

Mini Story: K-Pop Stardom

ByTheSpiralledEye

Nate had always been captivated by the world of K-pop. He could keenly remember the first time he saw a music video online; the catchy tunes, the perfectly choreographed dances, they made his heart race. He knew that he wanted to be a part of it all. Despite growing up in a small American town, his dreams stretched far beyond his surroundings. He practised dancing and singing for hours every day, determined to make his mark in the world of K-pop. He didn't care if people in his hick town called him 'gay' for reading magazines full of male heartthrob K-pop stars and 'weirdly dressed' Korean girls. They would all be laughing when he was part of a band himself.

As soon as he could, he saved up the money to move to South Korea and began his search. Time and time again, Nate faced rejection from talent agencies. They loved his passion and talent, but being an American held him back; nobody wanted to say it, but he simply didn't have 'the look' the big wigs were after. He didn't let the rejections get him down, not at first anyway. He threw himself into mastering the language and perfecting his aesthetic to be as close to current male K-pop stars as possible.

Then, as it so often did, fate intervened. He was walking down a small side street, another fresh rejection letter in his hand when a lit up sign caught his eye.

'StarBright Entertainment: Now Hiring Idols!'

In the small window was a poster detailing the agency's plan to create a new K-pop group good enough to rival the major industry giants and, most importantly, they were looking for unconventional, but talented individuals. That was him to a tee! Quickly taking a moment to fix his blonde hair Nate took a deep breath and walked inside the office.

It wasn't very fancy; it looked closer to a dentist's office than a talent agency really. It was the sort of place he would have discounted immediately during his early days but...well, he couldn't afford to be picky right now. A moment later a door at the back of the room opened and a thin Korean man with thick glasses appeared, for a moment he blinked in confusion seeing Nate standing there; almost like he couldn't fathom why another human being would be here. Then his face split into a grin.

"Hello there!" He grinned, "Here looking for work?"

"Yes!" Nate answered a little too eagerly, "I saw you are forming a K-Pop group, if you need a member, I am your man."

He wanted to show confidence, not desperation; it was a thin line to walk.

"Brilliant!" The man replied, "Come on through to the studio and show me what you can do."

Nate's skin was tingling in anticipation; he had a good feeling about this one, this man seemed genuinely interested in his skills. Normally he could see hesitation the moment he walked in but there was none of that this time.

The back room was a stark contrast to the office; it looked like it had every bell and whistle available; lights, a stage, cameras, even a rack of outfits. Though Nate felt his heart stutter a little looking at the racks of clothing, they were all for women; if this K-pop group was a girls group then what could this man want with him? He dismissed the thought, if he only wanted girls then he would have said something by now.

"You can call me Hwan, by the way." Hwan smiled, "And your name is?"

"Nate." I nodded.

"Right then Nate, let's see what you can do, sing me a tune!"

Normally being put on the spot would make him nervous but Nate had come well prepared. He stepped up on the stage and performed his best rendition of his favourite song; watching as Hwan's eyes glinted with glee.

"Perfect, I can sign you right now!" He cried as soon as Nate finished.

"Right now?" He gaped, heart pounding, "Really?"

"Oh yes, here." Hwan whipped out a thick contract from seemingly nowhere and handed it over. "Sign right here at the back and we can get started, I already have choreography planned for the first show, you can get practising while I find other talent to fill in the other group positions."

Nate could scarcely believe it! He grabbed the contract and skimmed over it; all he could see were the promised dollar signs, the merchandise deals and the success that was so close he could taste it. He didn't bother reading the last few pages, it was probably nothing important. His pen glided across the page; signing with the biggest smile on his face.

“Brilliant!” Hwan beamed, “You just wait here and listen to the music I have planned, feel free to practise your dancing while the change happens.”

“Change?”

“Yes, the one mentioned on the final page?”

Nate didn't want to admit he hadn't read the page so he just smiled.

“Oh yeah, that, no problem.”

Hwan left the room and Nate punched the air in excitement; he was on his way! He hit a button on the mp3 player and started listening to the demo music on offer; it was pretty generic but hopefully he could bring his own sense of flair to it. His skin was still tingling with excitement at the prospect of finally achieving his goal, wait no, there was something else. It almost felt like his skin was...moving?

He looked down to see his clothing moving, the skin beneath it shifting and reshaping itself and he cried out in shock. Only the cry didn't sound like his voice at all, instead it sounded musical and high pitched with the faintest tinge of an accent. A Korean accent no less.

“What? Huh?”

All of a sudden he felt a great push in the middle of his chest and it expanded out, almost ripping his shirt in the process.

“T-tits?!”

It was a stupid thing to say but he just couldn't help it. Of all the things to happen today, growing a pair of breasts was not on the list. That same pressure was forming in his butt now, turning it round and peachy as his hips widened to accommodate it. The breath was

pulled from his lungs as his torso cinched in the middle and he wobbled awkwardly on his feet.

Everything was happening so fast! He couldn't keep up and he awkwardly stumbled across the floor, stepping out of his shoes as his feet shrank. His blonde hair turned a darker shade of honey; the one so common with Korean pop stars who lightened their naturally dark hair. Not that he would have been able to tell but it was rapidly growing, spilling over his now sloped shoulders.

"What on Earth?" He breathed, the music was still playing and despite everything his foot was tapping away at it.

Even that small movement seemed to make him aware of all his new curves as they jiggled slightly with the movement.

"Ah Nate!" Hwan stuck his head back in, "I was just wondering about what name we could-ah! You're already finished, wonderful!"

"F-finished?" Nate asked, in his new, accent tinged womanly voice.

"Yes, as it said on the last page of your contract you are going to be the lead girl in my new pop group. So naturally we had to make some changes. Physically." Hwan explained calmly, "Now, what name should we go by? I was thinking of Dae, it's a classic."

Nate could only blink in shock; he'd gotten everything he'd dreamed of but at what cost?