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Ivy Cabotage/Abby Abragan

The Most Beautiful Moment: 2016 BTS Live Hwa Yang Hyeon Hwa On Stage Epilogue in Manila

The arena was dark, but alive with the tingling energy of thousands upon thousands of fans dearly waiting for their seven favorite boys. As the clock struck six, an abrupt wave of calmness passed through the arena, and this was it. It's showtime.

The screen glowed with the familiar Hwayang-yeonhwa emblem as *Run* started to tremble in the background. Delirious screams heightened as the huge red and blue screen split into two, and there BTS were, glorious, meeting us once again. As Rap Monster, Suga, Jin, J-Hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook emerged, they were welcomed by thunderous screams of fans, who had patiently waited for their return to the country. The boys lit up the stage, enough to send chills as they sang and grooved perfectly to the music, sending armies of fans screaming in pure pandemonium. Dressed in stunning black and white, the boys continued with their 2014 hit, *Danger*, before introducing themselves. As usual, BTS delivered the performance seamlessly, their energy being one with the crowd.

"*Kilala niyo ba ako?*", V asked, only to be answered by delighted shrieks. It was Suga's turn next, and he removed his earpiece, egging the crowd to cheer louder. "Nice to meet you, I'm Suga!" he declared. "*Kamusta?* Hi, I'm Jin!" the tall, blonde-haired Jin said next. "What's up Manila?" BTS' maknae, Jungkook, asked the crowd. "Nice to meet you, I'm Jungkook," he followed up. "Hi! Nice to meet you, I'm Jimin! Let's have fun today," the guy in sparkling silver, Jimin, said. Hyped-up J-hope started with his signature line "I'm your hope," and the audience answered "J-hope!" Rap Monster wrapped up the introduction with "From now on, Epilogue in Manila, begins. Let's go!"

In *Autumn Leaves*, an endless ocean of silver swept the arena, the audience waving their lightsticks to the song. The crowd sang the lyrics "never ever fall" along with BTS, and it was a sight to see. Suga then started the song *Tomorrow*, a highly anticipated song by many for its choreo, popular for its repeating hip thrusts. Aside from the choreography, this has been a fan favorite because the song showcases the frustrations of a teen, unsure of the future, yet pushing through "because the dawn before the sun rises is the darkest.". Emotions ran deeper as *Butterfly* started. BTS

passionately sang and danced, as if singing the song individually to thousands of spectators.

As the boys took a short break, J-Hope and Jimin danced individually to *Butterfly*, but J-Hope cut in, saying that he's worried that they've showed so much from the beginning. "We still got a lot to show," Jungkook reassured him. The vocal line, Jungkook, Jimin, V and Jin, showcased their vocal prowess with *Love is Not Over*, highlighted by Jimin's high note, and *House of Cards*, featuring Jin's perfect vocals.

The stage turned black and Rap Monster emerged alone, yet his presence resembled hundreds of armies. He starts rapping *What Am I To You*, the intro to BTS' first full-length studio album *Dark and Wild*. Rap Monster spat fire, as expected from a highly acclaimed rapper who used to frequent the underground scene. The other boys joined him on stage as *Boy in Luv* echoed through. BTS' resident hype-man, V, kept the crowd in check throughout the performance. A rare rapper Jungkook made an appearance. "Why are you shaking up my heart?" BTS asked and the crowd cheered, obviously shaken by their flirty moves. And again, the stage turned black.

It took a few minutes and the familiar whistle of *Save Me* played, BTS stunning in casual white. The more recent electro-house song is a personal favorite. J-Hope's fluid moves filled the stage. Everybody can feel V's electrifying charm through his intense gazes, playful gestures and wild stage presence. The crowd was clearly hyped, singing along, knowing the words by heart. Rap Monster flirtily winked as the crowd shouts "Thank you, *uriga dwae jwoseo* (for being 'us')."

Surprised, though clearly delighted, fans found themselves chanting to BTS' latest bop *Fire*. Army bombs swung wildly in the air as Jungkook shrugged, full of aegyo. Nobody missed out as Jimin led the 3:33 dance. The stage was literally on fire as BTS were joined by masked back-up dancers. This has to be the night's fieriest performance yet.

Fans were allowed to cool off as the guys started to play around on stage, asking Jimin to do a 3:33 encore. The cutie obliged, showing the crowd a fresh, new aegyo version of the song, complete with a heart sign. Suga was the next target as he was asked to say his signature line. The crowd erupted in shrieks, but Suga puts his finger to his lips, telling them to be quiet. Then he whispered, "Bultaoreune." V then kept the crowd shouting, telling them "*Mahal ko kayo!*" as Rap Monster asked, "Are you ready to turn up?" We all cheered, as we have been turned up all this time.

We Are Bulletproof Pt. 2 came in and the boys broke choreography to interact with the fans. We were all able to witness their god-like beauty closer than before. Jin

was shining, as if made by glowing sparkles. Unbelievably pale Jungkook was playing at the side of the stage, dabbing, driving the fans crazy with laughter.

No one was ready for what was up next: the rapper line Rap Monster, Suga, and J-Hope's solo stage. Everybody knew how lit it was going to be as soon as *Cypher Part 3*'s loud intro came in.

Rap Monster started the hype, barely breathing, showcasing his insane flow. J-Hope followed suit with his unique rapping style, going from slow whispers to fast raps. Guess who's next? S-U-G-A, a.k.a. Agust D, of course. We're pretty sure everyone went to Hong Kong *wink wink* as he pulled his hood up and spat fire. Everyone had gone amok, and yes, including the people from backstage.

The fans were then treated to more interaction during *If I Ruled the World*. Garbed in black and gold, V started playing around with fans, posing for cameras and holding their hands. Rap Monster took off his jacket in lieu of a hot performance. *Baepsae* started and the hip thrusts flooded in. Of course, Jungkook couldn't help fooling around, and started dancing the hotline-bling step. We also couldn't make do without J-Hope's freestyle dancing.

The next song started with "Welcome, first time to BTS?" Fans shouted, disagreeing because obviously, this isn't their first time. As the cool song itself suggests, *Dope* started playing, and we got to witness Suga's powerful rap once again together with V's playful adlibs. Jin was energized throughout the whole dance, and there was no dance hole in BTS.

"*Masaya ba kayo?*" Jimin asked the tired but clearly ecstatic crowd. J-hope led the crowd into doing a wave. A sea of silver glistened against the arena's darkness as Jungkook declared "*Kayo ang the best!*" As *Fun Boyz* started playing, the (unofficial) sunshine line took the lead in cheering the audience up. J-hope was running around more hyped than anyone else. V was spraying water into the crowd and he led the boys into his quirky, made up choreography, as Jimin's shiny hair bounced all over the place. Jungkook gathered everyone into a line in *Attack on Bangtan* and with hands placed over each other's shoulder, they hip thrust their way into the fan's unsuspecting hearts.

V declared his love for Filipino fans once again, but the mood got dim as Rap Monster declared that there is only one song to go. He continued while saying that Hwayang-yeonhwa started when they got their first music show win, when BTS first met and saw their fans. "Thank you for the good memories. We may have different

languages and nationality but we share a very big connection,” he softly said, touching the fans who are now at the brink of tears.

Then the song that introduced BTS to everyone started to play - *No More Dream*, a song more special than the rest, and you can see how the boys were doing their best, as if afraid to part. The mood brightened up as fans got to get a peek of Jimin’s infamous chocolate abs.

Out of nowhere, the music stopped. The stage darkened and the crowd went silent once again. Tension was built up, the crowd seeming to be holding breaths, hoping to see the boys again. A chant was started, “BTS! BTS! BTS!”

Finally, a cumulative feeling of relief was felt as the boys emerged once again, dressed uniformly in their HYYH shirts. Tears were falling as *Young Forever* started playing, the rapper line smoothly starting the song. After the vocal line appeared, everyone was raised up on a ramp, gleaming and unreal. You could feel sincere emotions as they waved to their fans. As everyone joined in singing, “Forever, we are young,” they were smiling from ear to ear, full of happiness after meeting their Filipino fans.

Whalien 52 played and the boys went around the stage, sending glances, waves and kisses out. As *Miss Right* started playing, the boys threw colored balls to the crowd, who were going nuts just to catch it. Everyone was singing along. It was amazing. This is Hwayang-yeonhwa. Nobody was saying it out loud, but everybody could feel it.

“I was surprised that you enjoyed the show,” a jolly V declared. Jin’s glasses couldn’t hide the tears forming in his eyes as he told the fans, “I won’t forget this moment with you. *Buong buhay po namin.*” Jimin checked in on the fans asking them how they were doing before saying, eyes teary, “I am so glad to meet you. I had a great time with you. Next time, let’s have more fun. *Magkita tayo ulit.*” J-Hope was glancing around and was the first to notice the fan project, the whole lower box area showed “Saranghae (I love you)” in Hangul. “I am so happy we came to Manila. ‘Til we meet again.” Everyone seemed teary, even Suga, saying, “We will visit Manila more often. We will come back next year,” he promised. “Thank you so much. *Mahal ko ang Manila.* Thank you *talaga!*” Even the golden maknae, Jungkook, couldn’t hold back his tears as he followed suit, telling the fans, “I’m happy to spend time with you in Manila. We will come back for sure.” Smiling widely, “I will not forget our time together,” he assured. Leader Rap Monster was the last, saying, “When we heard we were coming to Manila, we couldn’t wait because we heard your screams before.” “Did you guys feel

us? Did you guys feel BTS?" he continued. "Manila knows how to turn up. Thank you for giving us great memories and I hope you guys feel the same, too."

As the last song, *I Need U*, started playing, the boys stood in a line, revealing their most honest selves. Under glimmering purple lights, mics raised up high, they let the PH ARMYs sing the song. The boys were amazed at the spectacle they have created. The fans shouted the lyrics as passionate as they could, shedding every last bit of energy they have to make the boys feel their love. As the boys went into formation for the last time that night, everyone sang their hearts out. Both BTS and PH ARMY showed mutual love and admiration, the best thing both could give.

It had been one hell of a night - an emotional roller coaster brought by seven individually charming boys and thousands of fans who got to know them through their passionate years. These were the boys who taught us to dream, love, laugh and live life. This is why we love BTS, and this is why this night will always be part of our Hwayang-yeonhwa, the most beautiful moment in life.