



ABC CLARION

High school students are welcome to send articles or comics to clarionabc@gmail.com

Anonymous

by Alena Zhang

A young man in a ragged gray beanie was typing meticulously at his desk. Well, he was barely a man — he had just turned nineteen. The once-hot coffee mug on his right was cold; he gulped down the last of it and a chill raced down his throat. He'd been staring at this webpage for hours now; he leaned back in his chair and shook out his stiff arms. An apprehensive gaze outside his window was specked with a sense of longing - for something, anything - to give him guidance. Instead, lurid skyscraper lights crowded the city streets, hollering and flashing for all to see.

A reflection bounced back and forth between his glasses and the computer screen. But the blue glare wasn't alone for long -- another one stirred from his left. When a buzz shook the table, the slight noise from the mini-earthquake caused him to jolt upright in his chair. The caller ID read "unknown". When he picked up the phone, a familiar voice greeted him: "Hey Control, how's it going?"

His thumb weakly skimmed across the bristles on his chin. Biting his lip, he mumbled, "I'm... I'm alright, Backslash."

Sensing Control's hesitance, Backslash responded, "I know this is hard for you, but we've talked it over tons of times."

"I know we have. But will this hack be worth it?"

Backslash rolled his eyes. "Of course it'll be worth it. These are the guys who shamelessly massacred a-hundred-and-something civilians last week. We've gotta do something."

"The government disagrees. Look at all of last year's arrests. Commander X right after Charlie Hebdo. Topiary after the KKK hack. Nerdo after Operation Assenge Assange. They think we're just as guilty as the other bad guys." Control drummed his foot restlessly against the cold wooden floors.

He thought back to the last time he saw his family: Independence Day. His parents had brought him out to Washington Park to see the

fireworks outside of Town Hall, just like they had every year since he was a kid. But beyond the red and blue flashes of light, miniature stars were exploding in the Milky Way. One second they were there, and the next they were gone. No history, no glory, no name. Was there even any purpose in their being? There'd always be something to eclipse them — gaudy pyrotechnics, airplanes, or the fluorescent yellow lights of the city. These thoughts shuffled through his mind as he laid on a picnic blanket between his mother and father and stared cold-eyed at the glassy flares shattering across the sky.

Backslash started: "This is different. The whole world is

against ISIS. America. Russia. Even Al Qaeda. We're just joining forces against them. They're in deep shit."

"I know. But if we shut down their Twitter accounts and their message boards, they'll just make more. We can't stop them from conspiring."

"But we'll slow them down. If we stand in their way, we're showing the rest of the world that we're not just any group of hackers. I know we're doing illegal stuff — but you have to believe it's for good. It's nothing compared to the inhumane shit ISIS is pulling. Be confident in our operation. It's not like these Guy Fawkes masks are just for show."

Control glanced backwards toward his nightstand. On it laid a black and white plastic mask, like

a cheap one you'd pick up at a Halloween store. Once you owned one of these, you became part of a collective Anonymous, a group of activists determined to avenge the wrongdoings of the world. They worked behind disguises, both physical and electronic, which bound every one of them to a common purpose.

But alone in his apartment, Control was just a white dwarf in this universe, a nameless kid hiding behind a computer screen trying to fight the biggest terrorist force in the world. But he had to make some noise. If the government managed to chase him down, at least he'd go out with a bang.



Anonymous @GroupAnonOfficial, P Nov 23

We report that today begins the session offensive.

Any site or accounts found pro-#ISIS will be attacked.

#TangoDownISIS#OperationParis ~ Control

I Can Hear Your Voice

by Angelina Li

The first time I watched a K-drama was when my friend introduced me to *I Can Hear Your Voice*, a Korean courthouse drama, at a Model United Nations conference. I watched two episodes the first night, then six the next night, each episode being over an hour long. I was so drawn into it that I literally sat on the bed and did not move, aside from grabbing food. My roommates had to force me to stop watching and go to bed, which by that time was halfway through the morning.

Because the Model UN conference ended, and I had to enter back into the real world, I was unable to watch the remaining eight episodes. Luckily for me, I found a very detailed synopsis of every episode on Drama Beans, where I spent roughly half an hour reading through each episode's synopsis. As I read on, I became devastated, I cried, and I smiled. Satisfied I knew how the plot would turn out, I was able to temporarily put aside the K-drama and focus on school.

If you've never watched *I Can Hear Your Voice*, you definitely should. I initially perceived K-

dramas with the negative stigma attached to it. When my friends talked about crying after watching a K-drama, I would groan, having the tacky K-drama stereotype ingrained into me. To me, K-dramas were just as bad as Chinese dramas, where there's a lot of "aegyo", the Korean word of which actors would use a baby voice and "cute" gestures and expressions. I absolutely hated aegyo and would leave the room whenever I heard it. In Chinese dramas, people had super powers, which looked awfully fake and terribly produced, detracting from my enjoyment of the show. Thus, I refused to watch Chinese dramas, and assumed that Korean dramas would be the same. I also assumed that the romance in K-dramas would be tacky, cliché, and overly gooey.

Thus, you can trust me when I tell you that *I Can Hear Your Voice* is superb and that you should definitely give it a chance. One of my friends learned the entire Korean alphabet after watching this K-drama just so that she could actually understand what was going on without English subtitles, as a lot of

detail, meaning, and *omphs* lost through translation.

Without any significant spoilers, I will give a brief summary of the main plot. The first episode is where there is an incident that sets the stage for the rest of the story. One girl, Seo Do Yeon, accuses Jang Hye Sung, her enemy, of shooting a firecracker into her eye. Jang Hye Sung's life is completely destroyed because of Do Yeon's lie. When Hye Sung confronts Do Yeon one night, a man, Min Joon Gook, crashes a truck into a car, occupied by a father and a son. Both are injured, and Min Joon Gook takes out a baseball bat and beats the father to death. Both girls witness this and Hye Sung snaps a picture on her phone. Min Joon Gook leaves the boy and chases after the girls, threatening that if they testify against him in court, he will kill them and their families.

Hye Sung ends up testifying against Min Joon Gook's murder in court, where the judge is Do Yeon's father. Because of Hye Sung's testimony, Min Joon Gook is sentenced to ten years. Before he is restrained, he tries to strangle Hye Sung, saying that

when he comes out in ten years, he will find her and kill her. The eight year old boy, Park Soo Ha, promises that he will protect her when Min Joon Gook is freed.

The next episode occurs ten years later, when Min Joon Gook is freed. Do Yeon becomes an attorney and Hye Sung becomes a defense lawyer. Park Soo Ha has been practicing martial arts and searches for Hye Sung to keep his promise. I will leave the rest for you to watch and find out!

My friend and I cried a lot during a couple of episodes, where the scenes were intense and emotional. Of course, there is romance and super powers involved. Park Soo Ha developed powers as a result of the car crash and can read minds. This actually adds more to the story itself and doesn't detract from the value at all. And of course, Park Soo Ha falls in love with Hye Sung. One of the important lessons I learned from this experience is to be open minded. If I hadn't agreed to give K-dramas a chance, I would have missed out of such a great show and a whole new world.

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