

Back in the Game

By Thalia

Scene 1

(Host站在舞台中央, 前面放着立式话筒, 其他人围弧形站在台两侧)

Host: Ladies and gentlemen. Today, you will be witnessing the winner of the Flammy award. As you all know that this award is incomparably honored for each hardworking singer. This year, to everyone's surprise, a young, talented singer has inspired us using fascinating voice and spirit. A singer who proves to us that diligence and persistence shall never go out of the style. (停顿) Now, without further ado, the Flammy award for the best singer of the year goes to--(拖长音) Herman Jackson! Give it up! (朝着Herman方向鼓掌)

Herman: (站起来) Sweet-mother-of-Jesus! I can't believe it. (转向George, 握住Gorge肩膀) George! I did it! No, I mean, we did it!

George: (勉强一笑) Ahaha...Congrats, man. (Sophia耸肩并面露不屑, 其余人鼓掌)(Herman笑着走到台中央, 鞠躬, 接过奖杯)

Herman: (整理衣服) Thank you! Thank you so much!

Journalist1: Congratulations, Mr Jackson. May you share with us some of your feelings of receiving the award?

Herman: Um...I wanna say thank you to my team, for always standing by my side, offering help and support. (看George) I wanna thank my wife Kate who accompanies and encourages me all the time. (看Kate) I love you. Um...also, I would like to give the greatest gratitude to all to my fans, who allow me to become the best self. (看观众, 于是被一个记者用手势提醒了一下, 他拿出一张手稿) Oh, oh yeah yeah yeah, um, thank you Thalia Central TV, thank you Unruly Rainbow Company, Remember Me Music Company, and...The Alice's Hat and Outfit Company.

Journalist2: Mr Jackson, the Flammy is the most influential awards for pop music. Now since you have reached the top, what are your future plans?

Herman: I'll keep on making more high-quality music to the public and keep on my path.

Fan1,2,3: Herman! Herman! The best musician! Herman! Aaaaaaa! We'll always be your fans!

Fan1: (递花, 并十分花痴地说) Ohhhhh, nice hair cut!

Fan2: Please read my letter, Herman. I have spent a month writing it.

(Fan2一直握着Herman的手, 甩都甩不开, 最终被警卫拉走, 还十分不情愿, 依依不舍的)

Host: Times up guys, let's wrap it up.

(粉丝不舍地说们: ohhhhhhhhhh)

Herman: Thank you! Thank you all!

Host: Thanks for the enthusiasm from all our media friends. Now, as always, let's welcome our winner, Herman Jackson, to give us the performance of his signature song--歌名!

(Herman表演)

(Herman撤走, 粉丝们狂追, 先后下台, 留下Sophia和其跟班)

Host: This is the end of the Flammy...

Sophia: This big joke, jumping out like a clown.

Crystal: Literally, I can't believe they actually give the award to him. I mean, is the committee deaf or something?

Olive: Yeah! Sis, what are we gonna do?

Sophia: (阴笑) You'll see.

Scene 2

(颁奖典礼后台, 舞台后侧放着一张小桌子, Sophia在收拾东西)

(Herman走上台)

Herman: Hi, you must be Sophia! Nice to meet you. (伸出手)

Crystal: Well, well. Look who's here, sis.

Sophia: (抬头) Isn't it our new star Herman? (轻蔑)

Herman: Oh...thank you, I'm flattered. I love your songs too. I mean, the style, the skills, the passion (伸出双手想握手), they are so great! I must say that I am honored to be nominated with you.

Sophia: (假笑握手) Oh thank you. But you are overpraising. I only have a hundred million fans, not even worthy to be mentioned.

Olive: Not to mention hundreds of music awards.

Crystal: Yeah, totally. Flammy isn't a precious thing for us, isn't it?

Herman:ah?

Sophia: oh yeah, congratulations, I shall say. Anyway, I've already got two Flammies myself. I guess it is pretty reasonable for them to select a less popular and qualified figure. (松开手, 戳了戳Herman的胸口)

Herman: I...

Sophia: Mr. Jackson, I wish you always have the luck. Let's go. Leave our super star some space, girls. (坏笑, 撞一下Herman, 和Crystal与Olive嫌弃地看了看Herman后走下台)

(Herman困惑了几秒, 并无奈的摇头, 下台)

(Sophia和Followers走上台, 边看表边踱步, 像是在寻找什么) (George戴着帽子和墨镜小心的走上台)

Olive: (看到George) Hey, isn't that the guy you're looking for!

Crystal: (近地指着George说) The poor assistant of Jackson!

George: What do you want?

Sophia: Don't tell me you've forgot about it. A kind reminder, 10 thousand isn't a small number. (阴笑)

Olive: Ten thousands (阴阳怪气并拉长音)

George: (叹气) No, I will not do such thing.

Sophia: (挑眉) I bet you know what you're saying??

George: (沉默) No, Sophia! I have followed Herman since his debut. I know, it has only been two years, not a very long time...But Herman really trusts me, and I, I can't do things to hurt him simply because of *money*. That doesn't make sense, this is...

Sophia: (打断) How about ten times more money?

George: No, I mean, this is totally unethical, or even illegal, and...

Sophia: One million?

George: (立刻伸出手握手) Nice to work with you.

Sophia: (对着观众翻白眼, 然后冷静了一下) Well, as what I expected. You have one week. After one week, I want to see him ruined.

Crystal: Oh, is it hard for you, cutie pie? (阴阳怪气)

Olive: (笑) Stop it, Crystal! Are we done now, sis? Let's go to Chanel for shopping !

(Sophia大手一挥靓丽离场)

Scene 3

(Herman和Kate坐在沙发上, Herman拿着电脑工作, Sophia戴着耳机看手机)

Kate: (皱起眉头, 脸凑近手机) Ahaaaaaaa! What... (摇摇头) No way...that's impossible.

Herman: (抬头) What is impossible?

Kate: (将手机递给Herman) I was just browsing the news site, and all the top pages were talking about your new song and this singer...Sophia? Look, (手指屏幕) see this?

Herman: (看手机) Um....a huge scandal being reveal today...What the hell? My song was plagiarized from Sophia? Are they insane???

Kate: I trust you, darling. But...what is this all about? (拿过手机, 指给Herman) The evidence is really strong, seventy percent of your song overlaps with Sophia's and here's even the sound track comparison. Now everyone on the Internet is calling you copy cat.

Herman: (生气状, 起立) That doesn't make any sense. I mean, this song was composed entirely by myself, it's original! You know that! How could Sophia release an almost identical song a week before me?

Kate: Um...Calm down, Herman. Did anyone know about your demo? I mean, did anybody see it?

Herman: Um...only George I think...

Kate: (疑惑) Did he engage in your composition?

Herman: (焦急的) Yes of course, he's my assistant.

Kate: Maybe you should call him and ask him about it.

(Herman给George打电话)

Herman: (面露疑惑) It says..The number doesn't exist? (低头看手机确认) It can't be wrong, that is George's number.

Kate: Emm...then call the company?

Herman: (点点头, 然后拨电话, 对方接通) Hey, this is Herman. Where's George? I can't find (停顿, 之后作震惊状) He quitted this morning?! I, I...Hello? Hello? (颓废的坐回沙发上, 低下头, 喃喃道) George left...

Kate: George left?

Kate: Well then, I was gussing, is it possible that, George gave Sophia your song's demo, secretly. And then Sophia could release it one week earlier, so when you release it, you seemed to be plagiarizing.

Herman: (猛的抬起头, 震惊地说不出话, 继而颓废的再次低下头) George, I...I trusted him so much.

black out (显示过去了一些时间)

(敲门声, 画外音: Is Mr Herman Jackson here?)

Kate: (走到台侧) Yes, I'm his wife. (画外音: Here's a letter for Mr Jackson) (Kate将信递给Herman)

Herman: (读信, 喃喃道) Dear Mr. Jackson...I got...fired???! Because of my *scandal*? seriously affects the image of the company?! And...and...my award was withdrawn???! (疑惑地读着词句, 愤怒的站起, 确认信息后彻底崩溃, 将信扔到一边, 叹口气又抱着头坐下) What am I gonna do? What *could* I do now? I'm just a total loser.

Kate: (拍H肩) Don't worry, we'll face it together. Everything will be fine. We can try to start a new life together. Oh! I know a friend who owns a music company...maybe she could help.

(黑灯, 场景转换, Herman和Boss坐在桌子两侧, Kate站在Herman身后)

Ivy: Plagiarism, hum?

Kate: I've told you that somebody framed him, Ivy... You gotta believe us.

Ivy: You know the rules, don't ya?

Kate: Yes, of course!

Ivy: (疑惑地) Then this request makes no sense.

Kate: But Herman is the best musicians in the world.

Ivy: Don't speak for him! Kate, why are you like this now? You were so principled and strong minded.

Kate: Please, Ivy . I know what kind of person Herman is. I know the truth.

Ivy: Truth? The market doesn't need truth. I will not tolerate such a musician with wrecked reputation hanging around in my company. I bet you know the rules better than I do, Mr Jackson.

Herman: Yes madam...time to leave, Kate.

这一段可以加入蒙太奇手法的戏剧表演，展现一系列Herman试图重出江湖但是被无情拒绝的情节，可以用画外音来体现各个音乐制作人和制作公司的狠心拒绝。

许多的音乐制作人两两的站在台上。

Producer1: Did you hear the story?

Producer2: Who doesn't?

Producer3: You think you know a person.

Producer1: Surprisingly, he is a total jerk.

Producer2: Well, just forget him. He will disappear soon.

Producer3: You bet.

Herman在舞台上徘徊，试图辩解、交流，但是无人回应

Herman: Come on, guys, what are you talking about? That is my song, my original work, I spent 4 whole months on it.

Herman在台上走上走动走动，试图与producer正面交流

Herman: Could any body say something, talk to me. Please, trust me, please!

接下来加走位和舞蹈，背景音乐: Requiem of the tower, 伴随着被各大音乐公司拒绝的画外音

Scene 4

(破败的家中有一张老旧的沙发, Kate在沙发上盘腿坐着, 急切着打着电话, 语气异常强烈。)

Kate: Well, I have to tell you, aunt, this is the thing. I mean, what would you feel if your husband suddenly fell from heaven to hell? Yes...clearly, no music company wanted to work with him again since that... Not even a single person could EVER believe us again...I mean, now, it is so shameful. What did you say? a food deliver? Really?.....(突然平静下来)I understand...yes of course...(语速时快时慢, 语调时强时弱, 表现出极为不稳定的情绪)

(Herman穿着外卖小哥的黄皮衣回到家中, 一回家就瘫着, 一言不发。Kate见Herman回来, 准备挂掉电话。)

Kate: Aunt, I'll call you right back. Hey darling...how...how was your day?

Herman: You know...nothing special. (语气平淡无力, 同时面无表情)

Kate: Well. I've got something for you. Here, a brand new mic! I bought it from a friend with really low price! Well, forget the old one, and you could use this mic to record your new demo! (期待地看着Herman)

Herman: Yeah, thanks, but...I actually don't want to record any more demo...It's time to give up...you know, no more music.

Kate: You must be kidding. (不敢相信)Music had been your only dream for so many years. What are you doing right now? Why don't give yourself another chance?

Herman: I tried, We tried! Ok(试图让自己冷静下来), just don't push me back in that messy game again.

Kate: This is not the Herman I know. You are the most passionate musician that I have ever seen, you were talented and persistent, but now you are telling me...(停顿) Hey, this is your dream! The chance will

finally come, how could you just give up now?

Herman: I am fine now (冷漠, 不屑)

Kate: Ok, that is enough. I am done with all these negative attitudes and your soulless, dispirited life. I married to a warrior, not a desperate loser. You have proved yourself the latter one. Our dream is now gone!

Herman: Hey, don't lecture me on dream. Cause you have no idea about it.

Kate: Are you listening to yourself? We **conjured** a miracle together, I am sure that dream...

Herman: Could you just let it go?! It was a past, a past that I should forget!

Kate: (很委屈很生气) You are ridiculous. (夺门而出)

(Black Out)

Scene 5

(有一天, Alisa在闲暇时定了一份披萨。可能是机缘巧合, 外卖员正好就是Herman。在大雨中, Herman狼狈地敲着门。)

Herman: (试图大声但因劳累有些歇斯底里地喊) Food delivered!

(Alisa前来开门)

Alisa: Oh, thank you so much, under such weather. It must be... (突然觉得眼前抬起头的人面熟), Mr. Jackson? I mean, the Herman Jackson?(惊讶, 小心翼翼, 语气较微弱)

Herman: (紧忙地低下头) No Madam, ah...Miss, you must be wrong. Em...have a good day, and I'll continue my work then. (虚弱, 有些焦急, 胆怯)

(Herman转身就走)

Alisa: You gave up, didn't you?

(Herman一下子站住了, 两人一动不动的站了数秒)

Herman: Young lady, you know nothing about me, I...

Alisa: (打断) I learned everything, every one of your fascinating story, and every step towards the abyss. And I also knew you were born to sing, and you should keep trying. You shouldn't give up. If possible, I could help!

Herman: WHO are you? And why would you...

Alisa: You inspired me, in the past days.

Herman: Scuse me?

Alisa: Despair also struck me once. I know the feeling of being judged, being dismissed, and being...abandoned. I used to be overweight, a genetic impairment, but I loved dancing. I mean, the move, music, rhyme...the zoon. (入神, 然后跳脱出来) You know, with people's discrimination, when I danced, they laughed. I felt so embarrassed, so I never danced in front of people again. Then, a music genius came in. A man who never ceased making breakthrough. I listened to his songs, danced with the music. I became braver to step onto the stage whenever his sound accompanied me. Now, miracle happened to me, and here I am, a recognized dancer. The name of this singer... (拿出随身带着的Herman演唱会的迷你海报) is Herman Jackson.

(Herman被震撼了, 入神了, 也有些惶恐)

Alisa: Guess what? I must say that, when I heard the plagiarism news, I completely refused to accept it. I should never believe that a music genius like you would ever try to do that. You are indeed innocent; you need help; and I can help.

Herman: (迟疑地,有些敷衍地点头) Yeah...(像是突然醒过来一样) I...apologize for wasting your time, and don't spend more time on me. (转身准备离开)

Alisa: How could you give up your talented voice and stop singing? How could you leave your supporters behind? How could you forget your dream?

Herman: (愣住)(此时的手机响一下, 他指着手机说) I have work to do now.

(Herman转身快步离开了, Alisa本想伸手挽留一下, 但是又及时把手收了回来, 并摇了摇头, 并关上了门)

(Black Out)

Scene 6

(两三天后, Herman在酒吧借酒消愁, 陷入了无尽的沉思, 看到酒吧献唱的歌手有些羡慕又有些后悔。Alisa正巧进入酒吧(这个时候驻唱的人已经完成今天的表演, 正在邀请观众上来即兴唱歌), 看到了Herman坐在一个隐蔽的小角落, 上前, 无言, 但对着他微笑了一下, 然后向舞台走去, 并唱起了Herman的成名作。她并没有唱完, 唱到一半, 突然停下。)

Alisa: I know a singer who has the voice of an angel, and who is more qualified to sing this song.

(走下台, 去找到隐蔽处的Herman, 并且递给他一个面具)

Alisa: For you.

Herman: (接过面具, 犹豫) My...second chance?

Alisa: (微笑) You tell me.

(Herman以微笑回应, 有些犹豫地走向舞台。他站在台上, 听着自己的心跳声, 被恐惧和心理创伤折磨着。观众本一片死寂, 然后也有些人开始嘀咕, 后又有人喊出“come on”, “sing it, please”, “do something”。又犹豫了几秒钟, 他开口了。声音十分有冲击力, 在一瞬间使观众沉迷在这优美、婉转的歌曲里。虽然他开始还有些怯场, 但是他愈战愈勇, 伴随着观众的掌声, 呼喊, 他找回了曾经的感觉, 放声歌唱, 完成了完美的一曲。来到原来的小角落, 在二层豪华包间饮酒的一位音乐制作人Andrew突然被Herman的声音吸引了。他激动地下楼并准备去于Herman交谈。)

Andrew: Sir! Wow, I shall use no word to describe your voice. It's perfect. It is the sound of the angel! This is my card. I am an international music producer. Call me if you want to join my team! You know, you totally have the potential of being a superstar! (将名片递向Herman)

(Herman缓慢地伸出手时再次犹豫了, 他惶恐了)

Alisa: (抢着说, 接过名片) Great! Thank you a lot, we will think it thorough.

(Herman在混乱的思绪当中点了点头, 迟缓地Alisa塞在他手里的名片)

Herman: (诚恳但有些微弱地) Thank you.

Andrew: By the way, why don't you take off your mask? Superstars don't usually hide their faces.

Alisa: (抢着说) Well, (轻快, 有些打趣地说) I can ensure you that the face behind is not terrifying, (突然严肃起来) but it is some secrets that keep that mask on.

Andrew: Secrets? Like scandals? Doesn't matter for me. I can promise you that all I'm looking for is a beautiful voice. You know, I really hate those people who always make up gossips for musicians. Why can't they just shut up and enjoy the music?

(Alisa与Herman交换眼神, Herman迟疑了一下, 缓缓点头)

Alisa: That's good to hear.

Herman: Um...Do you mind if we move to a quiet place?

Andrew: Sure.

(Andrew, Herman和Alisa来到一个无人的包间)

Herman: Actually...I have a very complicated past...(叹气) Don't be surprised when I take off my mask, please.

(Alisa拍拍Herman的肩膀鼓励他, Herman缓缓摘下面具)

Herman: (低头) I am Herman Jackson.

(Andrew夸张地张大嘴巴)

Herman: Do we... Can I... still join you?

Alisa: Mr Andrew, we totally understand your feelings, but...please...

Andrew: Damn it.

Herman: I'm sorry...

Andrew: Damn it. I can't believe it. (停顿) I can't believe that I've got Herman Jackson in my team!

Herman: Wait what?

Andrew: You're a absolute genius, man. 2 years ago I was begging God to get you in my team. Can't you believe it! I've got the Herman Jackson...

Alisa: Shhh!!

Herman: Thank you so much, as you know, singing is my only dream, this is for forever. But now I really need a way to publish my music. I want the world to hear it.

Andrew: I've got a wonderful plan for you. Let the game begin!

(Black Out)

Scene 7

(舞台左、右各侧摆放一张桌子、两把椅子;PPT背景为咖啡店;Sophia及Crystal, Olive坐在左侧桌椅处, 桌上有一份印着蒙面歌手出道新闻的报纸)

(George从右侧入场)

George: Sophia...

Sophia: (抿一口咖啡, 没有正眼看George) Here, you have read this.
你已经看到这个了吧。

George: (瞄一眼报纸) The masked-singer --Of course. Man! He is hitting all the toplines, he's on fire!
蒙面歌手——我当然看到了。他占领了所有新闻的头条。他火爆了!

Sophia: I hate these kinds of people acting like they are so mysterious. So boring. You have ways to know who he is, don't you?

我好讨厌这种装神弄鬼的人，真像小孩子过家家。你有办法知道他是谁，对吧？

George: I'm not so sure...He is too new to the field. I know nothing about him and his background, and also...

我不确定...这个圈子对他太不了解了。我对他的背景一无所知，还有...

Sophia: (打断George, 站起拍桌) I don't care! You listen, I need to know WHO HE IS.

我不在乎。你给我听着，我需要知道他是谁。

George: Sophia, you never let me finish. Why would I help you at all?

Sophia, 你从来不让我把话说完。说到底，我有什么义务去帮你？

Sophia: (无语状) Oh my god, don't you understand how important this is to me?

噢我的天，你难道不知道这对我有多重要吗？

Crystal: Don't bother, sis. I've seen a lot of these people. They only know money, money, money.

别动火，我的好姐姐。我见过太多这种人了，他们一天到晚就知道钱。

Olive: Totally. Do you think he had been to middle school or something?

说的太对了。你觉得他接受过九年义务教育吗？

Crystal: I bet...um no, or else he would talk more politely to our big sister. Oh, are we hurting your feeling?(两人大笑)

我猜...噢，肯定没有，不然他会对我们的好姐姐说话更礼貌些的。哦，我们伤害到你弱小的心灵了吗？

George: Why wouldn't you shut up? (对着Sophia) You should know there's no free lunch in this world.

你们能不能闭嘴？你应该知道，天下没有免费的午餐。

Sophia: I thought we are on the same ship, and now you are asking me to pay you back? After all, George, you just want the goddamn money.

我以为我们是一伙的，现在你却逼我给钱？我算是看明白了，**George**，你只是想要你那点儿破钱而已。

George: Hey why are you this mean to me?

为什么要对我这么刻薄？

Sophia: Oh I see. I'm falling off my throne now, and you will just find a new money tree. You know what, George, you are nothing but a useless snob. Get out of here. I don't wanna see your face again

哦，我算是看明白了。我马上要跌下我娱乐圈女王的王座了，但你只要找一棵新的摇钱树就可以了。

George: 你就是一个彻头彻尾的势利眼废物。快滚吧。我不想再看到你了。

George: (冷笑) Snob? And who's desperately protecting her pitiful little reputation?

势利眼？我？你也不看看谁现在为了点名气就急眼了？

Olive: (和Crystal一起起立) I-dare-you!

有本事再说一遍？

Sophia: (阴阳怪气) Oh, sure. You shall never climb to the top. My fault. I should not have expected someone like you to understand me. We are done. (戴上墨镜，和Followers一起靓丽离场)

哦，你说的都对。我忘记了你从来没体会过站在顶端的感觉。我的错，我不该以为你这样的人能理解我的。我们之间结束了。

(Sophia离开，George在座位上作气愤无奈状)

(Herman, Alisa, Andrew, Victor走进咖啡厅，坐在右侧座位)

Andrew: Congratulations, Herman! Your debut has received 10 million views in a day! You are my star! (快速抱住Herman, 不松手，最终被嫌弃地Alisa推开)

祝贺你啊，**Herman**！你的出道曲的首日播放量已经突破**1000**万了！你真是我的大明星！

Alisa: I'm so proud of you. I know that you can do it! By the way, Andrew, this idea of releasing Herman's song in the new name of The Masked Singer is a genius.

我真为你骄傲。我就知道你肯定可以的！对了，**Andrew**，让**Herman**以蒙面歌手的名义出道的主意真的太棒了。

Andrew: Thanks. Oh, this is Victor, my best friend. He is a very experienced journalist. I believe he will help you out when you face some gossip crisis (调侃语气) in the future my boy.

谢谢。哦，这位是我最好的朋友**Victor**。他是一个资历很老的记者。我相信在你以后被舆论八卦迫害的时候他一定能帮上忙。

Victor: It's nice to see you back in the game again. (与Herman握手)

看到你回归歌坛真好。

Herman: Thanks, and you too, Andrew. I do need a journalist right now.

谢谢。也谢谢你, **Andrew**。我现在确实需要一个记者。

George: (准备走的时候撞见Herman一行人, 瞬间弹回原座位, 面对观众自言自语) Is that...? No, no, it can't be. No. (又向Herman方向看了一眼) Damn it, it's him!

那不是...不不不, 不可能。不。

Andrew: For what?

需要记者做什么?

Herman: I'm planning to reveal my identity. I can't sing behind a mask for my entire career, right? I need to find an opportunity to clear my name.

我正在计划向公众公布我的真实身份。我不能一辈子都戴着面具唱歌, 对吧? 我需要澄清我的过去的机会。

Alisa: Totally agree. How about this for the new heading: "Boom! The king of music is back!"

我完全同意。我已经想好你公布身份那天的热搜名了。“惊! 音乐之王回来了!”

George: Wait...Herman Jackson...is the masked-singer?? (迅速拿出手机, 又关掉, 长呼一口气) No, we are done. (咬咬牙) This is the last time. (拿出手机打给Sophia, 结果Sophia没接, George十分焦急)

等等...**Herman Jackson**就是蒙面歌手? 不, 我和**Sophia**的合作已经结束了。这是最后一次。

Victor: Well, well, but don't get too excited. We have a long way to go. We need enough evidence and to be fully prepared.

别太兴奋了, 朋友们。我们要走的路还很长。我们需要积攒证据, 准备充分。

Victor: Did you hear it? (比嘘的手势) (George的电话留言提示音响起, 四人安静的听)

你们听到了吗?

Herman: (四处张望, 看到角落里打电话的George, 惊讶) It's...George?

那是...**George**?

George: (语速快) Hey Sophia, I know you are still mad at me, but I know who the masked-singer is. It's Herman Jackson. He is coming back in the name of the masked-singer. (Herman想要走到George眼前刚, 被Victor拉住)

喂, **Sophia**, 我知道你还在生我的气, 但我已经知道蒙面歌手是谁了。他是**Herman Jackson**。他要以蒙面歌手的名义回归歌坛了。

Victor: Evidence. (拿出随身带的录音笔)

留下证据。

George: If we can reveal his identity in front of the public, his career is done. Easy enough. I will only ask for 50 thousand this time. Please call back.

如果我们能在公众面前揭穿他, 他的职业生涯就完蛋了。这很容易就能办到。这次我只要五万块钱。求求你了, 给我回个电话吧。

Herman: (走过去拍了拍George的背) 50 thousand, huh?

只要五万, 是吧?

Alisa: (讥讽) This must be the thief who stole Herman's song, shame on you.

这不是那个偷了**Herman**的歌的小偷嘛。你真丢脸!

George: (被吓到, 连忙把手机收回去) Her...Herman?

Herman...?

Herman: After all this time, George. You are still trying to ruin my career.

过了这么久了, **George**, 你还在试图毁了我的前途。

George: I believe there's a misunderstanding, Herman.

我相信这是个误会, **Herman**。

Andrew: (一字一句地) "If we can reveal his identity in front of the public, his career is done."

“如果我们能在公众面前揭穿他, 他的职业生涯就完蛋了。”

Herman: (苦口婆心的语气) How many times are you going to lie to yourself, just for money?

你到底要为了钱骗你自己多少次?

George: You are too naive. Not everyone has perfect talent like you. I need to seize my moment, and I am so close that I can taste it.

你太天真了。不是所有人都和你一样拥有傲人的天赋。像我这样的人，必须要抓住一切机会向上爬。我只剩最后一步就要尝到成功的滋味了。

Herman: You know, there are things more valuable than money.

你知道吗，世界上有很多比钱更有价值的东西。

George: We are people from different worlds, Herman. I will do it anyway.

我们是两个世界的人，**Herman**。无论如何我都会这么做的。

Victor: (忽然冲出，手里拿着录音笔) Perfect. Thank you for your cooperation, Mr. George. I have recorded everything you said from your phone call and everything you said to Mr. Jackson, which is enough to reserve you a pleasant room in prison. (轻蔑)

太棒了。谢谢合作，**George**先生。我把你刚刚打电话的内容和与**Herman**的对话都录好了。这份录音足够让你在监狱里拥有一扇**VIP**铁窗了。

George: Is that a threat?

这是个威胁吗？

Victor: Just an alarm, sir. The choice is yours. Take your time and evaluate what you might gain and what you might lose from it. (摇了摇手中的录音笔) (George欲言又止，离开了咖啡店)

只是个提醒罢了，先生。选择权在你手上。好好考虑考虑这么做的得与失吧。

Victor: May we continue, ladies and gentlemen? (Herman, Alisa和Andrew被Victor秀到了)

我们继续吧，女士们先生们？

Andrew: Ha! Best bro ever (用骄傲的尾音)

哈！不愧是我的好兄弟。

Scene 8

(PPT背景为颁奖典礼后台，右侧摆一张桌子一把椅子，桌子上放化妆品等；左侧摆一张桌子一把椅子，桌子上放有电脑) (Sophia双手交叉坐在椅子上，George站在椅子旁边)

George: (悄悄打开自己的录音笔并藏在袖子里)...So when he goes on the stage to receive the award, you can just stand up and shout out the fact that he is Herman Jackson, and I will send people to escort you exiting the ceremony when the journalists rise up.

当他走上台领奖的时候, 你直接喊出他是Herman Jackson就好了。记者们涌上来的时候我会派人把你护送出颁奖典礼现场的。

Sophia: I know what I'm going to do. It surprises me as you are finally useful.

我知道我要做什么。真是令人惊讶, 你居然有点用场了。

George: (小心翼翼) And...may I ask when do I receive the money?

那...我能问一下我什么时候能拿到钱吗?

Sophia: Ha, isn't this the good old question. But you need to do another favor for me. (拿出一个U盘) The draft for tonight's news. Publish it online on the right time.

哈, 又是这个又老又臭的问题。不过你还需要再帮我一个忙。这是今天的新闻通稿, 在合适的时间把它发在网上吧。

George: (犹豫) Give me a promise about the money. Or else I'm quitting.

答应我按时给钱。不然我就不干了。

Sophia: Oh, is that a threat? You think I care about you quitting? You think I'll beg you not to leave? Honestly, who on earth will care about a coward and snob?

哦, 你是在威胁我吗? 你觉得我很关心你干不干? 你觉得我会求你不要走? 说句实话, 哪个天杀的会在乎一个懦夫、一个势利眼?

George: (咬牙) Sophia.

Sophia.

Sophia: Take it. (把U盘给George, 在他即将拿到的时候把U盘扔在地上) I will send your dumb money into your account after things are done. 50 thousand, huh? I'll give you a fifty percent discount. No need to thank me. (转身离开)

拿着吧。我会在事情结束以后把钱打在你的账户里。五万是吧? 给你打个折吧, 两万五。不用客气。

George: (握紧拳头, 终于爆发) Every time! Could you ever just stop insulting me! As if it is so hard to make a fair deal! (拿出录音笔, 看了看录音笔又看了看地上的U盘) Yes...Maybe I should consider what I might gain and what I might lose. (George在后台四处寻找, 终于找到了坐在左侧椅子上面对电脑打字的Victor和Victor身边的Alisa和Andrew)

每一次都是这样! 你能不能不要这么羞辱我! 就像做一个公平的交易有多么难一样! 看来, 我确实要好好考虑一下这么做的得与失...

George: Victor. There's something I need to tell you.

Victor, 我有事情要告诉你。

(George拿出录音笔放在Victor的桌子上)

Andrew: Is that being—

这难道是——

George: The recording of the conversation between Sophia and me. I also have some recordings from our previous phonecalls.

我和**Sophia**对话的录音。我还有一些我们之前打电话的录音。

Victor: Perfect. You think it is easy enough to reserve her a comfortable room in prison?

棒极了。你觉得这些证据够给她在监狱里留一个**VIP**大铁窗吗？

George: You bet.

当然。

Andrew: Great! Wait...Is that a trick again?

太好啦！等等...这不会是个套路吧？

Victor: (接过U盘, 插入电脑) We shall see.(戴上耳机开始听)

让我们拭目以待吧。

Alisa: You made the right choice, man.

你的选择是正确的。

George: (苦笑) You know, sometimes I miss the days working for Herman. The salary wasn't that satisfying, but I was respected, and didn't let down my conscience.

其实, 有的时候我真的很想念和**Herman**一起工作的日子。虽然薪水并不是很高, 但我得到了最终, 也对得起我的良心。

Alisa: He has always seen you as a friend.

他一直都把你当朋友。

George: (看了看Alisa, 并停顿了一下后说) I should have known better.

我应该早点明白过来的。

Victor: (摘下耳机) Ohhhh yes! Great job, George. We will do this as soon as Herman takes off his mask tonight.

哦, 好! 干得不错, **George**。今晚**Herman**摘下面具后, 我们就把这些证据发出去。

Andrew: Ready for the sweet sweet revenge, folks?

准备好来一场激动人心的复仇了吗?

(众人笑, 一起说Ready, 灯光暗)

Scene 9

(带有话筒的颁奖台在舞台中间, 主持人站在颁奖台上; 红毯由左至右铺开, 舞台右侧摆放座位, 群演坐在座位上, 空出最中间的两个位置)

Andrew: Wow hi, I believe you are Miss Ivy! The most famous music company owner!

哇, 你好! 你就是最著名的音乐公司老板**Ivy**女士吧!

Ivy: Thank you, Mr... (看名牌) Andrew.

谢谢...**Andrew**先生。

Andrew: I have long appreciated you. You know, the musicians in your company are all genius, but I'm so suck in discovering talented musicians. Can you teach me some tricks?

我仰慕你已经很久了。你知道, 你公司里的歌手们简直都是天才。相比之下, 我发掘好歌手的能力简直太差了。你能教我点看人的小技巧吗?

Ivy: Well, just make sure to check their backgrounds before inviting them into your team. You don't want trouble makers.

额, 确保进公司之前查清他们的背景就好。劣迹斑斑的歌手会给你惹很多麻烦。

Andrew: Well, you are totally on the point. I am bothered right now because there is a singer who has a really wonderful voice, but he was once involved in negative news...

没错, 你说的太对了。我现在真的特别纠结, 因为我发现了一个拥有天籁之音的歌手, 但他曾经有一些负面新闻...

Ivy: I've seen a lot of these people, young man. Don't waste time on them, I would say.

年轻人, 这种人我见得多了。如果是我的话, 我不会在他们身上浪费时间。

Andrew: But what if his voice is like Herman Jackson?

但如果他的嗓音和**Herman Jackson**一样动听呢?

Ivy: (愣住) Jackson...No way.

Jackson...这不可能。

Andrew: He was awesome, right? (用自恋的语气) Sometimes I do hope a smart, generous producer would bring him back in the game.

他超级棒, 不是吗? 有的时候, 我真的希望能有一个慧眼识珠又慷慨大方的制作人能把他带回歌坛。

Ivy: (带上墨镜) Grow up, boy. This day will never come.

成熟点吧, 年轻人。这一天永远也不会到来。

Andrew: Well, we'll see. (也掏出墨镜并戴上)

拭目以待吧。

Host: Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the ceremony for this year's Flammy Award! Now, I am honored to introduce you our two candidates for the best singer of the year. First, let's welcome our beautiful young singer, Sophia! (Sophia从红毯走出, 坐在座位上)

女士们先生们, 欢迎来到今年的福莱美颁奖现场! 现在, 我很荣幸的向您们介绍获得年度最佳歌手提名的两位歌手。首先, 让我们有请我们年轻漂亮的歌手, **Sophia** !

Crystal: Oh, look, it's our big sister! Literally, Olive, she looks so gorgeous.

哦, 快看啊, 是我们的好姐姐! 说真的, **Olive**, 她看起来真是太美了。

Olive: She is an angel, and a perfect one!

她简直是仙女下凡!

Host: And also—Let's welcome a new, mysterious friend, The Masked Singer! (Herman戴着面具从红毯走出, 坐在座位上)

接下来, 让我们有请我们神秘的新朋友, 蒙面歌手!

Fan1,2: Wooo! The Masked Singer! We love you!

哦！蒙面歌手！我们爱你！

Fan3: Hey, it's you two again! You are the fans of the Masked Singer now?

嘿，又是你们两个？你们现在爬墙到蒙面歌手了？

Fan1: Of course! I mean, who will not be attracted to his wonderful voice?

当然了！谁不会被他的完美声音吸引呢？

Fan2: Who's your new crush, like after Herman Jackson?

Herman Jackson之后你的新爱豆是谁？

Fan3: Well...

额...

Fan1: Don't tell us you are still supporting that copy cat!

不要告诉我们你还在粉那个抄袭狗！

Fan3: (假笑) Of course no. (向Sophia的方向) Sophia, I love you!

我才不会呢。**Sophia**，我爱你！

Sophia: (假意上去握手，实际用高跟鞋踩了Herman的鞋) Isn't this our new celebrity! I love your new song. Like, It is so awesome. (假笑、讥讽)

这不是我们冉冉升起的新星嘛！我太爱你的新歌了，它真的太棒了。

Herman: Thank you. (Herman与Sophia在座位上坐下)

谢谢。

Sophia: You know what, I really wonder how disgusting and shameful your face is. Oh, I really like your mask by the way. Where did you get it?

你知道吗，我真的很好奇你面具底下的这张脸到底有多见不得人。哦，顺便说一句，我真的很喜欢你的面具。你从哪里买的？

Herman: I'm sure you will need to buy a mask sooner or later.

我相信你不久以后也会需要一个面具的。

Sophia: Ha, for what? I never copied a song anyway. I am not afraid to stand in front of the public. I bet you must be nervous right now, my old friend...Herman?

哈, 用来做什么? 我又没有抄袭过。我又不害怕站在公众面前。我猜你现在一定很紧张吧, 我的老朋友...**Herman**?

Herman: I, never, copied, your, song. (一个词一个词慢慢说, 咬牙切齿)

我从来没有抄过你的歌。

Sophia: (冷笑) Yeah yeah yeah, I believe you, but they don't. (指向坐在背后的媒体观众) Enjoy your last evening as a “good” singer. Good luck, Herman Jackson.

是是是, 我差点就相信你了, 可惜他们不相信。好好享受你作为一个“好歌手”的最后一晚吧

Host: Now! I have the best singer in the year in my hands! (打开手卡) Ladies and gentlemen, I am excited to announce that the best singer in the year goes to—The masked singer! (Herman鞠躬并走上颁奖台, Sophia摆出一副无所谓的表情)

现在, 年度最佳歌手奖的名单就在我手中! 女士们先生们, 我很激动地向您们公布, 今年的年度最佳歌手是一蒙面歌手!

Host: Let's welcome the masked singer to give us his performance!

现在, 让我们有请蒙面歌手为我们带来表演!

(背景音乐是心跳声, Herman刚刚准备开口, Sophia一下子在站了起来)

Sophia: This singer, could you please, take off you mask? (运筹帷幄的表情) Everyone! Don't you ever wonder why he is always in a mask? He—

这位歌手, 请问你能不能摘下你的面具! 大家都看好了! 难道你们从来没有想过为什么他要一直戴着面具吗? 他—

Herman: (抢过话筒) I am Herman Jackson, the winner of 37th Flammy! (扔掉面具)

我是**Herman Jackson**, 第三十七届福莱美的获奖者。

(现场观众乱成一团, Sophia也傻了)

Andrew: well, Miss Ivy, who 's looking like fool now?

咳咳, **Ivy**小姐, 现在是谁太天真了?

Ivy: (摘下墨镜) Impossible...

这不可能...

Andrew: Throw away your ridiculous rules, Miss. Herman Jackson is excellent in all ways.

把你那些条条框框都扔垃圾桶吧, 女士。**Herman Jackson**在每个方面都很完美。

Herman: Two years ago, my new song was stolen and given to Ms. Sophia. She published it in advance so that I was accused of copying. I, as a singer who is true to myself, did nothing wrong and chose to come back as a masked singer.

两年前, 我的歌被**Sophia**小姐偷走了。她在我之前发布了那首歌, 使我看上去像是在抄袭她。我, 作为一个问心无愧的音乐人, 选择以蒙面歌手的名义重新回到歌坛。

Sophia: What are you talking about! Nonsense! (指着观众) You can't believe him!

你在说什么牛马! 胡说! 你们不能相信他!

Victor: (上台) Ladies and gentlemen, evidence is online now. Search "Sophiaisjerk.com" and enjoy all the words she once said, all the sin she had done. (径直走向Sophia) The game is over, Miss Sophia.

女士们先生们, 证据现在已经发布在网上了。搜索“**Sophia是混蛋.com**”即可享受**Sophia**小姐的一切暴躁言论与迷惑行为。

Sophia: No! He is lying! (慌张, 向左侧跑去, 打算从现场溜走)

不! 他说的不是真的!

Victor: (拦住Sophia) I believe the night isn't over for you, miss. (向右做一个欢迎光临的动作, 引入一群娱乐记者) Come on, my friends. Ask anything you want.

我相信这个有趣的夜晚才刚刚开始, 女士。来吧, 我的朋友们, 尽情的抛出你们的问题。

Journalist1: Miss Sophia, is it true that you framed Mr Jackson of plagiarism?

Sophia小姐, 你诬陷**Jackson**先生抄袭这件事是真的吗?

Journalist2: Do you know that there is evidence on the Internet that may put you into prison?

你知道现在网上有很多能将你定罪的证据吗?

Sophia: How dare you! I am a celebrity, you could never... Wait, wait...

你们怎么敢这样! 我可是女明星, 你们不能...等一下, 等一下!

(记者们把Sophia围成一团,簇拥着她向舞台右侧退场, Crystal和Olive上场帮助Sophia但也被挤下台)

(Alisa, Andrew从左侧走上台, 拥抱Herman; George也跟着走上来)

Alisa: Herman, you are the bravest person I have ever seen. Welcome back. (玩笑式的伸出手准备握手, 而Herman却紧紧地拥抱了Alisa)

Herman, 你是我见过最勇敢的人。欢迎回来！

Andrew: Wo, wo, wo— (Herman看到众人来了并快速放手)
喔喔喔——

Herman: Thanks a lot to all of you.
谢谢你们所有人。

Victor: I think someone needs to talk to you. (指向George)
我觉得, 有人有话想和你说。

George: Herman...I...I'm sorry.

Herman...我很抱歉。

Alisa: You should be.
你确实应该抱歉。

George: Yeah...Mr. Jackson, Herman, there are more valuable things in the world. Integrity, being myself, and being trusted. But I know you won't forgive me...,I...

是的...**Jackson**先生。**Herman**。我明白了这个世界上有比钱更重要的东西。正义、真诚、信任...但我知道你不会原谅我...

Herman: I understand.
我理解你。

George: What?
什么？

Herman: Wrong for once, but not for forever. I went on a wrong path 2 years ago, until Alisa recognized me when I was delivering her takeout, when Andrew praised me at the bar.

人都会犯一次错误,但一直错下去就好了。我也曾经在两年前走上过歧途,但还好**Alisa**在我给她送外卖的时候认出了我,还好**Andrew**在酒吧给了我鼓励。

George: Wow...You know how desperately I miss the time working with you. We never argued, and we were so happy when producing music...

哇...你不知道我有多想念我和你一起工作的日子。我们从来不吵架,我们在一起做音乐的时候是那么的开心...

Herman: Would you like to come back then?

那你愿意回来吗?

George: Ah?...this is...I...I would love to.

啊?这...我...我当然愿意。

Herman: (与George拥抱) Welcome back.

欢迎回来。

(Andrew, Victor依次给George拥抱, Alisa走到Herman身边)

Alisa: Hi.

嗨。

Herman: Hi.

嗨。

Alisa: Well, you are a super star again now. I guess it's time for me to leave. (耸肩, 转身就走).

看看,你又成为那个遥不可及的大明星了。我猜我也该走啦。

(Herman表现出慌张失措的样子)

Alisa: (突然转回来). Just kidding. You are my boy, always. (冲回来拥抱Herman)

开个玩笑。无论如何,你一直都是我的男孩。

The End