

Season 3 Episode 5: The Emperor's Karaoke Lounge

Ambient Asian Space

Styrofoam (a.k.a. Sty) is karaoking quietly in the corner of the Emperor's Karaoke Lounge. "Oh, I wanna dance w/ somebody... I wanna feel the heat w/ somebody..." &, draping one striped-leggings leg around the mic stand, "oh, I wanna dance w/ somebody... w/ somebody who loves me."

They quietly Snapchat themselves during this last couplet, hashtagging it "EMOTIONS." The fanfish go wild in CyberAsia. "Is Sty-flo okay? *surprised kitty face emoji*" They check the AAS fanfish collector app & set out some drumsticks & sweet potatoes & a warm blanket.

Kimchi Hagrid (a.k.a. K-Grid) comes to visit, gleefully adjusting their mercowl neck gear to make room for more swallowing. In between bites they daub the fur around their lips, catching any juicy overflow, & smile at the fanfish & their purple Casios. Flowerboi AAS Collector sure is popular!

K-Grid surveys the view from their window table, meeting Sty's eyes as they queue up the next karaoke tune. "You go grl!" K-Grid hollers, abandoning cityboi chic etiquette for the familiar habits of their mountain grl moonshine.

Lazy Senpai turns around & swallows, *hard*, almost choking on the egg they're eating in their egg chair. WHO IS THAT? Thoughts of Daddy Emperor momentarily disappear behind some clouds. They nervously run their hands thru greasy hair, trying to tease out some flirty texture. Should they karaoke something so K-Grid will notice them?

"WHO'S NEXT?!" shouts Sty, & Lazy Senpai jumps. "Looks like it's you, Lazy," says Sty, "& lookee here, I think I got just the song for you!"

Lazy takes the mic uncomfortably, e-yessing K.Grid as they tear into some runny eggs.

“Wherever you want to be
I’ll be there
with open arms & open eyes, yeah”

& they use the new app they just downloaded to make the background track into a medley. As the next track fades in, they casually walk towards K.grid, getting close, offering them a napkin for their starchy fingers.

k.grid accepts the napkin but looks shyly away, & this gesture coincides w/ Lazy’s line, “what have I, what have I —

“what have I done to deserve this?” finishes K.Grid. K.Grid feels out of their element. Where’s the kimchi?

& as if the App Goddess overheard, a crock of kimchi appears before hir. Inhaling the juices, Kgrid says, “Much better!”

& because Lazy is looking at them like a lost pup baby dyke, they say for the sake of having something to say,

“Would you like to try some of the App Goddess’ kimchi?”

& Lazy eagerly accepts because Lazy loves when people offer them food in proximity to leather armchairs.

Lazy bites into the kimchi & everything becomes soft & romantic inside their small intestine

& oh my goddess! it is the stomach’s knowledge of merging that begins to glow, firing up the engines, engaging the Wrap Warp Drive

& Lazy’s stomach drops into subspace, tingling with the anticipation of being off on some new adventure into the unknown, free from the same boring chores they wake up having to do & never do, the chore of existence, finally on a Rogue Space Adventure Vortex Spree outside linear time where everything is extraordinary & fun, & full of texture.

“Where did this kimchi come from?”

“Faye Wong’s spaceship.”

Lazy: You mean it just got beamed down here?

KGrid: I reckon so!

Lazy: I was all over the chatrooms a few months ago... How does anyone begin to find an original studly/dykey key to gain access to Room 1053?!?! Not to mention the ship itself!

KGrid smiles at this nerdy lazy fanfish gush.

Hanuman snatches the mic, & declares, “Ah, but I am here to update the technorecord! I have found a back entrance to Faye’s spaceship, through the Emperor’s Gender Bender Mash-ine! & the password to the mash-ine is —”

& they mouth the password but nobody hears because Tony Leung & Leslie Cheung are blowing up the café, on the Emperor’s orders, & capturing Han dead or alive.

Hanuman makes a last dash leap for the chandelier, swinging up & out to the moon, which detaches from the sky. Han rolls themselves around it, just in time for Tony to say, “Hey, I was sure it was a full moon tonight, I read Chani Nicholas & everything.” Leslie: “Yo, you might want to lay off the woo-thing” as he switches on a flashlight, only to see the last of Hanuman’s tail disappear off into the night, along with the Emperor’s password & the secrets of a week spent in Faye’s spaceship.

What was their encounter with the newly-wed?

Was that a new “restless” tattoo on their tail tip?

All questions to be answered for you, our lovely fanfish viewers, in the next webisode.

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