

Superstar 1071

Chapter 1071: 'Love of a Lifetime'!

In the waiting area.

Dafei quickly said, "Teacher, it's your turn."

The Clown nodded. "OK."

Xiao Lu asked Wild Rose, "Are you ready?"

"Yes," Wild Rose answered plainly.

As per procedure, Xiao Lu reminded them, "Teachers, you must not get nervous later no matter what. Cameras 2 and 3 are located at the front and the two of you must face the cameras at all times, although you shouldn't look into them. Eh, where are the in-ear monitors?" The program team staff and she were treating Wild Rose like she was a real newcomer.

The Clown said, "I don't need it."

Wild Rose said, "I don't need it either."

Xiao Lu gasped. "All, alright then."

Singers who usually sang in a recording studio would be used to wearing an in-ear monitor. A lot of singers who performed live were also used to wearing them as they were still very effective for listening to their own voices and the music. This gave a better effect and also prevented a desynchronization in the singing with the rhythm of the song. After all, the propagation of sound in such a large venue was usually delayed, so if their awareness of it was not that sharp, a problem would arise where the singing and music were not in sync. Only those singers who were especially professional and adept at live performances would not require such earpieces.

Wild Rose was clearly the latter.

While Zhang Ye was an exception—because this fellow did not know how to use an earpiece at all. Whether it was in the past or right now, he had never worn one in the first place.

It was almost time to take the stage.

The Clown's tally was still at the very bottom with only 200,000 votes. This was because the others had finished performing. He was the only one who had not gone onstage to perform, so his tally was naturally in last place.

Dong Shanshan's voice sounded.

"Next up, let's welcome the last pair of contestants."

"The Clown!"

"Wild Rose!"

Cheers erupted!

Many people were waiting for this last pair of contestants!

"It's time for The Clown's performance!"

"It's finally his turn!"

"Both Sunset Glow and Petal Shower have revealed themselves. There's only him left now!"

"Yeah, it's only The Clown's identity that we don't know!"

"Hurry up and show yourself!"

"I'd also like to see who on earth his partner is!"

"Is it really a newcomer?"

"Even if they're not a newcomer, they shouldn't be a very well-known celebrity, right?"

His mother sat up straight. "It's The Clown's turn!"

His third sister's eyes were glimmering. "I was waiting for him."

Ha Qiqi said, "I've always liked The Clown."

Zhang Zuo said, "Haha, I also like him quite a bit."

There were also countless viewers staring fixedly at their televisions!

After Fan Wenli and Li Xiaoxian finished performing, they returned to their seats offstage and were looking up in wait for the start of The Clown's performance. They were also anticipating the reveal of his identity as no one could guess who The Clown was all this while! As all the others had revealed themselves, their guess was that The Clown was also likely reveal himself to increase his tally in the first round. If he did not put in more effort in the first round to help close the gap, then it would definitely be very difficult to catch up later!

The fog machine was turned on

The stage was covered in fog. Nothing on it could be seen.

At the same time, the music started playing. It was a little sad and ethereal.

After the fog dissipated, The Clown was standing at center stage. He was by himself.

Listening to the melody, Zhang Ye closed his eyes and reminisced about the times with Old Zhang. He experienced a rather complex mix of emotions. The first time he met Old Zhang was two years ago. He could still remember with great clarity how Sister Zhang looked very cheerful and friendly on television back then. She was kind and pleasant to everyone and never put on any airs. Zhang Ye believed it to be real at the time. In the end, someone pressed his doorbell that night. When he opened the door and took a look, Zhang Yuanqi was standing right there at his apartment's door. She spoke in a cold manner and was even drunk. Thinking of it, Zhang Ye found it hilarious and his impression of Old Zhang as a female goddess was shattered on the spot. Since then, the two of them had become good friends.

Whenever Old Zhang had time, she would come over to drink wine with him and tell him about things she could not tell others.

Sometimes, Zhang Ye questioned himself as to whether or not he liked Old Zhang.

He didn't know.

He probably did like her, right?

If Old Wu had not agreed to be his girlfriend or if Old Wu had not appeared in his life, he was unsure if he would've tried to woo Old Zhang. Sometimes, fate was really unpredictable. So when he learned that Zhang Yuanqi was going to sing a duet with him, the first song that came mind was this song. Zhang Ye wanted to sing this song with her even though she did not know that The Clown was him. He just really wanted to sing it!

He opened his eyes and raised his microphone 1 .

"The past has passed and won't return to now.

"Scarlet leaves long buried in the dirt."

Wild Rose was the first person to be taken aback. When the two of them were rehearsing earlier, The Clown did not sound like he did now!

Zhang Xia was also shocked by his voice. Why did she feel that The Clown's singing was even better than before?!

A Cantonese song?

He chose a Cantonese song?

Those two lines pulled the audience into the music!

The audience could feel inexplicable sorrow and seemed to see an image of life and death!

"The start and end can't be changed, anyhow.

"My faraway lover drifting beyond the clouds."

He jumped an octave up.

"The sea of woes rolls with love and hate.

"It's hard to escape this world's fate."

Zhang Ye reached into the distance to grasp at something but was unable to grab anything.

"In love, but each other we must avert.

"Perhaps I should believe this is fate."

There was no applause!

There were no cheers!

Everyone in the audience was carefully controlling their breathing lest they affected him and the song!

Zhang Xia sighed, "This is what you call singing!"

When Wang Zhuishu heard Zhang Xia's comment and realized it implied something more, he could not help but glance at her.

Yes, this was what singing was about. The King of Oddity's and Flowing Time's performances could only be called performances, while The Clown's performance was what one would call real singing!

It was overwhelming!

This was a real singer who did not need to add any gimmicks into his performance!

All of a sudden, a woman's voice sounded from afar.

"Ahhh, ahhh."

The audience turned their heads in surprise!

Wild Rose had appeared behind the audience and was standing on an elevated platform. As she sang, her eyes stayed on the stage while she walked over to it step by step.

Her voice was amazing!

A single vocalization covered countless people in goosebumps!

Some of the audience members probably thought that it sounded nice but did not feel anything more. However, there were many professionals present here today and a lot of them were stunned by this singing!

Zhang Xia got quite the fright. "Who is she?"

Fan Wenli broke out in a cold sweat. "Th-This is..."

Chen Guang, Xiaodong, Li Xiaoxian, Amy, and the others were also shocked. This voice, this singing, this breathing technique! Even the fluctuation of the intensity in her emotions was successfully conveyed within her vocalization!

This was good beyond measure!

Just who did The Clown invite?

Their fellow peers in the music industry were also dumbfounded watching their televisions!

Just The Clown alone was astonishing enough!

And now, there was another person like that in Wild Rose?

These two were fucking exceptional singers!

How could the others have a chance with these two singing together?

The Clown looked toward Wild Rose. "Lovers, once gone, never shall come back."

Wild Rose sang softly, "Disappearing love."

The Clown closed his eyes. "Sitting alone, I stare past this world all slack."

Wild Rose was nearing the stage. "Hope to see you again."

"Though the flower may wither."

Wild Rose sang sadly, "Wishing only..."

"It will bloom back."

Wild Rose looked at The Clown. "For you."

"The love of my life seems to be..."

"Waiting..."

"Beyond the clouds."

Wild Rose sang, "I hope."

Wild Rose walked onto the stage!

The two of them were facing each other, no more than five meters apart!

Their voices suddenly harmonized.

"The sea of woes rolls with love and hate!"

"It's hard to escape this world's fate!"

The two of them walked toward each other slowly and reached their hands out at the same time. It was like they were trying to grab hold of each other's hands, yet when their fingertips came within touching distance, Wild Rose's hand trembled with hesitation as she withdrew it.

The Clown reached further out toward her, then clenched his fist as he started withdrawing his hand as well.

Despite being at such close proximity!

They couldn't close the distance between them!

These few centimeters felt like the furthest distance in the world!

Now they closed their eyes.

"In love, but each other we must avert."

"Perhaps I should believe this is fate."

"The sea of woes rolls with love and hate."

"It's hard to escape this world's fate."

"In love, but each other we must avert."

"Perhaps I should believe this is fate."

A lot of people were deeply engrossed in the song!

This was the charm of music. The song had given many people a vivid experience of a life and death romance in just three minutes, hooking them in and never letting go!

Yao Jiancai asked anxiously, "Who the heck is she!"

Beside him, Zhang Xia said in astonishment, "This voice sounds really familiar!"

Fan Wenli looked over and said, "I also find her voice very familiar!"

Xiaodong exclaimed, "It can't be, it can't be her, right?"

Chen Guang could guess who Xiaodong was referring to. "That's impossible. Who here is qualified enough to invite her? With her status, would she come and compete?"

Fan Wenli said, "The song's too short! I can't truly identify who she is by her voice!"

Amy yelled, "Why are they still not showing themselves? The suspense is killing me!"

The audience suddenly shouted.

"Ah!"

"She's going to take off her mask!"

"She's about to take it off!"

"Who could it be?"

"Who is this woman?"

A lot of people opened their eyes wide in curiosity!

Because at the final moment when the song was coming to an end, Wild Rose placed her hand on her mask and was very close to revealing her mysterious identity!

But unfortunately, her hand stopped right there.

Because The Clown had walked up to her and given her a slight shake of his head.

Wild Rose did not say anything but dropped her hand.

The audience regretted this deeply.

"Aiyo!"

"Take your mask off already!"

"Why isn't she taking it off anymore?"

"What's going on?"

"She was about to take off her mask!"

"Why is she not taking off her mask? Everyone else has revealed themselves!"

"What is The Clown thinking?"

"Does he really intend to wear the mask for the entire duration of the competition?"

"Damn, isn't he overdoing it by a little too much?"

"They're still not going to reveal themselves? I'm just afraid that when they get eliminated after the first round, they won't even have a chance to show who they are even if they want to! This is the best time to show themselves and ask for votes!"

Chapter 1072: I'm a newcomer!

In the audience.

Zhang Ye's father sighed, "What a nice song this is."

His mother said, "This woman sang really well!"

His eldest sister was shocked. "Yeah, who is she?"

His third sister anxiously said, "I don't know! Why didn't she take off her mask?"

"The Clown stopped her!" His second sister slapped her thigh and exclaimed, "This song is so good! It didn't feel fake, nor was there much flamboyance to it. It was purely singing. It was so damn awesome!"

A duet and a solo were two different concepts. They were completely different!

The difficulty of singing a duet lay in the cooperation between the singers and the "control" of the atmosphere. In fact, the majority of duets were not suited for competitive singing. As such, some of the contestants before them chose to make use of musical instruments to control the atmosphere by putting on electronica the moment they went onstage and using it to pump up the atmosphere. Some others chose to use their performances to control the atmosphere by wearing resplendent outfits like they were staging a play, and adding a dance segment to give the audience a stronger visual impact! But The Clown and Wild Rose's song was all about controlling the stage with their voices and using their singing to excite the audience! This was clearly much more difficult, as even the husband and wife pair of Chen Guang and Fan Wenli could not cooperate to this level in their earlier performance!

The music ended.

The audience were at a loss for a moment, then suddenly erupted into applause!

Hearing the applause and seeing everyone around them standing up from their seats, Zhang Ye was having fun singing. He felt fulfilled with his performance today and could claim to have sung to perfection. He managed to use his own style to sing all that he wanted to say and express. Furthermore, Wild Rose's partnership with him was even better. The two of them seemingly had an unspoken understanding of each other even though their characters and approach to handling things were totally different. For some reason, they resonated very well together on a spiritual and artistic level. Perhaps

this was why these two people who were from two completely different worlds could end up as the good friends they were.

Voice?

Rhythm?

Cooperation?

They were flawless in all aspects!

This was a very famous classic from Zhang Ye's previous world called "Love of a Lifetime" that was used as the theme song of A Chinese Odyssey. Zhang Ye had heard of it when he was young but did not have any strong feelings about it. However, when the song was used in the movie, it brought out a different side to the song that sounded quite good. However, he had never had the urge to sing this song. It wasn't until the grand finals when he invited Wild Rose to be his partner that Zhang Ye suddenly thought of this song. It was like it had infected him—he really wanted to sing it. For this reason, Zhang Ye stayed up many nights just to practice the pronunciation of this song's Cantonese lyrics so that he could sing it today! Thinking about it now, it was worth all the effort he put in. He did not fail this song regardless of how the results would turn out.

Dong Shanshan walked back onto the stage with a smile. "Hello, teachers."

The Clown and Wild Rose both smiled.

With the live broadcast camera in front of them, the attention of the entire country's audience was focused on them.

Dong Shanshan looked at them and said, "I don't know how I should greet the two of you right now, because you two have yet to reveal your identities, so I wouldn't know who you are."

Wild Rose smiled as she raised her microphone and said, "I was planning to reveal my face."

Because she did not take off her mask, the vocoder on her microphone was still on.

Curious, Dong Shanshan asked, "Then why didn't you?"

Wild Rose laughed and said, "You have to ask him."

Dong Shanshan looked at The Clown. "Oh?"

The Clown did not answer.

In fact, Zhang Ye and Wild Rose had communicated about this issue beforehand. She was not too inclined to take off her mask during the performance itself as she did not want to destroy the artistic integrity of the performance, which Zhang Ye agreed with. So the two of them did not plan to take off their masks from the start. Zhang Ye did not know why Wild Rose would suddenly change her mind about this. Perhaps she was afraid that he would lose out too much in the voting, but Zhang Ye managed to stop her from doing so. On this stage, Zhang Ye's only intended to sing well. He knew that if Wild Rose had taken off her mask, the competition would probably end early with Zhang Ye gaining a great advantage. But that was not what he wanted.

He wanted to win!

He wanted to win fair and square!

Comparing popularity?

Comparing acting chops?

Comparing misery?

Comparing charitability?

What was the meaning in that!

Zhang Ye did not wish for his show that he brought over from his previous world to become like this!

So The Clown raised his microphone to his mouth as he looked to the singer next to him. "Today, I would like to thank Teacher Wild Rose for taking time off to support me. My deepest gratitude." The vocoder made him sound very strange.

Wild Rose laughed and said, "That's what friends are for."

The Clown looked at the audience. "Next, I would like to thank my parents and family. They're also here today, but I wonder if they liked my song."

Dong Shanshan said in surprise, "Oh? Aunt and uncle are here too?"

Hu Fei, who was giving instructions offstage, was stunned.

Dafei and Xiao Lu were also a little taken aback.

What?

The Clown's family members are here?

That's impossible! The Clown did not request for any admission passes to the grand finals from them!

All the admission passes that were given out had gone through their hands, so they naturally wouldn't remember wrong. Many of the contestants' relatives were attending the grand finals today, like Spinach's aunt and uncle, King of Oddity's mother, and Li Xiaoxian's siblings. The program team had allocated the best tickets for them and arranged for them to be seated in the front rows. However, The Clown's family members were definitely not included in this list!

Hu Fei asked Dafei, "Did you give them passes?"

Dafei replied, "I didn't."

"Little Han, did you give them passes?"

Han Qi stuttered, "It wasn't me either! I don't know anything!"

A lot of people in the audience started looking around!

"The Clown's parents?"

"Who are they?"

"Who are his parents?"

"We should be able to figure out his identity if we can spot them!"

"Where are they?"

Zhang Ye's parents were also searching.

His mother turned to check behind her and to the sides. "There's no one?"

His eldest sister also searched for a long time. "No one stood up."

His father wondered, "Are his parents seated in the front row?"

His mother stretched her neck to have a look. "They're not up front either."

At this time, Dong Shanshan questioned, "Teacher Clown, Teacher Wild Rose, I believe that there are many people who are curious about who you are, including me. In five minutes' time, the voting channels will be suspended. Are the both of you really not planning to reveal your faces and let everyone see who you really are?"

The Clown said, "It's not necessary."

Dong Shanshan blinked. "Then do you want to ask for votes?"

The Clown calmly said, "It's not necessary."

Dong Shanshan did not know what else to say. "Th-Then alright, we will respect the teachers' choice. Let's have them head backstage for a short break. We'll return after these messages."

The TVs cut to commercial break.

Dong Shanshan was sweating from the stage lights as they were too hot. She immediately went offstage to get her makeup touched up. Three makeup artists ran over to assist her. The other members of the staff quickly tidied up the stage.

When they were heading off the stage, Wild Rose, who was walking ahead of The Clown, asked without even looking back, "Are we really not going to reveal our identities?"

The Clown made a noise in the affirmative.

"Not going to ask for votes?"

"No."

"You know, this song was never suitable for a competition."

"I know."

"What if we lose?"

"I'll accept it."

Wild Rose suddenly laughed. She turned around and looked at him for several seconds. "I finally believe that you're really my old friend. I don't have many friends with a temperament like yours. I think I know who you are now, although I'm not very sure because the person I know shouldn't know how to sing."

The Clown spread his hands, not replying.

The staff led them to the front row.

Fan Wenli, Chen Guang, Li Xiaoxian, Xiaodong, Jiang Hanwei, Zhang Xia, and the others were all seated there. This special zone was reserved for the contestants and judges. When the two of them came over, all the contestants and judges stared at them en masse as they took their seats beside them.

Amy spoke up the fastest. "Big Sis, who are you?"

Wild Rose looked at her and chuckled, "Guess."

Flowing Time (Zhao Qiquan) said, "You should have taken your mask off."

King of Oddity agreed, "Yeah."

Wild Rose acknowledged him.

Jiang Hanwei asked suspiciously, "Do we know each other?"

Wild Rose purposely disguised her voice and said, "No, I'm a newcomer."

You're a newcomer?

How is that possible!

The singers nearby nearly fainted!

Especially Flowing Time and the other veteran contestants. They were even more at a loss for words. Damn, if you are a newcomer, then aren't we dead meat?

Chapter 1073: The Clown on the verge of elimination?

During the commercial break.

Some of the audience took a bathroom break.

Some of the staff made use of this time to check the equipment.

Li Xiaoxian (Sunset Glow) looked at Wild Rose, who was seated beside The Clown, and asked, "Big Sis, do you know who The Clown is?"

Wild Rose smiled and said, "I don't know, but I have someone in mind."

Xiaodong quickly asked, "Oh? Who?"

Fan Wenli added, "Do we know him?"

Wild Rose glanced at The Clown, then looked back at them. "Hur hur, the person I'm thinking of, you guys definitely know him. Also, I think you should be quite familiar with him."

When The Clown heard that, his eyebrows twitched a little.

Amy exclaimed, "Surely not, right? We're very familiar with him?"

Fan Wenli said with a frown, "Why do I have no memory of someone like that?"

Zhang Xia said, "Just who could it be?"

Wild Rose laughed and said, "It's only a guess. I might be wrong."

Chen Guang didn't know how to react. "If you're not even sure of who The Clown is, why did you agree to come in support?"

Wild Rose smiled without saying another word.

The others could not figure out if she was telling the truth or lying.

Liao Yiqi (Spinach) had not said anything all this time. Her celebrity guest partner, Celery, was talking her ear off, probably worried about her current tally of votes. After all, the numbers were not really ideal.

The host finished touching up her makeup.

The program team counted down to the return of the show.

Three...

Two...

One...

The commercial break was over. The show's broadcast signal came back on!

Dong Shanshan beamed as she announced, "Welcome back to tonight's finale of King of Masked Singers." She pointed down. "At the bottom of your screens, you can see the numbers to call for each contestant. Please support and vote for your favorite contestant so that they might become tonight's Masked King. Your votes decide if they will remain or leave after the first round. The contestant that comes in last won't continue competing tonight. Only five will remain in the battle for the Masked King in the next round. And now that our six contestants have all finished performing, let's bring the real-time tallies up onto the big screen behind me and have a look at the current rankings."

In an instant, the entire venue went quiet.

The TV audience also seemed to be holding their breath!

Spinach looked up!

Fan Wenli took a deep breath.

Flowing Time and Jiang Hanwei were smiling so widely they were squinting.

King of Oddity looked relaxed as he knew he would be safe from elimination with his current tally.

"Who's in first?"

"I don't know."

"Are the results out yet?"

"Who'll be the first one to get eliminated?"

Zhang Ye also looked up at the screen.

With a sudden flash, the tallies appeared on the big screen and updated in real time. The votes were changing every second as the numbers jumped.

When the audience saw the rankings, there was an uproar in the venue!

First: Flowing Time

Second: King of Oddity

Third: Petal Shower

Fourth: Sunset Glow

Fifth: Spinach

Sixth: The Clown

Fan Wenli said in surprise, "What?"

Zhang Xia couldn't believe it either. "The Clown is sixth? He's in the last place?"

Wild Rose gave The Clown a look.

The Clown did not react.

Amy cried out, "What's with this result?"

Flowing Time shook his head. That's what he gets for acting aloof and not wanting to take off his mask!

King of Oddity was also smiling on the inside. He knew that The Clown had sung very well, and he admitted that the best song that he has heard today was The Clown and Wild Rose's "Love of a Lifetime"! They had indeed sung much better than the other contestants by far. However, it seemed like that didn't affect anything at all since how many in the audience would look at their performance from a purely professional point of view? Most people just listened and watched the performances for the fun of it. If you did not take off your mask or ask for votes, and chose not to have any gimmicks to interest the audience, then who would want to vote for you?

Xiaodong was also finding it difficult to understand. "Even if The Clown isn't in first place, he shouldn't be in the last place! There was clearly nothing wrong with his song at all!"

Li Xiaoxian frowned and said, "I just cast a vote for Teacher Clown on my phone. He and Teacher Wild Rose really sang this song well, so how could..."

Even Dong Shanshan, who was currently onstage and facing the cameras, looked a bit startled when she saw the rankings. She hadn't expected to see such a result either!

Zhang Ye's mother was enraged. "What the hell!"

His father could not keep watching. "How are these people even voting?"

His eldest young sister said in shock, "The Clown and Wild Rose sang so great! They should be in first place! But why is their tally so low? This is impossible!"

Ha Qiqi gasped. "Isn't that too low?"

Zhang Zuo said, "No one wants to vote for The Clown? I might not be a professional, but even I could hear that The Clown and Wild Rose sang much better than the others!"

Others in the audience held opposing views.

"I'm giving my vote to Flowing Time anyway."

"Me too, I just want to know who his wife is. Hahaha!"

"The Clown and Wild Rose sang well, great, even. But who would know who they are since they were unwilling to take off their masks? They're probably just some unknown artists who are afraid to show their faces in the first place. Maybe they're scared the audience won't recognize them? Then we might as well give our votes to the celebrities we know. King of Oddity is a good choice to support since he has intents to support charity."

"Right, King of Oddity seems like he has a good character."

"I voted for Zhao Qiquan."

"Likewise, but I'm doing so because I'm giving face to Jiang Hanwei."

"Old Jiang has already done so much to get votes for Flowing Time, so we must definitely give him face! Hehe!"

In the previous episodes of the competition, the contestants were not allowed to speak or ask for votes after their performances, or even take off their masks midway through. There were also no celebrity guest partners at all. But the rules were changed in today's grand finals, and the outcome was clearly very different from before. The program team had not anticipated this, and they also did not think too much of it when Flowing Time and King of Oddity were asking for votes from their supporters. But at this moment, when they saw The Clown's tally, Hu Fei, Hou Ge, and the others suddenly realized that something was not right. This development had gone beyond their expectations and design of the competition format. It had gone utterly off track from their original vision of the competition!

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In the outside world.

On Weibo.

The fans of the contestants were calling for support and votes everywhere.

"Please vote for Flowing Time! Thank you!"

"Where are King of Oddity's fans? Go vote for him!"

"Let's push King of Oddity up the rankings together! Don't let our big brother fight this battle alone!"

"Where are Old Fan and Old Chen's diehard fans? Let's give our votes to Petal Shower together!"

It was bustling online.

People calling for support everywhere, and some even offered to sell their votes. This was because every phone number could only be used to vote once, so many diehard fans of Flowing Time, King of Oddity, and the others were offering to buy votes for the contestants they supported. Although this behavior was prohibited, it was in fact very difficult to enforce.

Only Spinach and The Clown did not experience much support from their fans.

For Spinach, it was because she was not that well-known. As for The Clown, it was because no one knew who he was.

But there were also fans of The Clown who were very angry.

"Why is he in the last place?"

"The hell!"

"Are they all deaf?"

"Can you people not hear the difference between good and bad?"

"You guys should be voting for The Clown!"

"This is a singing competition! It's not about outdoing each other with gimmicks!"

"Are you kidding me? How can The Clown be last?"

...

At the venue.

Dong Shanshan checked the remaining time. "We're only two minutes away from the end of the first round."

By now, the front runners were leading by a lot of votes compared to those behind them.

Spinach, fifth place: 1.27 million votes.

The Clown, sixth place: 1.26 million votes.

There were only 11,000 votes between them!

There were still two minutes left!

It would be impossible for them to catch up to those in the lead in such a short time. The eliminated contestant would be either Spinach or The Clown!

Spinach looked toward The Clown and let out a sickly laugh.

The Clown looked at her in return.

Dong Shanshan said, "There's still a minute until voting closes. The voting is getting more and more intense."

The Clown had 1.28 million votes!

Spinach was also at 1.28 million votes!

Their two tallies were tied!

Counting down: ten seconds, five seconds, three seconds...

A lot of people were tensing up with nerves!

All of a sudden, Dong Shanshan announced, "OK, the voting window has closed!"

Instantaneously, the tallies on the big screen stopped changing!

Countless home viewers and the live audience immediately looked at it!

Fifth: The Clown

Sixth: Spinach

The difference between their two tallies was just 220 votes!

Spinach was eliminated and would not advance into the battle round!

Hu Fei heaved a sigh of relief.

Xiao Lu patted her breast. "I was scared to death!"

Han Qi's heart nearly jumped out of her chest. "How close! He nearly got eliminated!" Then she got furious and wondered, How could that have happened? Why did it become like this?

The Clown!

Wild Rose!

How could these two singers nearly get eliminated?

Are all of you deaf? Are all of you so easily deceived by those gimmicks rather than listening to their singing?!

Chapter 1074: The Clown loses his title chances?

The netizens commented on end!

"Spinach was eliminated!"

"The results are out!"

"It was way too close for The Clown!"

"Yeah, he's a favorite to win the title tonight. In fact, he's the favorite to win, so how did he nearly get eliminated in the first round? This doesn't make any sense!"

"Liao Yiqi was eliminated?"

"Damn, I was supporting Spinach!"

"Spinach sang so much better today!"

"Right, Spinach absolutely sang much better than Flowing Time and King of Oddity! At least today, at least this round, Spinach absolutely should not have been eliminated!"

"It's their fault for not trying to get votes."

"Right, I think it was only Spinach and The Clown who didn't canvass for votes!"

"Ai, Spinach was already the contestant with the lowest popularity on this show. It was to her disadvantage as such competitions still depend on one's fame to be successful. I feel so much pity for Spinach!"

"She should have asked for support and votes!"

"Exactly, both her and The Clown miscalculated!"

At the venue.

Dong Shanshan had already announced the results.

She looked down at Spinach from onstage. "We're quite sad and sorry to see that Teacher Liao Yiqi will be leaving this stage early tonight. Could you say something for everyone before you go?"

Spinach stood up and walked onstage.

Dong Shanshan handed the microphone to her.

Spinach forced a smile. "Thank you, everyone. Getting here, reaching the grand finals, I'm very happy with my performance, really."

In the audience.

Quite a number of Spinach's fans stood up.

"Spinach!"

"Little Qi, we're cheering you on!"

"Cheering you on! You're the best!"

"We love you!"

Some fans were already in tears.

Several grown men were wiping tears away as they held up LED lightboards with Spinach's stage name on it. They were holding them high with all their strength, like they were trying to raise the boards into the sky!

When she saw this, Spinach could no longer control her emotions. Her eyes reddened as she said, "Thank you. Thank you, all of you." Pausing, she bit her lip and said, "I'm sorry that I wasn't able to make it to the end." Spinach was a very cheerful person in private and usually had a lot to say. However, the Spinach on stage was not as talkative as she was in private. Just like before, she did not really touch on how she was feeling even after she had been eliminated, much less complain about anything.

When they heard Spinach apologizing, the fans felt even worse!

A lot of them started crying and their hearts went out to her!

Spinach exited the stage.

The other contestants also left and went backstage to prepare for the next round of the competition. Only Wild Rose, Xiaodong, Chen Guang, Jiang Hanwei, and the other celebrity guest partners remained behind in the audience as they were not involved in the next round of competition. Their work here was done for the day.

Backstage.

The Clown did not say anything on the way over.

Fan Wenli looked at him. "You should have been first in the first round."

Li Xiaoxian was no longer wearing her mask. "We were just discussing that if the results were based only on the songs, you'd definitely have gotten first place."

Flowing Time and King of Oddity did not say anything. They were already heading back to their own waiting rooms to change costumes. Their makeup artists were already waiting for them.

The Clown looked at both Fan Wenli and Li Xiaoxian. "Thanks."

Fan Wenli said, "You'll definitely catch up in the second round."

The Clown chuckled but did not speak.

Fan Wenli and Li Xiaoxian also headed back to their waiting rooms.

The Clown was by himself now. He was just about to open the door and go inside his waiting room when he heard footfalls coming from behind. He turned around to look and saw that it was Liao Yiqi who had come backstage.

"Teacher Clown."

Zhang Ye looked at her. "Teacher Spinach, you're looking for me?"

Liao Yiqi asked, "Did I not sing well?"

Zhang Ye firmly shook his head. "It's not that; you sang great. If I'd voted, I would not have given my vote to Sunset Glow or Petal Shower. I would have voted for you."

Liao Yiqi said, "Is that so?"

Zhang Ye reaffirmed, "Yes."

Liao Yiqi smiled wanly and said, "Then why are our tallies so low?"

Zhang Ye did not answer her, nor did he know how to answer her.

"I can't accept it," Liao Yiqi suddenly said. "I really can't accept it."

Zhang Ye waited for her to continue.

Liao Yiqi took a deep breath. "I don't have another chance to sing. So Teacher Clown, I'd like you to do me a favor. You must be crowned Masked King. Can you do that for me?"

Zhang Ye said, "With you gone, I'm the one with the lowest tally amongst the five remaining contestants."

Liao Yiqi was silent for a moment. Then she looked up and said, "I'd like to know if there really is no recognition for those of us who just want to sing in peace."

Zhang Ye comforted, "You're still young. There'll still be a lot of chances in the future."

Liao Yiqi said, "But right now, my beliefs have been shaken."

Zhang Ye understood. He knew exactly what Spinach was feeling at this moment. He was furious about her elimination from the competition. He felt that it was unfair and also found it unbelievable. Not counting his duet with Wild Rose, Zhang Ye felt that Spinach's song was the best one out there tonight. Surprisingly, she performed much better than the husband and wife pair of Chen Guang and Fan Wenli. Because of that, Zhang Ye did not know how he could comfort her when he was faced with this young singer who had just come of age.

One second.

Two seconds.

Zhang Ye suddenly spoke, "Don't be shaken. Believe in yourself, and believe in what you have always thought is right."

Liao Yiqi did not say anything. She was hesitating and looked lost.

Zhang Ye looked at her. "About what you've asked of me, I'll give you my word."

Liao Yiqi was startled by his words.

Zhang Ye laughed and said, "So if I become the Masked King, if I become the grand champion, you must promise me that you'll continue to believe. There's nothing wrong with singing in peace, OK?"

Liao Yiqi's eyes finally lit up. "OK!"

Zhang Ye nodded. "Then it's a deal."

Turning around, Zhang Ye pushed open the waiting room door.

Inside, the makeup artists and wardrobe assistant were having a conversation.

The female makeup artist said, "Well, I suppose that's it for The Clown."

The male makeup artist said, "Both he and Spinach acted too high and mighty. I can tell that they're newcomers at a glance. They're still not used to the pace and rules of the entertainment circle. Even though such shows say that they only listen and judge the music, how many people would know how to do that? This current competition format totally depends on the viewers' votes. How many votes can they get with just their singing alone? They definitely have to incorporate other ways to gain more support. Flowing Time and King of Oddity were fine examples of how it should be done. Their talent agencies must have strategized it for them, using those gimmicks to gain votes that other contestants would have needed to gain with two songs."

The wardrobe assistant sighed and said, "Honestly, The Clown has already fallen out of the race for the Masked King."

The female makeup artist said, "Yeah, the tallies' differences are too large. There's no way he can catch up."

"The Clown has an advantage, though."

"That's right."

"His advantage is that he has not taken his mask off yet. He still has a chance to do so in the second round and gain an explosion of support. But if he insists on keeping his mask on, then he's really done for! He won't even be able to fight for the top three spots!"

The three of them were chatting.

Zhang Ye closed the door behind him.

Only now did they realize that The Clown had come back. They did not know whether he had overheard their conversation, but the three of them looked a little guilty.

"Uh..."

"Teacher Clown."

"Let's do your makeup."

Zhang Ye acknowledged them and sat down at the makeup table without a word!

All of a sudden, he was full of fight. He refused to have his beliefs shaken today!

Chapter 1075: The second round of the grand finals!

The commercial break ended.

The live broadcast cut back to the theater.

After the elimination of Liao Yiqi, the competition entered its climax. The countless domestic viewers watching their televisions could even smell gunpowder in the air. The atmosphere of the competition was intense!

"What a long commercial break!"

"It's starting!"

"Dong Shanshan is so damn beautiful!"

"Her popularity has taken off due to this show."

"True. Dong Shanshan, Petal Shower, Sunset Glow, The Clown, all of them have become really popular!"

"How can you say that The Clown is popular? He was nearly knocked out of the competition!"

"Isn't there still the second round?"

"He won't be able to catch up even in the second round."

"I now believe that The Clown might really be a newcomer."

"Yeah, he doesn't even know the basic rules and behavior of show business."

"Not necessarily. The Clown might know that it'll affect his votes if he doesn't take off his mask, canvass for votes, or let his celebrity guest partner reveal herself, and that it puts him at a disadvantage. Nonetheless, that's what he's chosen to do. Maybe it's in his principles to win fair and square. Could this be a possibility?"

"Get over it."

"Do you think that everyone thinks like that Zhang Ye fellow?"

...

Onstage.

Dong Shanshan looked into the camera and announced, "Welcome back to the show. And now, let's have our staff reopen the voting channels. The second round of the competition has begun!"

In the second round, which was also the final round, only one song remained for each contestant to perform. Their final song would decide their outcome and spot in the competition. Although there was still one more chance to perform alone after being crowned as Masked King, the prerequisite was winning.

The voting channels were opened!

The real-time tallies were shown on the big screen!

First: Flowing Time, 3.51 million votes

Second: King of Oddity, 2.68 million votes

Third: Petal Shower, 2.35 million votes

Fourth: Sunset Glow, 2 million votes

Fifth: The Clown, 1.3 million votes

The difference was too great!

The Clown had already fallen behind right at the beginning!

Han Qi kept quiet, a dark look on her face.

Hu Fei was not in a good mood either. He felt that he had done The Clown wrong this time, as well as Spinach. Hu Fei had even purposely gone to look for Spinach to offer his apologies to her a bit ago. The format of this competition was a mistake on their program team's part, and Hu Fei felt that he was responsible. However, Spinach did not seem like she was in the mood to talk. Hu Fei could see that Liao Yiqi had been dealt quite a blow, so he got even more worried about The Clown. He was afraid that he would not be able to withstand this pressure. The Clown was the contestant who had become the Masked King the most times so far. He was clearly the favorite to win and become the grand champion, yet he had now fallen all the way to the last place. This disparity was too much for anyone to accept!

But there was nothing they could do. The results were set in stone. The Clown had almost no chance of becoming the champion. They couldn't stop the competition now, nor could they change the rules at the last minute. All they could do was let the competition keep progressing!

A nocked arrow must fly! 1

Beijing Television's Head and several station heads had all come to watch the competition in person and were seated in a remote corner in the theater. After all, this was Beijing Television's most popular variety show in their history of existence. The entire television station's attention was on the team, and everyone had very high hopes for the show.

With Dong Shanshan's announcement, the final round of the competition began!

The audience fell silent!

Li Xiaoxian (Sunset Glow) came onto the stage!

"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!"

It was a rock song!

Sunset Glow was actually singing a rock song!

This song had once been performed by a female contestant on The Voice. But when it was sung by Li Xiaoxian, the style of the song was entirely different. There was very deep emotion within the singing as Li Xiaoxian used a restrained voice with feminine quiet to sing that rebellious shouting of the rock spirit!

"Who told you I can't sing!"

The entire audience perked up!

Scream after scream rang out!

Xiaodong and Amy gave each other a look and broke out into gratified smiles.

Their Spring Garden group was the most popular girl group in the country, but had always been mired in controversy. A lot of people called their singing into question and believed that they depended on their appearances to be successful. They'd heard so much criticism about themselves over the years but had never been able to give a proper response to those critics. But today, Li Xiaoxian had stepped forward. She had used the identity of Sunset Glow to let everyone know that they could also sing well, and that they could sing songs that people thought they couldn't! More importantly, they could sing well!

When her performance was over, Sunset Glow's vote count immediately soared!

The audience could see the constant change in her tallied votes from the real-time update on the big screen.

It increased by several hundreds of thousands of votes, and she surpassed Petal Shower in the rankings!

Li Xiaoxian's solo song required all of her singing skills that Sunset Glow was well-known for!

The next contestant was King of Oddity!

"Child.

"My child.

"How could I have a future without you?

"Child.

"My child.

"Dad will wait for your return!"

This was a charity single that had been released for an anti-human trafficking campaign. The original version had ten celebrities singing in it, and two of those ten were currently seated in the audience. One of them was Grandma Zhang Xia, the other was Jiang Hanwei. This was a song many people had heard before, and it immediately evoked a lot of memories.

Frankly, King of Oddity's singing was just average. He specialized in singing portamento, but this technique did not at all suit some songs. However, he had added some complex portamento and pauses into the song that made it sound a little too over the top. Yet somehow, the audience was touched and bought into it!

Before the song ended, King of Oddity's votes had increased by more than 500,000. It shot up by much more than Sunset Glow's increase, and his tally was now nearly even with Flowing Time's!

Some in the audience kept clapping.

"Great song!"

"How nostalgic it is to hear this again!"

"It looks like King of Oddity is really here to help charity today!"

"Yup, that's how all celebrities should be. Everyone should follow King of Oddity's example!"

"Just based on this charity theme song, I will vote for King of Oddity!"

"I've already voted for him, so I can't vote anymore."

During the first round, most of those watching the show had cast their votes. As a result, there wasn't as much of an increase in the tallies during the second round as compared to the first round where the tallies changed by 1 to 2 million votes per contestant. The uptick of votes for each of them in the second round was only in the region of several hundred thousand. This was expected due to the votes being cast earlier on. This was also the exact reason why all the contestants, other than The Clown, had chosen to take off their masks during the first round. Everyone knew that such a situation would occur, so they took off their masks early on to try to gain an advantage over the others. Otherwise, their chances of winning would have been minimized if they waited until the second round to do so. Unless someone sang an extraordinary song stunningly, there was almost no realistic chance of them bridging the difference in votes. This reason was why the program team and everyone else believed that The Clown had already lost his title chances.

There weren't enough votes!

And it would only lessen toward the end of the show!

...

The tally was constantly changing.

When Li Xiaoxian saw it, she gave a dry laugh.

Xiaodong was speechless. King of Oddity had performed this song about average, but how did he get so many votes? It seemed like Xiaoxian would not even stand a chance of getting placed in the top three.

Zhang Ye had changed into his other costume and had had his makeup done. He watched the TV in the waiting room and shook his head slightly.

This again?

He was playing the charity card again?

He was even starting to overuse this gimmick?

Was there no end to this?

Zhang Ye did not object to charity, so of course he wouldn't oppose it. But to do this on such an occasion, wasn't it too obvious what his objectives were? To put it bluntly, this was as good as moral abduction. He was using means other than singing to get the audience to want to vote for him! Li Xiaoxian had sung great even if she wasn't in her best shape today. She still managed to showcase a large part of her strengths in her performance, yet she did not get as many votes as King of Oddity did?

Immediately, Spinach's words echoed in her mind.

Is there really no recognition for those of us who just want to sing in peace?

Zhang Ye was silent.

Then he clenched his fists tightly!

Chapter 1076: Wild Rose's mask falls off!

King of Oddity stepped down from the stage and returned to his front row seat.

"Congratulations."

"You're guaranteed to finish in the top three."

"If it's close, you might even get first place."

"Haha, your tally will be moving into first place soon."

Jiang Hanwei and a few others offered their congratulations.

King of Oddity was also looking at his own tally. He got very excited knowing that he would be surpassing the first place Flowing Time in a moment. As a singer who was still considered half a newcomer to the industry and not really that popular yet, King of Oddity was pleased to have achieved such results in the King of Masked Singers' grand finals. Sunset Glow had finished performing, so it should be impossible for her to catch up to him. Although The Clown had not yet performed, as his tally was too far behind, he could be left out of consideration for the top three places, in which King of Oddity was pretty much assured a spot!

He might even get second?

There were three divisions in the ranking based on the tallies displayed on the big screen.

The first and second place votes were very close.

The third and fourth place votes were quite similar.

The last rung of the rankings belonged only to The Clown, whose number of votes was falling far behind.

"It's Petal Shower's turn!"

"Let's see how Old Fan does with her song."

"This performance is too important for Old Fan."

"Who will get crowned Masked King?"

"Flowing Time's chances are the best! He's leading by too much in the voting!"

Gradually, the number of people discussing The Clown lessened. Some of those who supported him were left cursing and protesting for him. But as this was a competition, and with the live tallies displayed

openly, they had no recourse but to continue watching the competition. Their attention was instead focused onto the battle between Petal Shower, King of Oddity, and Flowing Time.

Fan Wenli went onstage.

Chen Guang was watching her from the seats with a smile.

A lot of people were also watching her in anticipation.

Sure enough, Fan Wenli did not disappoint.

"Piercing lights hang overhead.

"I can hear the calls the crowd led.

"I stand at center stage, the only place I can, endlessly singing with a sweet smile spread.

"The sky is so blue.

"The water is so clear.

"How white the clouds are.

"The people are so kind.

"Love is so pure.

"How beautiful this world is."

All of a sudden, Fan Wenli raised her voice!

"But I don't wanna sing!

"I don't wanna sing today!

"I just wanna let the loneliness eat me away!

"I don't wanna sing!

"I just don't wanna sing!

"Those rotten lyrics that ain't worth a thing!"

The earlier duet had limited much of Fan Wenli's singing from being showcased. But in her solo performance, she was not bound by anything. She was able to let go and put all of her emotions and feelings into her singing. The title of this song was "I Don't Wanna Sing." It was an alternative rock song that Chen Guang wrote in his early days when he was in his most down-and-out period. This song meant a lot to Chen Guang, as well as Fan Wenli.

Zhang Xia stood up and clapped!

Xiaodong, Li Xiaoxian, and Amy also stood up and clapped!

Petal Shower's tally rocketed up!

3.2 million!

3.5 million!

3.6 million!

She surpassed King of Oddity and Flowing Time to take first place!

The rankings instantly changed!

Petal Shower was in first place!

Flowing Time was in second place!

King of Oddity was third!

"Petal Shower!"

"Petal Shower!"

"Great song!"

"Let's go Petal Shower!"

The audience was shouting her name!

Li Xiaoxian (Sunset Glow) was delighted. "Sister Fan will definitely become the champion!" She and The Clown were already out of the race, but she was hoping that Fan Wenli could at least become the champion of this competition. It wasn't that they were both women, or that they had a good personal relationship. It was because Li Xiaoxian felt that Fan Wenli had sung much better than both Flowing Time and King of Oddity!

Yao Jiancai said happily, "Congratulations."

Chen Guang smiled and said, "Old Zhao has not sung yet."

As Flowing Time's guest partner and a friend of many years, Jiang Hanwei chuckled. "Old Zhao still has a killer move lined up for his last song. Just watch."

Zhang Xia said curiously, "Oh?"

Onstage, Dong Shanshan announced, "Let's welcome the next contestant—Flowing Time!"

Flowing Time took the stage.

Soothing music played.

However, what came on over the sound system was not a singing voice but Flowing Time speaking. "Today is the one-hundred-day anniversary of my marriage to my wife. I would like to thank her for staying with me through the most difficult period of my life and encouraging me. I have written a special song for today's grand finals as a present for her."

Hu Fei's face sank!

The program team staff looked at each other!

During the rehearsal, this part was not mentioned, and he was not supposed to have made a speech. Why was he not singing, and instead, using an opening speech to set up the atmosphere? Usually, having speech within a song was fine. It wasn't like it was prohibited. But the program team felt that there was something very wrong with Flowing Time's speech. He was once again trying to play the emotional card and use it to canvass for more votes. If Flowing Time had mentioned he'd give this speech during the rehearsal, Hu Fei, as the executive director, would definitely not allow him to add it to the performance. But who could have expected that he would resort to a fait accompli instead of mentioning it to them in the first place!

Flowing Time sang.

"Dearest wife.

"Please hold me tight.

"Without you, I can't live.

"Without you, I won't survive."

Seated in the audience was Wang Zhuishu, an accomplished professional composer and lyricist. He had written many songs, so when he heard this song and its lyrics, he knew right off the bat that Flowing Time did not really know how to write songs. The lyrics were middling, although the melody was decent.

Zhang Xia glanced at Jiang Hanwei.

Xiaodong, who was sitting quite close to Jiang Hanwei, laughed dryly.

Was this the killer move you mentioned?

This song...

Ai, I'd rather not talk about it.

Jiang Hanwei was an outsider to the music industry, not someone who did music professionally. As such, the professional singers and musicians seated around him did not really say much about this.

But what surprised them was that the audience had actually bought into Flowing Time's gimmick!

Because of that opening speech in which Flowing Time mentioned that he was gifting the song to his wife!

"What a good man!"

"My impression of Flowing Time has changed for the better!"

"It's not easy on him either."

"Yeah, all that bad press about him in the past. Ai, I guess I could let it slide. I should vote for him just for this song of his, or else I won't feel good."

"Flowing Time is quite sentimental!"

"When he got divorced, Old Zhao's ex-wife posted on Weibo alleging that he had beaten her up. I suppose that was just a rumor. Old Zhao has a great character and is also pretty gentle."

"This song sounds really touching."

"Who on earth is his wife?"

"I really wanna find out! Quick, let's vote for him. Didn't Teacher Jiang Hanwei say? As long as Flowing Time becomes the grand champion, he'll reveal the details of their marriage!"

"That's right, that's right!"

The tally kept changing!

Zhang Xia was dumbfounded!

Chen Guang and the others were also stunned!

The song was not over yet, but Flowing Time's tally had caught up to Petal Shower's!

By the time the song was over, he had surpassed her tally with an astonishing 4 million votes. This number made those professional singers and guests' jaws drop. Even Yao Jiancai had to have some admiration for Zhao Qiquan. Although the song was not that good, he really knew how to spice things up to get the votes. His gimmicks kept coming one after another. From his first song onward, he was in total control of the audience's emotions. He had planned it all out, from start to finish. Clearly, his emotional card had struck a chord with the audience better than King of Oddity's charity card. Most critically, everyone still did not know who his wife was. This anticipation left them wanting more!

After his performance.

Flowing Time came down from the stage.

Jiang Hanwei stood up and gave him a hug. "Haha, you sang well!"

"Thanks." Then Flowing Time walked to Fan Wenli.

Fan Wenli also gave him a hug and smiled.

Li Xiaoxian stood up as well. "Congratulations."

"Thank you." Next, Flowing Time went over to Wild Rose.

Such hugs were quite common to see in theaters. It was a form of congratulations and encouragement.

Flowing Time bent forward a slight bit and already had his arms out.

However, surprising many people, Wild Rose did not even get up from her seat. She just put up a hand. "Don't mind me. You didn't sing too bad. Hurry up and sit."

Flowing Time was taken aback too.

Damn! She was not giving any face to him at all?

The live broadcast cut to Flowing Time's hugs with the other contestant and guests. But in a twist of fate, this moment was captured by the cameras, leaving the cameraman to sweat nervously. He yanked the shot away from them, but that scene had already been seen by everyone. No matter if it was the live audience or the home viewers, everyone was taken aback.

"Pfft!"

"Who is this woman?"

"How face smacking!"

"She's not even returning the gesture to the grand champion?"

"Who are you referring to as the grand champion? The competition hasn't ended yet."

"It's already over, OK?"

"Yeah, the Masked King has already been decided. It's definitely going to be Zhao Qiquan!"

"It doesn't matter whether The Clown goes up on stage or not anymore."

"Hahaha, this Wild Rose is interesting. I'm very curious about who she is. It looks like what the netizens said about both her and The Clown were right. They're definitely newcomers who don't know how to play by the rules!"

"Wild Rose has offended Flowing Time!"

Some of Flowing Time's fans were cursing at this.

"Fuck."

"Who is this woman!"

"She's so disrespectful!"

"Why's a newcomer like you getting all arrogant!"

Flowing Time also looked a little unhappy. He was irate but maintained the smile on his face. He didn't seem like he minded it at all. Then he went over to Jiang Hanwei and had a few words with him before sitting down.

Xiaodong and Amy looked at Wild Rose in amazement.

Zhang Xia and Fan Wenli were also staring at her.

Dong Shanshan announced, "Next, let's welcome the last contestant—The Clown!"

Applause sounded.

In reality, it was just encouraging applause. The gap between the tallies was too large. The only person who could catch up to Flowing Time now was Petal Shower, but even that didn't seem too likely anymore. The difference was already more than 300,000 votes, while The Clown, in the last place, was still at his previous tally of just over a million. He was behind Flowing Time by almost 3 million votes!

How could he possibly catch up?

It was totally impossible!

As a result, the championship was practically in Flowing Time's hands. The last song of the competition had lost all meaning since it didn't matter whether The Clown sang or not!

Some of the audience members sighed sadly.

"The Clown should have placed much higher than this."

"Yeah, that should absolutely not have been a problem with the strength that he has."

"Ai, he deserved it for being so stubborn. Who told him to not take off his mask?"

"It's not that he doesn't want to do it. I'm sure it's because he and Wild Rose, who he invited, are both little-known, so no one would recognize them even if they took off their masks. If they did, it might cause a reverse effect instead, so they might as well try to keep it mysterious."

"You're right! But that's why Flowing Time will win. His reputation was already quite big to begin with, and he even got A-lister Jiang Hanwei to be his guest partner!"

"Showbiz is still very dependent on one's popularity."

"The Clown didn't lose for no reason."

"He's just a newcomer, so he can still slowly work his way up."

The Clown had already stepped onto the stage.

But right at this moment, an accident occurred!

Wild Rose's hair was a little messy, so she put her hand behind her head and straightened it a little. But, intentional or not, the mask on her face loosened and thudded onto the floor!

Her mask fell off!

A perfectly sculpted face was exposed to everyone's sight!

When Jiang Hanwei heard the commotion, he instinctively turned his head. He was just about to bend down to pick up the mask for Wild Rose like a gentleman would when he saw her face. He was immediately stunned!

Zhang Xia was stunned!

Li Xiaoxian was stunned!

Flowing Time was stunned!

Hu Fei was stunned!

The program team was stunned!

The entire live audience was so shocked that their jaws dropped to the floor!

Chapter 1077: 'Exaggerated' brought to life!

It went quiet!

There was dead silence in the theater!

There was also dead silence at home!

When Wild Rose saw that everyone was looking at her, she chuckled and bent down to pick up her mask. "Aiyo, my mask fell off. I'm sorry about that, hur hur."

Zhang Yuanqi!

It was the Heavenly Queen Zhang Yuanqi!

The entire place was shocked!

Or rather, the place was dumbfounded!

Zhang Xia was startled. "Yuanqi?"

Xiaodong stared hard. "Sister Zhang?"

"Sister Zhang, it's you!" Amy and Li Xiaoxian simply could not believe it!

Fan Wenli didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "And I was just wondering who could have sung so well!"

Jiang Hanwei said in surprise, "What are you doing here?"

Flowing Time was sweating nervously now and looked embarrassed. He had wanted to give a hug to Wild Rose earlier, but was rejected with a simple response from her. Flowing Time had been infuriated by her rejection, but now, he could not even get angry. With Zhang Yuanqi's status in the entertainment industry, even if she did not accept his hug and had criticized him on the spot, he would still have to stand there and take the abuse.

Why was it her?

Why was it Zhang Yuanqi?

How could The Clown have possibly managed to invite her!

How could The Clown have possibly moved the Heavenly Queen with his invitation!

In an instant, the place blew up!

A lot of people had only just returned to their senses!

"Holy shit!"

"Oh my god!"

"It's Sister Zhang!"

"It was her who sang 'Love of a Lifetime' just now?"

"Goddamn!"

"This is too insane!"

"How could Sister Zhang take part in a competitive show? It's impossible!"

"Did The Clown invite her? Who on earth is The Clown! He even managed to invite Sister Zhang?"

"A newcomer? Who the fuck said that they were newcomers? Huh?"

"Is Sister Zhang a newcomer? Can you guys not be so funny?"

"I've realized that we were wrong; we've made a colossal mistake! Who said that they didn't take off their masks because they were unknowns? Huh? Who said that? The Clown is amazing! He even invited Sister Zhang to be his celebrity guest partner? What kind of a person is he?"

Everyone was so shocked that they were unable to get a hold of themselves!

Han Qi's jaw dropped!

Even Hu Fei, Hou Ge, Xiao Lu, and the rest of the program team staff went slack-jawed. They did not know who Wild Rose really was either! The Heavenly Queen had come to King of Masked Singers?

Backstage, Spinach was watching the show on TV in shock!

Li Xiaoxian could no longer bear it and asked, "Sister Zhang, why didn't you take off your mask earlier then? If you had done it..."

Zhang Yuanqi smiled. "He wouldn't let me."

Fan Wenli said in surprise, "Why not?"

Zhang Xia said, "Yuanqi, who on earth is he? He could even convince you to come?"

Amy said, "Both of you should have taken off your masks in the first round!"

No one knew what The Clown was thinking. If Zhang Yuanqi had taken off her mask and revealed herself in the first round, The Clown would surely have been crowned champion, without question. No matter if it was King of Oddity using his charity card, or if Flowing Time had invited Huo Dongfang or Jiang Hanwei and played the emotional card, all of those would have been meaningless. As long as Zhang Yuanqi was standing beside The Clown, he would definitely have been the champion tonight!

Yao Jiancai and Zhang Xia looked at The Clown who was already standing onstage!

The live audience looked at him!

The TV viewers looked at him!

It was the second round now and the last song of the competition. How can you still catch up? Even if Sister Zhang's identity has been exposed, you still can't catch up!

You clearly could have won!

You clearly could have taken a huge lead in the first round!

But why?

Just why didn't you?

All eyes fell on The Clown.

Onstage.

Zhang Ye stood there quietly.

He was dressed in a suit, all in white, and looked particularly clean and quiet at present. Spinach's words kept playing in his mind, echoing over and over again. When he saw Spinach getting eliminated, Sunset Glow falling behind in the rankings, and Petal Shower being unable to fight Flowing Time's tally even though she had sung so well, Zhang Ye couldn't help but think of what he had gone through in the past. Without a face, without a background, and without anything to speak of, all he had was a burning passion and his determination. But journeying down this path was so difficult and such a struggle that no one would be able to see or understand it!

Determination, is it wrong?

Hard work, is it wrong?

Why do you guys only see the fancy things in life?

Why don't you even glance at the people working slowly and steadily?

Can't you all see me?

Can you really not see people like us?

Everyone was asking Zhang Ye why!

But in Zhang Ye's heart, he was also asking everyone why!

I'm not going to take off my mask!

I'm not going to canvass for votes!

I'm not doing any gimmicks!

I just want to sing in peace!

Is that not allowed?

Why can't I do that?

The music played!

The notes of the piano flowed like water!

It sounded rather heavy!

It sounded rather sad!

Zhang Ye suddenly opened his eyes and looked at the other contestants, the live audience, the live broadcast cameras. With anger and questioning, he raised his microphone 1 .

"You only see the brightest of stars in the starry night sky.

"In a crowd you adore the one with the hottest stories, the most come by."

The audience was stunned!

Zhang Xia was stunned!

Zhang Yuanqi was also stunned!

This song...

Zhang Ye lightly laughed. "Who doesn't long to stand at the center of the stage."

He looked up at the lights around him. "The halo shining only for me.

"After the show's over and the curtains come down, who cares what you think,

"and who cares what you do then?

"Exaggeration is not a crime.

"It can fill an empty and tedious lifetime.

"Those prying eyes, that gossiping mouth, they spice up every get-together's downtime."

In the audience, those who had been talking and criticizing The Clown for not understanding how to adapt suddenly fell silent. They could not say anything at all!

Zhang Ye's voice went higher as he made a mocking gesture!

He was questioning them!

He was questioning all of them!

"Do we really have to exaggerate?

"Whether it is right or wrong, false or true?

"Comparing style, image, and value!"

Zhang Ye pointed at everyone and sang loudly.

"Who would speak their mind?

"Who would speak their mind?

"As long as the picture is shocking!

"As long as the story blows up in kind!

"Flowing out of my mouth is mocking,

"hyperbole, and laughter aligned!

"Only at night before the mirror can I secretly tell the truth unrefined!"

Zhang Ye now laughed insolently and rudely. It was a laugh of ridicule and derision!

King of Oddity's face had turned green from anger!

Flowing Time's face was at once flush red and flush white!

King of Oddity's and Flowing Time's fans in the audience were also angered!

"What is this!"

"He's obviously implying something!"

"Damn, who're you trying to criticize?"

"This Clown is awful!"

"He's exactly the type of person I dislike!"

"I don't like him either. Why is he accusing our Flowing Time for no reason!"

However, The Clown's voice rang out again!

Zhang Ye sang to those in the audience.

"Whether you like me

"or don't like me,

"that is your choice!"

Those people who had been talking ill of The Clown were stunned!

"I'm just hoping to voice myself sometimes and catch your ear.

"Since I sang the first note of my musical dream,

"I have never given up here!

"There are too many obstacles from myself, circumstances, and onlookers.

"Good or bad, I have bear it."

Zhang Ye sang high.

"So I want to sing a song of praise!

"And in the song set my emotions ablaze!

"Though there's many options, how many good songs are there that can move people and give them feeling?

"Do we really have to exaggerate?

"Whether it is right or wrong, false or true?

"Comparing style, image, and value!

"Who's the big winner!

"Who's the big winner!

"As long as the picture is shocking! / As long as the story blows up in kind!

"Flowing out of my mouth is mocking, hyperbole and laughter aligned. / Only at night before the mirror
can I secretly tell the truth unrefined!

"Ahhh.

"Ahhhhh."

Chen Guang could no longer help himself and stood up. "Great!"

Absorbed in the music, Fan Wenli said, "Now this is singing!"

Zhang Yuanqi sighed and said, "Now this is a musical genius, as well as a musical madman!"

For some reasons, Li Xiaoxian's eyes reddened.

Everyone had been shocked by this song!

They were in disbelief that there could be this sort of song! How could anyone sing a song like this! He
was a natural-born singer! The Clown really was the favored Son of Heaven! He seemed to have been
born just for this industry! Even genius singers like Fan Wenli and Chen Guang felt a little envious of him!
A singer like you should've already become world famous. So why? Why was someone as lucky as you—

However, The Clown's next line dumbfounded them once again!

Zhang Ye shook his head and flapped his hands.

"The lucky one is not me.

"Because the path I've chosen is very tough!

"If I'm remarkable but can't stand out enough,

"I must at least make sure there's no one else like me!"

Canvassing for votes?

Resorting to gimmicks?

They could make speeches better than they could sing?

Using charitable acts as a weapon?

Morally abducting the audience?

Should I also do the same?

Do I really have to learn from all that to win?

Zhang Ye suddenly raised his voice and went into his head voice. He grabbed his chest tight and poured all his confusion, doubt, and anger into song.

"Do we really have to exaggerate?

"I too grappled with it in my heart!"

He pointed at himself, jabbed his chest.

"When I was working hard on my own,

"did anyone see me?

"Would anyone know?"

For a song, I did not sleep for two days!

I always try my best in everything I do!

I've really worked my tail off!

But did you guys see?

Did you know?

The audience was falling into low spirits!

They suddenly felt something heavy tie up their hearts, something that made them want to cry!

Meanwhile, Zhang Ye seemed to go crazy. He shout-sang.

"Singing until my thoughts dissolve!

"And until my throat goes hoarse!

"You can say that I am enthralled!

"That I've gone crazy!

"But if I can't be carefree, how can I call myself a singer?

"Ahhh!"

He pointed at the camera, at all of the audience members. He shouted with a staunch and stubborn look in his eyes, "Look at me shining for you-u-u-u-u-u-u!"

Spinach cried!

Li Xiaoxian could no longer hold back her tears and they rolled down her cheeks!

They did not know why they were crying, they really did not know why!

But as they watched and cried at The Clown's onstage mournful shout-singing, many other people started crying their hearts out as well!

All of the live audience stood up in shock!

The home viewers got the goosebumps from listening to the song and stood up in shock as well!

Zhang Ye pointed at the audience and yelled.

"Whether you like it or not,

"please accept me graciously!"

All of a sudden, his voice soared an octave higher!

Yelling!

Screaming!

Fury!

"As the next moment is when I'll sparkle for you-u-u-u!

"HEEEEEEEYYYYY!"

Look at me!

Please, all of you. Look at me!

I am The Clown!

I am singing for every one of you!

The place exploded!

Everyone went insane!

Everyone stood up as though they had gone mad and were screaming like crazy!

Chapter 1078: Shocking the world!

Things got out of hand!

The place blew up!

The entire live broadcast venue was reverberating with The Clown's scream of madness at the end. All that oppression, confusion, rage, and determination were let out with that final scream. He blew up entirely and screamed to the point that his lungs almost tore apart. The artistry and soul of this song from beginning to end were all assimilated into this last outburst!

The entire song.

All of the lyrics.

Every part of his singing.

It could only be described as shocking!

Fan Wenli was shocked!

Zhang Xia, Xiaodong and the rest were also taken aback!

What kind of song was this?

What kind of person was this?

Li Xiaoxian was already in tears. She raised her hand high and gave a thumbs up!

In the staff area, Han Qi was also crying. She was covered in goosebumps and was so emotional that she did not know how to express herself. All she could do was vent in the most primitive of ways by shouting, "The Clown! The Clown! The Clown!"

In the audience.

His mother stood up and shouted, "The Clown!"

Zhang Ye's three sisters literally jumped out of their seats. "The Clown!"

Ha Qiqi shouted, "The Clown!"

Zhang Zuo raised both his hands and shouted loudly, "The Clown!"

A male audience member screamed, "The Clown!"

A female audience member was in tears and saying, "The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

"The Clown!"

One person!

A hundred people!

A thousand people!

The shouting was becoming more and more united!

The shouting was getting louder and louder!

Suddenly, someone in the audience shouted out something different that caused everyone to follow suit!

That person shouted, "Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

"Cham-pi-on!"

His mother was shouting!

His father was also shouting!

The audience was shouting like crazy. With this song, the previous performances by Flowing Time, Petal Shower, and King of Oddity had all been thrown to the back of everyone's minds. None of those songs mattered anymore!

Onstage, Zhang Ye's voice had gone hoarse. Even after the music had stopped, he was still deeply immersed in the emotions of his singing. It was the shouting that brought him back to reality. When he saw the sea of people in the audience standing up and chanting his stage name, mixed with calls of "champion," Zhang Ye froze for a moment. He suddenly understood why he was able to persevere up till now.

Hu Fei sighed, "He's really, really great!"

Xiao Lu wiped away her tears and said, "Why, why am I reminded of Teacher Zhang!"

Hou Ge said, "Yeah, these lyrics also made me think of Teacher Zhang. He's just like The Clown, always encountering those difficult situations along the way and getting ignored by people. Others may not know and simply criticize him. But those who have ever worked with Teacher Zhang know! Do they even know how much hard work Teacher Zhang puts into making his shows? Have they seen it for themselves? Whether it's Teacher Zhang or The Clown, both of them really have not had it easy!"

Dafei said, "The lyrics were so well-written!"

This song was called "Exaggerated."

The original was Eason Chan's Cantonese version 1, but Zhang Ye chose to sing Terry Lin's Mandarin version 2 for his performance. These two versions were both very good songs and he liked them very much as well. However, the meanings behind them were polar opposites. He had chosen to sing the Mandarin version because it expressed the exact situation that he was in now, and it was also what he had been hoping to say all these years!

In all fairness, this was not a song that one would be amazed with when they first heard it. At least, Zhang Ye did not feel this way when he first heard the song. Whether it was the Mandarin or the Cantonese version, he did not feel much for either of them and could not remember the lyrics either. In fact, he did not even know what the songs were trying to convey. The melody was also not that beautiful. But when he listened to it for the fifth time, and then the tenth time, he suddenly felt very surprised by it. Afterwards, it was only a matter of falling in love with the song.

This was the type of song that slowly became nicer with time. But today, Zhang Ye made it popular almost immediately due to the atmosphere, setting, and message behind it!

Zhang Ye walked off the stage.

Using the window of time before he returned to his seat, Amy looked at Chen Guang and asked, "Teacher Chen, if you had joined the competition and faced The Clown onstage, who do you think would win?"

She did not mean it maliciously.

Amy really was just being curious.

For those at today's taping, if they mentioned the two best singers present at the venue, the best would definitely be Zhang Yuanqi. But second best would not be Fan Wenli, Zhang Xia, Li Xiaoxian, nor Xiaodong. It would be Chen Guang—this was not Amy's personal ranking of them, but the long accepted opinion of the public and the industry.

Chen Guang smiled wryly. "I wouldn't want to think about that."

Amy did not understand. "Ah? What do you mean?"

Fan Wenli laughed and said, "What Old Chen is trying to say is that he wouldn't want to be standing on the same stage and competing against someone like The Clown." Then, she gave Chen Guang a look. "Afraid you'd lose?"

Chen Guang rolled his eyes but did not answer.

Would he lose?

Chen Guang did not know.

He only knew one thing. To beat The Clown...it would be extremely difficult!

Especially this song The Clown sang today called "Exaggerated." Even if it was Zhang Yuanqi competing against The Clown, she might not be able to beat him. The Clown was really insane today. This song was insane. His singing was insane. Everyone who was here today was seemingly baptized from head to toe by this song! This was the charm of song, the charm of music. But most importantly, it was the charm of the singer. Chen Guang questioned whether he could sing this song as well as The Clown if it had been given to him. That final scream at the end was a mixture of complex emotions and not something that just anyone could sing!

He could not do it.

Fan Wenli could not do it.

Li Xiaoxian could not do it.

Flowing Time could not do it.

Even Sister Zhang would probably not be able to do it.

That scream could only have come from The Clown!

...

In the outside world.

Shock had also descended upon everyone watching at this moment!

Among the viewers who were watching the King of Masked Singers grand finals on their televisions, nine out of ten were stunned by what they saw!

They hadn't been interested in listening to The Clown's last song originally, thinking that the results had already been decided. Every one of them knew that The Clown would not have a chance of being crowned champion anymore. But when Wild Rose's mask fell off, when "Exaggerated" played on TV, almost all of them got a shock!

They had been shocked by "Exaggerated"!

They had been shocked by The Clown's determination and anger!

"Quick, tune into the live broadcast!"

"Holy shit!"

"The Clown has blown his top!"

"This song is just too goddamn awesome, isn't it?"

"Oh God, I'm going crazy from listening to this!"

"What's this song called? Goddammit!"

"It's called 'Exaggerated'!"

"How can there be such an awesome song in this world! It's even an original? Today's the first time it's been sung? Fuck, who the hell wrote this song for him!"

"It's the last song of the finals? Ah! Quickly go and vote!"

"Oh right, voting is still ongoing!"

"I already voted for Flowing Time. What do I do now?"

"My vote has been cast as well. I fucking gave it to King of Oddity! Fuck, curse these hands of mine! If only I had known, I wouldn't have voted so early on! I would definitely, 10,000%, have voted for The Clown! I can't even take back my vote now! No, I can't just let this be. I'll go get my parents' cell phones to vote!"

"Hurry, everyone!"

"We don't have much time!"

"Comrades, give your votes to The Clown!"

"If a singer like him were to place last in this competition, that would really be too deplorable! That would be an insult to the entire music industry!"

"I'm here!"

"I've voted!"

"Damn, do we need you to tell us? I've voted already!"

"I'm gonna call my sister and brother to get them to vote as well!"

"Just based on this song, I don't care who The Clown turns out to be after he unmask himself. I will fucking become his braindead fan for life! For life! With this post as my witness!"

"Count me in!"

"Count me in too!"

"Since 'The Internationale,' I've been a diehard fan of The Clown. But with this 'Exaggerated,' I'm going to turn into a braindead fan from now on!"

"No impulsiveness, no exaggeration, no bluffing! The Clown is the only true singer!"

"He's the only person to sing with all his soul on this stage!"

There was an explosion of comments on Weibo!

The industry insiders were blowing up with excitement!

"Exaggerated" had shocked the world!

Chapter 1079: The grand champion is born!

At the venue of the grand finals.

The Clown walked back to his seat in the front row.

Amy came over and asked anxiously, "Teacher, which famous figure are you, really? Can you stop teasing us like this? I beg of you, please tell me! I'm dying of curiosity!"

Xiaodong stared at The Clown.

Li Xiaoxian and the others were also looking at him.

The final song had been performed. However, The Clown still did not take off his mask. A lot of people were very curious but also very worried about The Clown at the same time. There was not much time left as it was the last performance in the battle for the grand champion. Since this was the final sprint, why are you still not taking off your mask? What are you still waiting for? It'll be too late to reveal yourself when the results are announced! You still have some time to increase your number of votes if you reveal your face now!

Flowing Time was feeling rather nervous as he looked at The Clown.

King of Oddity was feeling the same, his fingers continuously fidgeting and tapping his thigh. Clearly, he was not as calm as he looked.

They naturally did not wish for The Clown to reveal himself!

This song had actually impressed the two of them. Although the lyrics were scolding them, they were still impressed with it!

Wang Zhuishu asked, "Who are you?"

The Clown still did not answer.

He had promised Spinach!

Is there no recognition for those of us who just want to sing earnestly?

Zhang Ye wanted to tell her that this path was not a dead end and that she could still continue journeying down it!

Therefore, he was very insistent on not revealing his face!

"Teacher?"

"Famous person?"

"Say something?"

The Clown smiled and shook his head in silence.

Amy huffed and tried again to change his mind.

Li Xiaoxian tugged at her. "Don't."

After listening to the song "Exaggerated," they understood Teacher Clown's character. He definitely would not change his mind once he had decided on something. Li Xiaoxian clearly understood that before the results were announced, The Clown would surely not take off his mask. There was no reason, but she just knew that it would be like this.

Dong Shanshan appeared back onstage.

She checked the remaining time before announcing, "Now that the final song has been performed, we're only three minutes away from the end of the voting. The voting window will close in three minutes!"

In the audience.

His mother quickly said, "I'm going to vote as well. Mengmeng, how do I vote? Help me vote, quickly!"

His third sister took the cell phone from her and asked, "Who do you want to vote for?"

His mother said, "For The Clown, of course! Do you even need to ask? This young man sang so well! His parents are also here today, and they're seated here in the crowd with us. How can we allow his parents to witness him getting last place despite singing so well? Just how heart-wrenching would that be! Hurry up and vote!"

His father nodded firmly. "Well said. Mengmeng, take my cell phone too."

His third sister went right into action. "OK, I'll help the two of you to vote!"

His second sister said loudly, "I voted for The Clown too. Is there still time to catch up? There's probably not enough time for that, right?"

His eldest sister slapped her thigh and said, "The difference in the votes from earlier was just too much! If it was just a difference of a few hundred thousand votes, he could definitely catch up. But the difference was 2 to 3 million votes! So how can he possibly catch up?"

His second sister slapped her forehead and said, "Oh no, oh no! My idol won't be crowned grand champion!"

At the venue, many of the audience members were rushing to vote as well!

There were less than 3 minutes left!

Dong Shanshan announced, "Alright, let's take a look at the latest tallies. Can we have our staff pull it up on the big screen? Thank you."

These words made everyone even more nervous!

When they heard, everyone immediately looked up!

Zhang Yuanqi looked at the screen with narrowed eyes!

Zhang Xia stared with wide eyes!

Chen Guang and Fan Wenli did not blink at all!

Everyone's attention focused on the big screen!

The television viewers were also watching intently!

Li Xiaoxian clenched her fists!

Backstage, Liao Yiqi (Spinach) took a deep breath, as she was so nervous that her hands were trembling!

The Clown's liaison, Han Qi, had already closed her eyes. She was afraid to even peek. Clasp her hands together and facing the big screen, she kept chanting some words that the staff around her could not understand. She sounded like she was praying!

Only King of Oddity and Flowing Time felt a little relaxed. When they heard that The Clown would not be taking off his mask, they felt completely at ease and heaved a long sigh of relief. To them, as long as The Clown did not take off his mask, he would have no chance of winning today even if Zhang Yuanqi's identity had already been exposed. The main issue here was that Zhang Yuanqi's mask had fallen off too late, during the last few minutes of the competition before the final song began. It would not help The Clown much even if she was the Heavenly Queen!

First place should stay with Flowing Time!

King of Oddity's position in the top three was also guaranteed!

Xiao Lu said, "What a shame."

Dafei sighed. "It was a bit too late. If it happened a little earlier...hai!"

Hou Ge said, "He really had the ability to be crowned the champion, but it was too little, too late!"

Following that, the tallies were displayed on the big screen!

When they saw the results, the entire venue fell dead silent!

First:

Flowing Time, 4.01 million votes!

Second:

The Clown, 3.56 million votes!

Third:

Petal Shower, 3.21 million votes!

Amy was dumbfounded by the results!

Fan Wenli and Chen Guang looked at each other in astonishment!

Zhang Yuanqi smiled!

Xiaodong screamed, "Oh my goodness!"

The audience suddenly boiled over with excitement!

Many people jumped up in shock!

His parents got very excited!

Zhang Ye's three sisters wore shocked expressions!

Zhang Xia, Yao Jiancai, and the others were all staring at the screen in disbelief!

"He's catching up!"

"Fuck, The Clown is catching up!"

"He's catching up from a million votes behind!"

"His votes tripled?"

"Ahhhh!"

"Are you serious?"

"The difference is only 400,000 votes! It's only a difference of 400,000 now!"

"Oh my God!"

"This is crazy! This is fucking crazy!"

Flowing Time was so shocked that he nearly fell out of his chair!

How is that possible!

Just how is that possible!

How could he have caught up?

There's no reason for him to have caught up!

Jiang Hanwei was stunned and his jaw dropped!

King of Oddity and his guest partner were also stunned!

It...it was just impossible!

There were only 90 seconds left to go!

Flowing Time's tally had already stopped moving. It seemed to have stopped at 4.01 million votes while The Clowns' tally was still surging up at an incredible rate!

3.60 million!

3.70 million!

3.80 million!

Dong Shanshan froze onstage!

No one thought The Clown would actually catch up!

No one thought The Clown would actually achieve a feat that even the gods might not be able to achieve!

There were still 40 seconds to go!

There were still 39 seconds to go!

The entire audience stood up!

A lot of people could not take this excitement and were so nervous that their hearts nearly burst from their chests!

Countless viewers watching TV started screaming. They were witnessing a miracle right now!

3.85 million!

3.90 million!

3.95 million!

Counting down to the last ten seconds!

Backstage, Spinach was finding it hard to stifle her emotions as she rushed back into the theater!

Han Qi looked at the tally on the screen, and tears rolled down uncontrollably!

Dumbfounded, Hu Fei gazed at the screen!

Everyone looked at the screen with stunned faces!

3.98 million!

Five seconds!

Four seconds!

3.99 million!

4 million!

4.01 million!

4.02 million!

At this moment, the voting ended!

Looking at the final results of the voting, everyone was stunned. Then, they suddenly screamed and cheered!

"He won!"

"He won!"

"He really won!"

"The Clown is the Masked King!"

"Ahhhhhhh!"

"Masked King!"

"Masked King!"

"Masked King!"

"Masked King!"

"Masked King!"

The audience started chanting in unison!

Even the ceiling was almost blown away!

Chapter 1080: Gu Cheng's 'Life Fantasia'!

On the stage.

Dong Shanshan announced loudly, "The grand champion of the first season of King of Masked Singers is—The Clown!"

All the cameras focused on The Clown!

All the guests and audience members stood up to clap for him!

Han Qi cried as she hugged Xiao Lu, who was next to her, and shouted, "We've won! We've won!"

Spinach's tears were also flowing. Teacher Clown! Thank you! Thank you! You've really carried out your promise to me! I will continue journeying down this path. From now on, I won't waver again!

A miracle!

This was a crazy miracle!

The Clown had managed to jump from last place with slightly over a million votes to first place with his final song and in the last few minutes of voting. There had never before been such a turn of events at any of the other singing competitions! Never!

Everyone was dumbfounded!

King of Oddity felt a sense of bitterness.

Flowing Time was crying out "impossible" over and over again in his head!

He should have been the champion!

The grand champion was supposed to be him!

But why did it end up like this?

Why did so many people vote for The Clown?

This influence, this appeal, this singing, they couldn't have come from someone who was just an unknown!

Who are you?

Just who the hell are you?

Suddenly, a female audience member shouted, "Take off your mask and reveal yourself!"

Instantaneously, many others joined with her!

All of the audience started chanting in unison!

"Reveal!"

"Reveal!"

"Reveal!"

"Reveal!"

Then, even the guests followed along and chanted!

Zhang Xia laughed and said, "Reveal!"

Amy said loudly, "Reveal!"

Fan Wenli said, "Reveal"

Li Xiaoxian said, "Reveal!"

Zhang Yuanqi was keeping a close eye on The Clown, who was walking away.

Zhang Ye exited the stage and went backstage to change costumes. He still had another song left to perform as the competition allowed the grand champion to get one final performance!

Dong Shanshan looked slightly excited onstage. She said loudly, "Today, the first grand champion of King of Masked Singers has been born. We're extremely excited to witness the birth of a legendary singer. Perhaps he might have been an unknown singer that few know of. Perhaps he might have been a bright and shining star. We don't know who he was, but we all want to know who he is. We all want to see what the face beneath The Clown's mask looks like, and to know what sort of a person he is!"

The theater fell silent!

The home viewers were staring at their TVs with hanging jaws!

Dong Shanshan said loudly, "Now the chance has finally come after waiting so long. The Clown will be taking his mask off very soon. I know you're all as anxious as I am, but please give Teacher Clown a minute to get changed. He still has one song left to perform. Later, during the song, The Clown's identity shall be revealed!"

...

Weibo was blowing up!

The King of Masked Singers' thread was flooding with comments!

"He really won!"

"He's finally going to reveal himself!"

"Quick, go and watch Beijing TV!"

"The Clown is going to reveal his face soon!"

"I freaking wanna know who the hell this saint is!"

"He's really amazing! Amazing!"

"What? The Clown was crowned champion? Didn't he have no chance? I stopped watching just now! What happened? What happened during the last few minutes?"

"Previous poster, just go and cry yourself to sleep!"

"Something big happened during that time! The Clown totally turned the tide with his efforts!"

"Holy shit! Seriously? He could even catch up in those circumstances? Who on earth is he?"

"That's what we wanna know too!"

"Your question is being asked by people all over the country right now!"

...

Within the industry.

The music industry.

Whether it was the newcomers, the active singers, or even the retired musicians, all of them were alarmed at this moment. They all had their televisions switched on and were currently staring intently at the screen!

"Did anyone manage to guess who he is?"

"No!"

"No one was able to guess at all!"

"Who is he, where did he get his songs—nobody knows!"

"He's about to reveal himself!"

"Wait for him to finish changing his costume!"

It was not only the people from the music industry!

People from other professions in the entertainment industry were also watching their televisions in amazement!

Huo Dongfang was watching!

Ning Lan was watching!

Tang Dazhang was also watching!

...

The viewership rating kept soaring!

The viewership rating for King of Masked Singers at this point in time had reached a historical high. Even when The Clown was singing "Exaggerated," the viewership rating was not as high as this moment!

Backstage.

The waiting room door opened.

Zhang Ye had changed into his costume and was about to walk out!

However, the staff who were standing and waiting outside were all surprised when they saw him!

Han Qi was stunned!

Xiao Lu was dumbfounded!

Dafei nearly fainted on the spot!

Xiao Lu pointed at The Clown's outfit and cried out, "A-Are you gonna wear that?"

Dafei said, "Did you change into the wrong outfit?"

The Clown laughed. "No, this is the correct one."

Han Qi said anxiously, "B-But how can you wear that? How can you wear something like that!"

However, The Clown said, "This is it. Let's go already!"

Along the way, all the staff who saw him were also startled, without an exception. They all stood there and watched him, dumbfounded, then turned to stare at each other with odd expressions!

At the venue.

The piano played!

The music was starting!

The audience was very confused by this.

"Where is he?"

"Why isn't anyone coming out yet?"

"Did they play the music too early?"

"Where's The Clown?"

"Eh, why is there music playing?"

Nobody was sure of what was going on.

In the audience, his mother was blinking and wondering what was happening.

His father peered at the waiting area.

Right at this moment, before even appearing on stage, The Clown's voice rang out through the venue. It was him speaking. He was speaking against a musical backdrop!

"There are always people asking me why I came to this stage. There are always people asking me what is it that I'm trying to achieve. Today, I will happily answer those questions. The reason why I came here and those songs that I chose were all for a dream that I have. A rather laughable, but very great dream."

The Clown's microphone was already connected to the sound system!

He was walking over from backstage!

The mood of the audience was once again lifted. Everyone pricked their ears up to listen!

With the piano accompaniment, The Clown's voice drifted out from all sides as he recited.

"Put my visions and dreams

"in a slender seashell.

"Wind my roof wove of willows

"with the long song of the summer cicada.

"I tighten the stays, the wind blows the sail through the morning fog.

"And I'm off,

"without aim,

"drifting through the blue sky."

The audience was stunned by what they were hearing!

What was this about?

A poem?

A...poem?

Zhang Xia's expression changed!

Jiang Hanwei's pupils dilated!

His mother suddenly stood up. "This...this..."

Zhang Ye's three sisters were also dumbfounded!

A lot of people's jaws dropped!

The Clown smiled.

"Night is a valley,

"the day a mountain peak.

"Sleep! I close my eyes

"and the world falls away.

"The horse of time

"collapses.

"The yellowtail waxwing

"builds a nest in my carriage.

"I want to keep roaming the world—

"To deserts, jungles, the remotest spots.

"I impress my footprints, like seals into the earth

"and the world

"mingles into me."

The Clown's voice was getting louder and louder!

The outline of his figure could be seen. He raised his leg and stepped up onto the stage!

The audience started exclaiming in shock!

They were confused by what The Clown was wearing!

He was in his pajamas!

The Clown had worn his pajamas onto the stage!

He was even barefoot!

No one had dared to dress like this before!

This was a live show!

People from all over the country were watching!

Why aren't you wearing something more proper?

Why are you dressed so casually?

What are you planning to do?

What will you be singing?

The Clown stood onstage and looked at everyone with a smile.

"I want to sing

"a human song

"that ages from now

"will chorus through the universe."

Everyone was stunned with their mouths agape!

All of the audience and guests, as well as all the staff at the venue, had seemingly gotten their tails stepped on as they nearly jumped up in shock!

You...

You...

You're...