."

"Oh, it's already Thursday? The Voice of China is going to start broadcasting soon?"

"Heh, it really is. Let me check the time. Oh, it's going to start in less than ten minutes!"

"I have to hurry home and catch it. I think I can still make it in time."

"You're going to watch a talent show? But it's not interesting at all."

"Not many people feel too optimistic about The Voice. It will certainly be more or less the same as those that came before."

"I know, but Zhang Ye's programs are usually full of surprises. I have been following since Lecture Room was broadcast and hope that this time he can produce another miracle. I also saw many comments listing The Voice's various flaws and reasons for failure. Those were very reasonable and explained logically. However, since when we can use logical reasoning on a person like Zhang Ye? Judging from past experiences, sometimes the more others think that Zhang Ye can't do well in certain things, the more likely Zhang Ye will do them well. That's why I still have some expectation for his new program. Hopefully he can succeed like the previous times and not disappoint his fans!"

"I think you're just deifying him."

"In the past, Zhang Ye's programs were pretty enjoyable to watch, but don't forget, they were mostly pioneering works, such as a lecture program, a never before seen talk show idea, or a mass market

variety show like Do You Remember. They have achieved success as original ideas and relied mainly on subverting the current trends. All of these worked to Zhang Ye's advantage. But this time, The Voice is entering an already oversaturated talent show industry. I've never doubted Zhang Ye's ability and always think that he has the capability of producing a good show. But I don't know what he's thinking, because instead of choosing another path that he could excel in, he chose to cross a bridge full of countless other singing shows. This program's viewership ratings shouldn't be that low—after all, it has Zhang Ye's reputation on it and the names of Zhang Yuanqi, Zhang Xia, and the others holding it together—but the viewership ratings definitely won't be too good either. The market is already too saturated. If they can even get a 0.7% viewership, they should be thanking the gods!"

.....

At a certain home.

A family of three was sitting in front of the television.

"Dad, switch the channel to Central TV Department 1."

"What for? I'm watching soccer now."

"The Voice of China is beginning soon."

"No one thinks that show will be good, why should we watch it?"

"No matter what, I still have to take a look. If it's not good, then we'll switch to other channels!"

"How many singing shows have you watched in the past two years? You might not be sick of them yet, but I'm already disgusted by them. OK, OK, OK, I'll switch over to it and you'll realize what I mean when you watch it."

.....

On a certain discussion forum.

In the entertainment page's comment section.

"The Voice is starting soon, is anyone going to watch it?"

"I'm not going to watch it. It won't be interesting."

"I also can't be bothered to watch it. I'm just gonna continue gaming."

"Haha, I just want to take a look, not because I feel that this show will be good, but because I want to see how bad it will turn out. Singing shows these days are all dead on arrival, and with the current market sentiments for such shows, I don't believe that Zhang Ye will be an exception unless he's really superhuman. The same genre, the same kind of show, but if the other satellite channels could not do well with them, with so many program teams before them failing successively when it came to singing shows, then on what basis does Zhang Ye think that he can turn the tide? You're too optimistic. In my opinion, Zhang Ye will be knocked off his perch this time!"

"Even if you put it that way, I cannot help wanting to watch some of it."

"We'll see. Let's criticize him together later, hahaha!"

.....

On Weibo.

Some television industry insiders were also very active.

"Has anyone made an estimate on the viewership ratings of The Voice yet?"

"Our department's internal analysis shows that it will get no more than 0.7% of the viewership!"

"Our side's analysis results are similar. I want to see how Central TV Department 1 is going to deal with this matter now. After this show has been broadcast, let's see if Zhang Ye still dares to boast. 'Someday I shall ascend your highest heights to see other summits dwarfed, and savor the scene.' When the viewership ratings come out tomorrow, this poem will become a ridiculous joke!"

"This kind of show that maliciously drives up the celebrities' joining fees should be boycotted. A show that uses hype and driving up prices as a draw, what is there to look forward to? This is all just sensationalism. A steep price without basis will only cause the show to end up in a 'cannot make ends meet' situation. The whole of Central TV Department 1 will also be implicated, along with the Brain Gold company and the four coaches' popularity. All of them will suffer a devastating blow through Zhang Ye's antics in creating such steep prices in the market. The market has its own set of rules too, and just by paying such high joining fees, it does not mean that you're guaranteed to get back the equivalent of what you gave!"

"I can't wait to see Zhang Ye's expression after the show has finished broadcasting. It's a good thing to be confident, but blind arrogance will only mean that you're the frog in the well!"

Jinshi Television Station.

Beihe Provincial Television Station.

Liaodong Television Station.

Jiangnan Television Station.

A famous Shanghai television program production company.

The Radio Broadcast & Television Station Association.

Everyone who posted on Weibo all had their titles and jobs indicated on their verified accounts. They were all people from the television variety industry and some were even leaders or famous analysts within the industry. Because of the overly steep prices of the title sponsorship and joining fees created by Zhang Ye's new show, the entire industry had been seriously affected. At the same time, The Voice was also facing a boycott and denouncement from all the peers in the domestic television industry!

In the end, just before the program was about to be broadcast, many advertisers also joined in!

"They're selling the advertising rights for a few million each! That's a really unreasonable demand!"

"You all were also quoted that kind of a price? It's the same for us. I'm just wondering now if there was any company who actually dared to buy their advertisements. If they did, then they really must not lack for money!"

"Especially that Brain Gold company. A title sponsorship fee of 100 million RMB? I can only laugh!"

"I'm afraid the Brain Gold company will suffer a heavy loss this year! Just this 100 million RMB will be enough to make them suffer. Don't even mention recouping their advertising costs, I think it would even be difficult to recoup a fifth of it!"

"That's right, our company has worked with many television programs before. For those programs using Korean copyrights and 1.2% viewership, their title sponsorship fees only asked for 50 million. What right does The Voice have to demand 100 million? Don't tell me that your viewership ratings can surpass 1%? This Zhang Ye is way too amusing!"

"Yeah, I don't understand where his confidence coming from."

The people making the snide remarks were mainly those company bosses or department heads who had come in contact with Zhang Ye for talks regarding the advertising rights before the broadcast of The Voice. In the end, the deals were called off because the price was too high. Furthermore, the price that both sides were willing to accept were highly disparate. This made many of the advertisers very unhappy. They felt that for such a show, which many people were pessimistic about, it was already goodwill on their part that they were still willing to purchase The Voice's advertising rights. But never did they expect the seller to still be unsatisfied and even asked for a few million for the advertising rights, which was only for the price for a single advertisement. During the negotiations, some friction sparked between them, and as a result, their emotions were naturally incited. If we have the money, we would rather go and buy the already popular imported variety shows, don't you think? Why would we spend 3 million RMB to buy the advertising rights for a domestic show in this market downturn? Everyone knows what the situation is like with domestic variety shows. You want us to buy your advertising rights? Do you think we're crazy!?

These comments were mostly one-sided!

There was even some fake news incriminating The Voice appearing!

"I just heard from a friend that a big problem occurred at the recording of The Voice's first episode due to them not having enough time. The situation at the studio is all gloomy, so I advise everyone not to watch it!"

"I have a friend in the SARFT and he said that the SARFT is going to take action soon!"

"Yes, I've also heard about it. Zhang Ye was previously banned before and a severely punished target as well. Although his ban has now been lifted, the SARFT is always keeping their eyes on him. This time he has caused a disruption in the market prices, so the SARFT will certainly crack down seriously on him. Everyone, take note: whether The Voice will be able to be broadcast today is still something we don't know. It might be ordered to halt its broadcast at the very last minute as SARFT is already taking action now!"

"Is that true?"

"Holy shit, that can't be!"

"It's real. This is insider news!"

"Ah? The Voice is going to be canceled?"

"Shit, Zhang Ye is finished again this time!"

An industry insider also posted: "The authorities should take serious action on such programs! I fully support the SARFT with banning The Voice!"

This rumor even appeared in the online news.

"The Voice faced with being taken off-the-air?"

"The Unlucky Zhang Ye and His The Voice of China!"

Voices of doubts and rumors were flying everywhere.

.....

At Central TV.

The program team staff of The Voice had just finished with the post-production after much crunching. The first episode of the program was finally completed. But when they saw the news on the internet, the exhausted staff suddenly panicked again.

Even Central TV Department 1's Deputy Director Jiang Yuan also felt a little panicky about this rumor, so he immediately made some calls to the station head to check out the situation. Since there no smoke without fire, he was really afraid that there would be some sudden changes!

Inside the office.

Zhang Zuo said nervously, "Director Zhang, what should we do?"

Ha Qiqi was also quite afraid. "The program we spent so much effort into making, could it just be banned like this?"

"The SARFT is really making a move? They are too much of a bully!" Little Wang, Wu Yi, and the rest were extremely furious. "Based on what can they ban our program!?"

Faced with so many rumors and the news online, many of their hearts were quivering!

Only Zhang Ye was the calmest in the whole of Central TV.

He said calmly, "Don't believe those rumors. They're whatever."

A female editor said, "But there is plenty of news spreading around now. Moreover, there was already some news stating that the SARFT was already kept their eyes on singing shows because there are too many television stations doing these kinds of talent shows and creating disorder in the market. I heard that the SARFT are going to limit the approval of such singing talent shows!"

Zhang Ye said firmly, "Let me tell you this, the SARFT might ban any other programs, but it will definitely not ban ours!"

Zhang Zuo said, "Is that true?"

Ha Qiqi exclaimed, "Why?"

Zhang Ye said, "Get back to work and don't listen to all that nonsense!"

Everyone was skeptical.

What do you mean by why?

What do you mean by if it's true?

Zhang Ye thought to himself, my girlfriend is the SARFT's Deputy Chief, in charge of all television programs', movies', and dramas' approval and punishments! If The Voice really got targeted, would I not know? Besides, even if really got targeted, with Old Wu there, could they even ban my program!?

Bullshit!

This bro knows someone in senior management!

## I'm Really a Superstar

## Chapter 679: Shocking the world with speed reading!

9 PM.

After the commercial break on Central TV Department 1, the logo of The Voice of China appeared at once on TV. With the accompanying background music, the introduction clip ran. The four coaches each made an appearance in it and a voiceover and captions introduced the coaches one by one, followed by the introduction of the blind audition rules.

The Voice has started!

The first episode was officially broadcast!

At the same time, many people were waiting in front of their televisions.

These included Zhang Ye's parents, his cousins, uncles, aunts; his friends like Yao Jiancai, Su Na, Tian Bin; his fans, Zhang Yuanqi's fans, Chen Guang's fans, etc. Most important of all, many of the people who were not optimistic about The Voice were also at this moment waiting in front of their televisions and tuned in to Central TV Department 1, curious to see what was in store. It was the same for those television industry insiders as well. Given, they were denouncing Zhang Ye's new show, but it was also because of this that they wanted to know firsthand what it was like, to see how flawed and how big of a failure it would be, so that they could attack Zhang Ye with everything they had gathered!

Those from Central TV, Beijing Television Station, Shanghai Satellite TV, all of them were currently focused on this program together!

Countless pairs of eyes were watching.

Countless people were doubting as well.

"It's starting, it's starting!"

"Didn't they say it was going to get canceled?"

"Yeah, why did it still get broadcast then?"

"A rumor?"

"Let's watch first, I'm afraid the show's quality is more or less done for!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

"Let's see what kind of show Teacher Zhang can come up with this time!"

"Hur hur, it would be strange if it's good!"

"The Voice is a total joke!"

With this flurry of activity, the first episode of The Voice finally appeared!

.....

At Beijing Television Station.

In a certain program team's office from the variety channel.

The television was turned on in the office premises. Seeing that the leaders were not around, the night shift staff switched the channel to Central TV Department 1 as everyone prepared to watch the hotly discussed show, The Voice of China.

"It's coming."

"The introduction has ended!"

"What are we watching this for? Central TV Department 1's Thursday night host had a scandal and The Voice was brought on to fill the slot. With just slightly more than half a month's preparation, they want to produce a large-scale variety talent show? That's a total joke, just ask anyone in the industry if they could do it."

"Yeah, even if you gave it two months of preparations, it wouldn't be enough! For such a large-scale variety show, the minimum preparation time is three to six months. If the stage could somewhat be set up in time, it should already be good, so let's not even talk about the stage effects. Zhang Ye should have just come back to Beijing Television at that time. Just look at it now. He has been tasked to rush the program for broadcast so fast that he couldn't even finish the preparation work in time, so what's there to look forward to? He definitely won't have anything to show!"

They each had their own opinions of how the program would turn out.

As soon as they stopped talking, the scene on the television was showing the performance venue!

When the lights were turned on, the entire stage was lit up at once. In the midst of the audience's cheering, the stage lighting changed!

"I wanna fly to the sky, walk beside the Sun. The world waits for me to change it..."

"Never been afraid of others seeing my dreams. Here, I can make it happen!"

"Laughing loudly, let's walk side by side. Isn't happiness everywhere!"

"Casting off all worry, I stride forward bravely. Now I am taking center stage!"

Chen Guang!

Fan Wenli!

Zhang Xia!

Zhang Yuanqi!

The four coaches appeared on stage glamorously, with the new theme song pumping up the entire audience!

"I believe I'm me, I trust in tomorrow. I believe youth has no limits. Whether sunset at the beach or the crowded streets, it's the prettiest paradise for me!"

It fell silent.

The program team's office in Beijing Television was totally quiet!

A woman said, "This ... "

A youth stared at the television screen dumbfounded. "Who just said that if they could get the stage up in time, it would already be very good?"

The girl who said that earlier could not muster up a response!

A middle-aged person was astonished. "Does that look like they just managed to get it up? That stage, that equipment, those audio effects, those lights, my god! How could that be something they set up in just 20 days! Are Zhang Ye and his team really all superhuman? Finishing up all that in half a month when others could not complete it even with a few months of production time? They even built the stage that magnificently? And it's even superior in quality? Do all the people in their program team have eight arms!?"

The girl who who couldn't say a word finally managed to say, "Zhang Ye and his team must have worked very hard or something. I really wonder how they did it."

They also worked on shows, so they naturally understand the way things worked when making one. They understood just how impossible of a task this was, so many of the industry insiders were feeling even more pessimistic about this show. But who could have expected that the outcome was totally different from what they had assumed! They asked themselves, if they were Zhang Ye's program team instead, could they do the same if they were given 20 days to create such a big stage and complete the auditions for the contestants? The answer was no!

They couldn't!

This was an impossible task!

In the entire country, no program team would dare thump their chest and claim that they could do it!

At the train station.

Many passengers were seated under a large screen, waiting for their trains.

"What the f\*\*k! How much money did they spend on that stage setup!"

"This stage, those lights, why does it feel like I'm watching the Spring Festival Gala ??"

"Since when did Central TV become so generous? They must've really poured a lot of money into that!"

"How awesome! The stage and audio effects are amazing!"

"Listen to this song!"

"How nice!"

"This song is really great! Listening to it makes me feel really pumped up!"

"Eh, seeing the opening of The Voice, it doesn't seem to be as bad as what people were saying!"

"Yeah, keep watching, let's see how it turns out!"

The opening theme ended!

Zhang Ye appeared!

.....

Beijing.

In a certain restaurant, in a certain private room.

There was a mini-gathering here arranged today by Zhang Ye's ex-colleague, famed broadcast host from Beijing Radio Station, Wang Xiaomei. She was with her university classmates, who all graduated as broadcast majors. Some of them worked in local television stations as hosts and some were radio announcers, while there was also one who was a DJ for live mini-events.

Wang Xiaomei suddenly called for a waitress. "Can you please switch on the television?"

"Sure." The waitress immediately turned on the the television and it showed Central TV Department 1's channel, which was usually the default channel that many televisions would switch on to.

Onscreen, Zhang Ye was currently introducing the coaches.

A man asked, "Xiaomei, you still watch talent shows?"

Wang Xiaomei laughed. "I'm just curious."

A woman blinked and asked, "What are you curious about?"

Wang Xiaomei replied, "I want to see how exactly Zhang Ye would host a talent show."

A bearded man said, "How else can he host it? I've also done a similar program before, so don't even talk about it. Being a host in such a program is really torturous. It's like you don't exist at all. Whether

you're onstage or off, it's always very awkward. All you do is make announcements and present the advertising messages. What else can you do?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"It's the same whoever does it."

Wang Xiaomei plainly replied, "That might not be true. As I've been colleagues with Zhang Ye before, I do know him a little better than most people. If it were any other host doing this show, they really might be just a supporting cast member and do things like only making the announcements. But that doesn't apply to Zhang Ye. He's not the type who would just take a step back and be in a supporting role. Mhm. But I still don't know how he will do this, because just like you all said, for these talent shows, there really isn't much for a host to show what they can do."

The woman said, "There's simply nothing to bring to bear. It's just making announcements and reading advertising lines. It can't be that he plans to say those things for the entire show, can he?"

The bearded man said, "Xiaomei, aren't you putting Zhang Ye on too high a pedestal? We're all in the business of hosting and our standards are all about the same. It's just that Zhang Ye has the added advantage of being more talented in literature. That's why he can achieve so much just within a year. If we're just talking about basic hosting skills, then all of us here wouldn't be worse than him."

Laughing, another person chimed in, "That's true."

The man with the short hair, leaning against the door, said, "We're all proper graduates of broadcasting, so how much difference can there be between our standards? Central TV went to look for Zhang Ye and not someone else because Zhang Ye has program planning skills. It wasn't because of his hosting abilities. If we're talking about pure hosting abilities, then with so many hosts at Central TV, would they lack his abilities at all? So it's not like a talent show like this would miss his presence either. If you put me there instead of him, I can say the same things too, and I might even do it better than him."

"Hur hur, who doesn't know how to read advertising messages?" the bearded man said.

The woman mocked, "If you can't even say an advertising message well, then you better not work in this business!"

On TV, Zhang Ye was standing in the center of the stage.

"Hello, everyone. I am you host, Zhang Ye."

"Today, we have eight people who will be joining us onstage. Who could they be? What kinds of voices will they have? What songs will they choose to perform? Alright, next up, is the segment that is the most, most anticipated—advertisements!"

At the table, the bearded man who was drinking his water suddenly spewed it all out.

Pfft!

Why would I be anticipating advertisements!

Just before everyone was about to make fun of what Zhang Ye had said on TV, a scene that would shock these professional broadcast majors and the entire world's citizens began!

On the television screen, Zhang Ye took a deep breath. "I-will-not-accept-any-gifts-this-year The-only-gift-I-will-accept-is-Brain Gold There's-no-need-to-watch-any-TV-shows-this-year The-only-TV-show-you-need-to-watch-is-The Voice The-authentic-health-product The-authentic-The Voice Welcome-to-the-broadcast-of-The Voice of China-brought-to-you-exclusively-by-our-title-sponsor-leader-in-health-products-Brain Gold Drink-Mount Zhou Mineral Water-to-show-your-support-for-The Voice The-most-favored-student-of-the-four-coaches-for-this-season-of-The Voice-will-get-a-chance-to-join-Mount Zhou Mineral Water's Music Dreams Tour Text-to-support-your-favorite-singers-and-you'll-get-a-50-yuan-book-voucher-from-EveryRead.net We-thank-EveryRead.net-for-their-generous-support-of-our-singers-of-The Voice For-any-of-our-contestants-as-long-as-they-get-acknowledged-by-at-least-three-coaches-they'll-win-a-10,000-yuan-Music Dreams Scholarship Sponsored-by-Brain Gold. We-also-give-our-thanks-to-Beijing Dahua Hotel-for-sponsoring-the-accommodations-for-the coaches-of-The Voice of China!"

Wang Xiaomei was dumbfounded!

The bearded man was dumbfounded!

The short-haired man who was grabbing some food with his chopsticks was dumbfounded!

The waitress who had just entered the private room to refill the drinks for the customers was astounded and looked at the television, also dumbfounded by it!

"Oh my god!"

"Damn!"

"This!"

Everyone present were all dumbfounded by this!

You're too damn fast at speaking!

Were you on f\*\*king stimulants!?

How many seconds was that? That was even done in a single breath! You actually recited that entire chunk of advertising messages without a cue card or missing a word, and they were even spoken clearly??

The waitress couldn't help but say, "Isn't that amazing?" After refilling their drinks, she doubled up and ran out, telling anyone she saw, "Quick, go and watch The Voice! The host is awesome!"

Awesome?

Was it only just awesome?

In the private room, Wang Xiaomei and the others were all speechless. As broadcast hosts themselves, they had all learned these basic skills like off-script speed reading as well as crosstalk speed recital, all to practice their reading skills. But there was surely a limit to people, and this limit was more or less the

same for everyone. There shouldn't be too much of a fluctuation in their standards, even the most able person they met in school could only read a script of 100 words at a rate of 6 words per second and that already amazed them. It was a speed that would leave them in the dust!

But Zhang Ye?

This advertising message of Zhang Ye's?

He probably managed more than 10 words per second!!

This was more than twice the speed of the fastest recital they'd ever heard of before today!

When this statistic was actually calculated, the difference was obvious. Awesome? This was no longer just awesome! This was crazy! This was a crushing blow to all the hosts in the country, and possibly, even those from overseas!

Wang Xiaomei didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She had guessed the outcome correctly, but not the process. She suddenly said, "This reading speed, is there anyone else in the hosting world who can do it?"

The woman took a deep breath and said, "Impossible!"

Another woman agreed, "It's definitely impossible!"

The bearded man, still bitterly smiling, said, "Other than him, there's definitely no one else who can do it!"

"F\*\*k!" The short-haired man suddenly cursed. "Is Zhang Ye still human!?"

Just a while ago, they were still joking around and making fun of him.

Anyone could do it?

Say the advertising messages for the entire show?

Zhang Ye only got the hosting job because of his program planning ability?

All of them were proper graduates in broadcasting and there wouldn't be much difference in their standards?

Thinking about what they had just said, they all turned red with embarrassment. This was a hosting job that no one else could do! He had actually goddamn created something new out of reciting advertising messages! It was not because of the advantage he had for program planning that he got the job as a host in Central TV. In the field of professional hosting, there were those who were on a similar level, but there were also those who were much better!

Just as with Zhang Ye's speaking abilities, no one else could do what he did!

This was Zhang Ye's debut program in Central TV and also this first time being the host of such a grand stage. But in this debut performance, he had taught those hosts and industry insiders who doubted him a lesson. Just with this unique ability of his—and the resume he had from the time he hosted at the local

and online television stations—it was enough to put him among the top hosts in the country. No one could deny that!

What a great Zhang Ye!

So it was them who were the frogs in the well!

At this moment, Wang Xiaomei's university classmates, who a while ago were still disapproving of the talent show Zhang Ye was hosting, felt depressed for the first time about why they were still at the lower echelons of the industry trying to make things work and not able to move up onto the level of hosting at a satellite channel, while Zhang Ye had already planted his feet firmly in Central TV Department 1!

The difference was in their talent?

No, that was not it!

Just comparing the basic skills in broadcasting, they were all far behind Zhang Ye!

## <u>I'm Really a Superstar</u> Chapter 680: Into the ranks of the top hosts!

9 PM.

After the commercial break on Central TV Department 1, the logo of The Voice of China appeared at once on TV. With the accompanying background music, the introduction clip ran. The four coaches each made an appearance in it and a voiceover and captions introduced the coaches one by one, followed by the introduction of the blind audition rules.

The Voice has started!

The first episode was officially broadcast!

At the same time, many people were waiting in front of their televisions.

These included Zhang Ye's parents, his cousins, uncles, aunts; his friends like Yao Jiancai, Su Na, Tian Bin; his fans, Zhang Yuanqi's fans, Chen Guang's fans, etc. Most important of all, many of the people who were not optimistic about The Voice were also at this moment waiting in front of their televisions and tuned in to Central TV Department 1, curious to see what was in store. It was the same for those television industry insiders as well. Given, they were denouncing Zhang Ye's new show, but it was also because of this that they wanted to know firsthand what it was like, to see how flawed and how big of a failure it would be, so that they could attack Zhang Ye with everything they had gathered!

Those from Central TV, Beijing Television Station, Shanghai Satellite TV, all of them were currently focused on this program together!

Countless pairs of eyes were watching.

Countless people were doubting as well.

"It's starting, it's starting!"

"Didn't they say it was going to get canceled?"

"Yeah, why did it still get broadcast then?"

"A rumor?"

"Let's watch first, I'm afraid the show's quality is more or less done for!"

"I'm so looking forward to it!"

"Let's see what kind of show Teacher Zhang can come up with this time!"

"Hur hur, it would be strange if it's good!"

"The Voice is a total joke!"

With this flurry of activity, the first episode of The Voice finally appeared!

.....

At Beijing Television Station.

In a certain program team's office from the variety channel.

The television was turned on in the office premises. Seeing that the leaders were not around, the night shift staff switched the channel to Central TV Department 1 as everyone prepared to watch the hotly discussed show, The Voice of China.

"It's coming."

"The introduction has ended!"

"What are we watching this for? Central TV Department 1's Thursday night host had a scandal and The Voice was brought on to fill the slot. With just slightly more than half a month's preparation, they want to produce a large-scale variety talent show? That's a total joke, just ask anyone in the industry if they could do it."

"Yeah, even if you gave it two months of preparations, it wouldn't be enough! For such a large-scale variety show, the minimum preparation time is three to six months. If the stage could somewhat be set up in time, it should already be good, so let's not even talk about the stage effects. Zhang Ye should have just come back to Beijing Television at that time. Just look at it now. He has been tasked to rush the program for broadcast so fast that he couldn't even finish the preparation work in time, so what's there to look forward to? He definitely won't have anything to show!"

They each had their own opinions of how the program would turn out.

As soon as they stopped talking, the scene on the television was showing the performance venue!

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"I believe I'm me, I trust in tomorrow. I believe youth has no limits. Whether sunset at the beach or the crowded streets, it's the prettiest paradise for me!"

It fell silent.

The program team's office in Beijing Television was totally quiet!

A woman said, "This..."

A youth stared at the television screen dumbfounded. "Who just said that if they could get the stage up in time, it would already be very good?"

The girl who said that earlier could not muster up a response!

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The girl who who couldn't say a word finally managed to say, "Zhang Ye and his team must have worked very hard or something. I really wonder how they did it."

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They couldn't!

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•••••

At the train station.

Many passengers were seated under a large screen, waiting for their trains.

"What the f\*\*k! How much money did they spend on that stage setup!"

"This stage, those lights, why does it feel like I'm watching the Spring Festival Gala ??"

"Since when did Central TV become so generous? They must've really poured a lot of money into that!"

"How awesome! The stage and audio effects are amazing!"

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"This song is really great! Listening to it makes me feel really pumped up!"

"Eh, seeing the opening of The Voice, it doesn't seem to be as bad as what people were saying!"

"Yeah, keep watching, let's see how it turns out!"

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A woman blinked and asked, "What are you curious about?"

Wang Xiaomei replied, "I want to see how exactly Zhang Ye would host a talent show."

A bearded man said, "How else can he host it? I've also done a similar program before, so don't even talk about it. Being a host in such a program is really torturous. It's like you don't exist at all. Whether

you're onstage or off, it's always very awkward. All you do is make announcements and present the advertising messages. What else can you do?"

"Yeah, that's right."

"It's the same whoever does it."

Wang Xiaomei plainly replied, "That might not be true. As I've been colleagues with Zhang Ye before, I do know him a little better than most people. If it were any other host doing this show, they really might be just a supporting cast member and do things like only making the announcements. But that doesn't apply to Zhang Ye. He's not the type who would just take a step back and be in a supporting role. Mhm. But I still don't know how he will do this, because just like you all said, for these talent shows, there really isn't much for a host to show what they can do."

The woman said, "There's simply nothing to bring to bear. It's just making announcements and reading advertising lines. It can't be that he plans to say those things for the entire show, can he?"

The bearded man said, "Xiaomei, aren't you putting Zhang Ye on too high a pedestal? We're all in the business of hosting and our standards are all about the same. It's just that Zhang Ye has the added advantage of being more talented in literature. That's why he can achieve so much just within a year. If we're just talking about basic hosting skills, then all of us here wouldn't be worse than him."

Laughing, another person chimed in, "That's true."

The man with the short hair, leaning against the door, said, "We're all proper graduates of broadcasting, so how much difference can there be between our standards? Central TV went to look for Zhang Ye and not someone else because Zhang Ye has program planning skills. It wasn't because of his hosting abilities. If we're talking about pure hosting abilities, then with so many hosts at Central TV, would they lack his abilities at all? So it's not like a talent show like this would miss his presence either. If you put me there instead of him, I can say the same things too, and I might even do it better than him."

"Hur hur, who doesn't know how to read advertising messages?" the bearded man said.

The woman mocked, "If you can't even say an advertising message well, then you better not work in this business!"

On TV, Zhang Ye was standing in the center of the stage.

"Hello, everyone. I am you host, Zhang Ye."

"Today, we have eight people who will be joining us onstage. Who could they be? What kinds of voices will they have? What songs will they choose to perform? Alright, next up, is the segment that is the most, most anticipated—s!"

At the table, the bearded man who was drinking his water suddenly spewed it all out.

Pfft!

Why would I be anticipating s!

Just before everyone was about to make fun of what Zhang Ye had said on TV, a scene that would shock these professional broadcast majors and the entire world's citizens began!

On the television screen, Zhang Ye took a deep breath. "I-will-not-accept-any-gifts-this-year The-only-gift-I-will-accept-is-Brain Gold There's-no-need-to-watch-any-TV-shows-this-year The-only-TV-show-you-need-to-watch-is-The Voice The-authentic-health-product The-authentic-The Voice Welcome-to-the-broadcast-of-The Voice of China-brought-to-you-exclusively-by-our-title-sponsor-leader-in-health-products-Brain Gold Drink-Mount Zhou Mineral Water-to-show-your-support-for-The Voice The-most-favored-student-of-the-four-coaches-for-this-season-of-The Voice-will-get-a-chance-to-join-Mount Zhou Mineral Water's Music Dreams Tour Text-to-support-your-favorite-singers-and-you'll-get-a-50-yuan-book-voucher-from-EveryRead.net We-thank-EveryRead.net-for-their-generous-support-of-our-singers-of-The Voice For-any-of-our-contestants-as-long-as-they-get-acknowledged-by-at-least-three-coaches-they'll-win-a-10,000-yuan-Music Dreams Scholarship Sponsored-by-Brain Gold. We-also-give-our-thanks-to-Beijing Dahua Hotel-for-sponsoring-the-accommodations-for-the coaches-of-The Voice of China!"

Wang Xiaomei was dumbfounded!

The bearded man was dumbfounded!

The short-haired man who was grabbing some food with his chopsticks was dumbfounded!

The waitress who had just entered the private room to refill the drinks for the customers was astounded and looked at the television, also dumbfounded by it!

"Oh my god!"

"Damn!"

"This!"

Everyone present were all dumbfounded by this!

You're too damn fast at speaking!

Were you on f\*\*king stimulants!?

How many seconds was that? That was even done in a single breath! You actually recited that entire chunk of advertising messages without a cue card or missing a word, and they were even spoken clearly??

The waitress couldn't help but say, "Isn't that amazing?" After refilling their drinks, she doubled up and ran out, telling anyone she saw, "Quick, go and watch The Voice! The host is awesome!"

Awesome?

Was it only just awesome?

In the private room, Wang Xiaomei and the others were all speechless. As broadcast hosts themselves, they had all learned these basic skills like off-script speed reading as well as crosstalk speed recital, all to practice their reading skills. But there was surely a limit to people, and this limit was more or less the

same for everyone. There shouldn't be too much of a fluctuation in their standards, even the most able person they met in school could only read a script of 100 words at a rate of 6 words per second and that already amazed them. It was a speed that would leave them in the dust!

But Zhang Ye?

This advertising message of Zhang Ye's?

He probably managed more than 10 words per second!!

This was more than twice the speed of the fastest recital they'd ever heard of before today!

When this statistic was actually calculated, the difference was obvious. Awesome? This was no longer just awesome! This was crazy! This was a crushing blow to all the hosts in the country, and possibly, even those from overseas!

Wang Xiaomei didn't know whether to laugh or cry. She had guessed the outcome correctly, but not the process. She suddenly said, "This reading speed, is there anyone else in the hosting world who can do it?"

The woman took a deep breath and said, "Impossible!"

Another woman agreed, "It's definitely impossible!"

The bearded man, still bitterly smiling, said, "Other than him, there's definitely no one else who can do it!"

"F\*\*k!" The short-haired man suddenly cursed. "Is Zhang Ye still human!?"

Just a while ago, they were still joking around and making fun of him.

Anyone could do it?

Say the advertising messages for the entire show?

Zhang Ye only got the hosting job because of his program planning ability?

All of them were proper graduates in broadcasting and there wouldn't be much difference in their standards?

Thinking about what they had just said, they all turned red with embarrassment. This was a hosting job that no one else could do! He had actually goddamn created something new out of reciting advertising messages! It was not because of the advantage he had for program planning that he got the job as a host in Central TV. In the field of professional hosting, there were those who were on a similar level, but there were also those who were much better!

Just as with Zhang Ye's speaking abilities, no one else could do what he did!

This was Zhang Ye's debut program in Central TV and also this first time being the host of such a grand stage. But in this debut performance, he had taught those hosts and industry insiders who doubted him a lesson. Just with this unique ability of his—and the resume he had from the time he hosted at the local

and online television stations—it was enough to put him among the top hosts in the country. No one could deny that!

What a great Zhang Ye!

So it was them who were the frogs in the well!

At this moment, Wang Xiaomei's university classmates, who a while ago were still disapproving of the talent show Zhang Ye was hosting, felt depressed for the first time about why they were still at the lower echelons of the industry trying to make things work and not able to move up onto the level of hosting at a satellite channel, while Zhang Ye had already planted his feet firmly in Central TV Department 1!

The difference was in their talent?

No, that was not it!

Just comparing the basic skills in broadcasting, they were all far behind Zhang Ye!