The Even More Ridiculous BTS Primer of 2019
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Summary

So this is an intensely ridiculous but also very serious fandom primer for the k-pop group BTS. It has profiles (because I love profiles) and some chronology, but mostly it's a ruthlessly organised collection of a million or so links, with commentary.

Just, so many links. To every BTS thing I think is important. (So, selective! And subjective! But a lot of things, oh my god.)

Notes

View links to all chapters.

Primer structure: The first chapter is member profiles. The next five chapters are basic guides to the music videos, music, choreography and tie-in universes (webcomics etc). I’ll probably keep updating these sections through the end of 2019, to match the primer title.

Chapter 7 is top-level links to help with navigating Map of the Soul Era.

Chapters 8 to 41 are catch-up for all the eras before 2019: good performances, behind-the-scenes shenanigans, variety & reality, livestreams, photo sets, text interviews etc for each era from the School Trilogy to Love Yourself, plus a pre-debut chapter.

There isn't a chapter for fanworks, but all my fic recs are in my AO3 bookmarks. I also want to recommend using the 'only bookmarks with notes' filter to browse all BTS bookmarks.
Disclaimer: I’m a white international fan who speaks little to no Korean. I’ve tried not to talk about stuff I don’t know, but if there’s anything culturally ignorant in my commentary, if you let me know I’ll do my best to fix it.

Thanks and kudos to all the fansubbers and translators who make this international fandom possible!
BTS are a 7-member k-pop group, and the biggest boy band, maybe the biggest band, in the world right now. And trying to unravel the reasons for that is endlessly fascinating, the way a breakaway success always is (is it social media! probably, but what does that actually mean!), but at the core they’re a group who’ve spent six years evolving their sound and look from really good to also really good in different ways, with a lot of sincerity and thoughtfulness about it, as well as being individually appealing people who love and make fun of each other a tonne.

BTS is short for Bangtan Sonyeondan, which translates to Bulletproof Boy Scouts. Which is a ridiculous name, but they were nearly called Big Kids, so we're probably in the better timeline. The official English meaning is ‘Beyond The Scene’.

MEMBER PROFILES

Members left-to-right: J-Hope, V, Jin, RM, Jungkook (in front), Suga, Jimin (source)
Jin

Kim Seokjin, b. 1992. Jin is the eldest member! He’s extremely tolerant about it, and also loudly full of complaints, at the same time. He has shoulders out to here. He has on two separate occasions gone viral outside the fandom for being strikingly handsome while doing nothing in particular. He’s made talking about his own handsomeness a personal meme, and that was so successful that he delightedly went on to make a bunch of other things memes: telling terrible dad jokes, over-the-top flying kisses, pulling handmade hearts from improbable places during concerts. (That last one finally culminated in this incredible stage for their song ‘Go Go’.) Jin looks after the other members a bit, in his role as the oldest, but he’s also gloriously and determinedly childish. He likes to cook and he loves to eat. He jumps like a skittish foal when he’s startled. He sounds like a squeaky windscreen wiper when he laughs. He almost never admits to having serious emotions, except when he does.

He’s one of the group’s four main vocalists. His voice has some edge, which he often uses to inject a satisfying sort of electric whine into his parts, especially in their harder songs. He’s not a natural dancer, but he’s really good at expressing choreo that calls for a particular kind of theatrical goofiness. He’s also completed a film arts (acting) degree, although he hasn’t had much chance to use it yet, outside of music videos and ads.

Suga

Min Yoongi, b. 1993. Suga (officially styled SUGA) has an electric energy on stage, and off-stage can most often be found lying on the floor. He’s the slightest and most delicate-looking member, and also the most intimidating. He looks after the younger members quite a bit, in a tsundere way. Actually he’s almost too tsundere to be real, sometimes. He puts a lot of value on honesty – he’s candid about naming his ambitions even when they seem too high, and he sometimes bares his soul to the elements in his messages to fans or in his lyrics. He’s also a barefaced and gleeful cheat and liar in games and variety. He loves and cherishes award statuettes like nobody else. He seems antisocial but is always quietly collecting senior industry friends. He has a cute gummy smile. He makes a lethally appealing girl. He looks like an excited pensioner when he runs and when he goofs off. In winter he wears so many layers you can’t see him.

He’s one of the group’s three main rappers – his voice has some gravel in it and his style tends to be fast, fierce and ragged at the edges. He’s not one of the main dancers, but he has a natural sort of loose-limbed grace that makes him extremely watchable when he’s dancing. He also does a lot of producing and songwriting; he’s one of the members with a lot of input into the sound and themes of BTS songs.

J-Hope
Jung Hoseok, b. 1994. J-Hope (officially styled j-hope) is a moodmaker and a force of easy kinetic energy – although he gets anxious and stressed behind the scenes, and often wears himself out when they’re filming. He’s the dance and performance leader, and runs dance practices when they practise on their own. He has a habit of giving soft head kisses to cute things, including the maknae line. Actually he dotes on the younger members a lot, in both welcome and less welcome ways. He’s the neatest and cleanest of the group – the other members gleefully remember the one time J-Hope accidentally went to sleep without showering after practice. He cries easily when he feels touched. He’s scared of all the things. His fashion sense is a carefully curated riot of casual-flamboyant bucket hats and patterns and shorts with slip-ons and ridiculous bags. He has dimples and a heart-shaped smile, which famously turns into a shape when he’s down.

J-Hope is a triple-threat: he’s the lead dancer, one of the main rappers and a sometimes-vocalist. He’s also involved in composing and producing. His background is street dance, and his dance style tends towards a kind of precision-controlled looseness. As a rapper he uses a lot of half-sung rap and really fun onomatopoeia (if you hear car-engine sound effects in a BTS song, that’s J-Hope).

RM

Kim Namjoon, b. 1994. RM is the leader, the one who represents the group to the company and to the world. He’s earnest and articulate, and he has a gift for languages. He’s also a disaster of a human being: he breaks everything he touches and loses everything he owns. He cares a lot about fashion and anguishes over how daring to be about it. He starts hunting for crabs like a little kid any time he gets near a beach. As leader he’s conscientious about encouraging each of the others to speak up on camera and about helping them to show their best and most appealing selves. He always tries to make sure everybody gets credit where it’s due. He rarely starts shenanigans but he nearly always plays along when somebody else does. He has deep dimples. He’s the tallest member. He talks to himself out loud to encourage himself. He makes a literal human XD face when he’s feeling self-conscious. He originally debuted with the stage name Rap Monster, and regretted it.

RM is one of the three main rappers – his style is sometimes forceful but often precise and enunciated and full of clever wordsmithery. He does a lot of composing and producing, and he’s the group’s main lyricist. His lyrics range from fun wordplay and delicately beautiful poetics to odes to sexy shoes and dorky philosophy about lonely wales and ants, to biting social commentary and, often, self-reflection and wistful, soul-baring introspection.

Jimin
Park Jimin, b. 1995. Jimin has a natural cuteness that can be off-the-charts lethal. Since their debut he’s been very seriously working on adding in coolness and sexiness, to pretty devastating effect. He’s cuddly and tactile, flirty as hell and allows himself to be manhandled with varying degrees of good grace. He’s a practice bug and a perfectionist, and often fixates on tiny flaws or mistakes. He famously needs a lot of love and attention, and is shameless about asking for praise. And he’s generous with attention and encouragement for others. He also loses his temper easily, and he’s surprisingly yell-y for such a soft-voiced person. He throws himself bodily about when he laughs. He can casually fold himself in half. He has small hands and likes to wear his sleeves long enough to give himself sweater paws. He also wears a lot of rings, and says he likes his hands to feel heavy. He’s amazingly clumsy for a graceful person.

Jimin is one of the four main vocalists. He has a lilting sort of voice with a lot of colour to it, and he takes most of the really high notes in BTS songs. He’s also one of the three main dancers – his background is contemporary dance, and his style has a lot of fluidity and pretty lines. He also uses a lot of big powerful movements to make the most of his un-tall stature.

V

Kim Taehyung, b. 1995. V has the most incredible boxy smile you’ve ever seen. He’s fearless and sometimes unpredictable. He’s often puppyishly cute, on purpose or by accident, and he can get wild and over-excited, with an unselfconscious sort of naivety. He also has a deep and carefully cultivated interest in aesthetics and fashion and the arts. He sometimes has trouble expressing himself, and often makes vocab errors or uses odd syntax. He has a literal gazillion friends in both the idol and acting worlds. He’s even more of a flagrant cheat in games than Suga is. He goes stiff and silently shakes when he laughs really hard. He likes to hug something in his sleep, ideally a person. He’s good with children and with animals. He grew up in an agricultural area, and has a lot of feelings about strawberries. This international beauty list named him the most handsome face in the world in 2017.

V is one of the four main vocalists. He has a low, husky voice that can be velvet-soft in some songs and this incredible gravelly wrecking ball in others. He’s not usually counted among the main dancers, but he has a lanky elegant grace as a dancer that can be pretty deadly. He can also dance in heels. V is also the only member who’s had an acting role in a drama, so far.

Jungkook
Jeon Jungkook, b. 1997. Jungkook (officially styled Jung Kook) is the maknae, or youngest member! He moved into the trainee dorms when he was 13 years old by international age, and the other members are going to admit that he’s grown up approximately never. People are constantly petting his hair. He’s ridiculously athletic and naturally good at every sport, as well as being a bit of a workout junkie. He’s also naturally artistic: he has a pattern of falling into a new creative or athletic pursuit and then being startlingly good at it. His sense of humour is meme-child physical, and he has a knack for imitating the other members. He has very slightly prominent front teeth and a habit of scrinching his nose, so fans tend to call him a bunny. A lot. He’s equal parts a terror and a considerate sweetheart to the other members. He has a sensitive nose and loves clean and nice-smelling clothes – whenever they stay somewhere new, Jungkook looks for the laundry first. He’s lively with people he knows but shy with strangers. In a lot of ways he was brought up by the group.

Jungkook is the other triple-threat member: he’s the lead vocal, a sometimes-rapper, and one of the three main dancers - his dance style is all sharp, clean lines. He also does some producing. He has the strongest and steadiest voice among the vocalists, so he’s often the backbone of Bangtan songs, but when he sings for himself he prefers a more delicate and breathless style.
Chapter End Notes

The backstory is that I wrote a long BTS primer on Tumblr back in 2016, and then was like haha well that turned out a bit more epic than I thought it would, but I'm definitely done now!

And then by the time *Tear* came out there was so much new stuff, and so much of it was so good, that I kept lowkey rewriting the primer in my head, and eventually opened up a google doc to see what a new version of it might look like. And after five months of pretending I could stop working on it *any time*, here we are.

Drop me a comment if you hit broken links.

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Next part: Music Videos
The (g) after links to fan-uploaded content is my attempt at entropy-proofing this primer. If a link’s broken, click the (g) for a queued-up google video keyword search.

(But also please comment if you find dead links, and I'll fix them.)

See the end of the chapter for more notes.

K-pop is a super-visual genre, and most people getting into any k-pop fandom start with the music videos.

Most of BTS’s music videos have been made by the one director/film production team, LUMPENS. As a result there’s quite a bit of visual continuity between them, even though they’re all pretty different. That includes actual callbacks and continuing narrative threads sometimes, and also just a sense of the new MVs being informed by a body of knowledge and familiarity with all the members and their styles and the real dynamics between them.

The early BTS MVs are pretty uneven, though (partly just due to budget). It took a few releases before the music videos started to be as good as the music and choreography.

**Principal MVs**

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**No More Dream** (2013)

- Dance/thematic MV. Could be better filmed and edited, but the dance is good.
- First single for 2 Cool 4 Skool.
- **MV Filming Episode (g)** (they’re so baby-faced)

**We Are Bulletproof Pt.2** (2013)

- Straightforward dance MV.
- Follow-up single for *2 Cool 4 Skool*.
- The Pt.2 refers to [this](https://www.bts.com) pre-debut track released by an early BTS lineup of RM and two other rappers in 2010 (you hear it playing right at the beginning of the ‘No More Dream’ MV).

**N.O** (2013)

- Dance/drama MV. The lighting hurts my eyes honestly, but this one’s an attempt at a more ambitious narrative concept.
- Single for *O!RUL8,2?*
- **MV Filming Episode (g)** (the struggles of acting!)

**Boy in Luv** (2014)

- Dance/drama MV. Part cute high school AU, part *Threatening girls you just met is super romantic* storyline. Unfortunate. Especially since it’s such a good song.
- First single for *Skool Luv Affair*.
- Korean title: ‘Sang Namja’ meaning ‘Real Man’ or ‘Manly Man’.
- **MV Filming Episode** (turn on captions)

**Just One Day** (2014)

- Dance/aesthetic MV, very simple.
- Follow-up single for *Skool Luv Affair*.
- Korean title: ‘Haruman’
- **MV Filming Episode** (everyone feeling cute and kinda hyper)

**Danger** (2014)

- Dance/thematic MV, nicely shot and everybody is very attractive.
- (The first BTS thing I watched! It didn’t really stick but I was into V cutting his hair.)
- The lyrics veer in an unfortunate *violent jealousy is sexy* direction, but they don’t go there in the MV imagery, and thankfully BTS left that whole concept in 2014.
- First single for *Dark & Wild*.
- **MV Filming Episode** (exhausted kiddos)

**War of Hormone** (2014)

- Dance/semi-narrative MV. Everybody is *super* attractive.
- Does involve them all kinda mobbing a hot girl on the street, which I’m not crazy about, but it’s fairly inconsequential.
- The lyrics are so dumb. They’re just. So dumb.
- Follow-up single for *Dark & Wild*.
- Korean title: ‘Hormone Jeonjaeng’.
- **MV Filming (& Jacket Photo Shooting) Episode** (one-take hilarity)

**I Need U** (2015)

- Drama MV about youth and friendship and ANGST.
- Content warnings for family violence, implied suicide, youth homelessness, implied car
accident.

- First single for *HwaYangYeonHwa* (‘The Most Beautiful Moment in Life’) *Pt. 1.*
- **MV Filming Episode**

**Dope** (2015)

- A one-take-style dance MV, fun costumes and great colours, A+ all round.
- Follow-up single for *HYYH Pt. 1.*
- Korean title:  (‘Jjeoreo’).
- ‘Dope’ was their first MV to reach 100 million views on youtube! (On the 1theK version, a year and four months after it was released.) (x)
- **MV Filming (Concept Photo Shooting) Episode**
- **J-Hope & Jimin’s MV reaction** (g) (giving each other shit, Jimin’s strong feelings about police officer Jungkook, and both of them dying over Suga)

**Run** (2015)

- Drama MV, an alternate and more hopeful version of the ‘I Need U’ ‘verse, I love it a lot.
- At just before the 4 minute mark the music pauses and they all yell aggressively into the camera, so heads up for that.
- Single for *HYYH Pt. 2.*
- **MV Filming Episode** (g) (a quality time)

**Epilogue: Young Forever** (2016)

- Drama/symbolic-narrative MV. Another instalment in the ‘I Need U’ ‘verse, with flashbacks and a maze.
- Pre-release single for *HYYH: Young Forever*.
- **MV Filming Episode** (g)

**Fire** (2016)

- Dance/thematic MV. One of their best.
- Principal single for *HYYH: Young Forever*.
- Korean title:  (‘Bultaoreune’ meaning ‘Burning Up’)
- **MV Filming Episode**

**Save Me** (2016)

- A one-take outdoor dance MV.
- Co-promotional single for *HYYH: Young Forever*.
- **MV Filming Episode** (g) (This is for real so much professionalism in the face of appalling weather.)

**Blood Sweat & Tears** (2016)

- Dance/symbolic-narrative MV. This is a goddamn AESTHETIC.
- Single for *Wings*.
- Korean title:  (‘Pi Ttam Nunmul’)
- **MV Filming Episode** (g) (This set is incredible.)
- **BTS’ MV reaction** (g) (Pandemonium over Jimin’s sexy shoulder.)

**Spring Day** (2017)
• Thematic/symbolic-narrative MV. Beautiful and subtle, with a lot of deeper allusions.
• Principal single for *You Never Walk Alone*.
• Korean title:  (‘Bonmal’)
• **MV Filming Episode** (You may need to turn on the background colour on the subs for readability.)

**Not Today** (2017)

• Dance/semi-narrative MV, dynamic and enjoyable. They are FIGHTERS. Against … something. Their backup dancers, mostly.
• Co-promo single for *You Never Walk Alone*.
• **MV Filming Episode** (And they run, run, run.)

**DNA** (2017)

• Dance/thematic MV, with a trippy colour scheme.
• First single for *Love Yourself: Her*.
• **MV Filming Episode** (g)
• **BTS’ MV reaction** (g)

**Mic Drop (Steve Aoki Remix)** (2017)

• Dance/thematic MV. Very cool.
• Special remix single from *LY: Her* with mostly English lyrics.
• **MV Filming Episode** (g) (The wire scene!)
• **BTS’ MV reaction** (g) (Extremely hyped.)

**Fake Love** (2018)

• Dance/symbolic-narrative MV. A gorgeous video.
• Single for *LY: Tear*.
• **MV Filming Episode** (g) (This is such a cool set.)

**Idol** (2018)

• Dance/thematic MV. Visually this one is A Lot. A maelstrom of hot colours and carnival energy and kinda dubious CGI and everybody being extremely attractive.
• Single for *LY: Answer*.
• **MV Filming Episode** (g)
• **BTS’ MV reaction** (g)

**Boy with Luv** feat. Halsey (2019)

• Dance/thematic MV. A homage to *Singing in the Rain!* An effervescent dream in pink.
• Single for *Map of the Soul: Persona*
• Korean title:  (‘A Poem for Small Things’)
• **MV Filming Episode** (g) Also feat. Halsey!

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**Alternate Version MVs**
No More Dream (dance ver.) (2014)

- I would sure like to know who decided ‘constantly glitching out of focus’ was the cool look the kids liked.

Boy in Luv (dance ver.) (2014)

- Still a few dubious lighting choices, but not bad.

Just One Day (dance ver.) (2014)

- My favourite of the Just One Day MVs.
- There’s also a still camera dance version.

Just One Day (facial expression version) (2014)

- A full cut of the non-dancing parts of the original MV.

No More Dream (Japanese ver.) (2014)

- Dance/semi-narrative MV. Nothing too elaborate, but better edited than the original Korean version.

Boy in Luv (Japanese ver.) (2014)

- Dance/thematic MV. My favourite of the Boy in Luv MVs. Very similar aesthetic to the Korean version but without any girl to threaten and with arguably better hair.

Danger (Japanese ver.) (2014)

- Dance/semi-narrative MV. Similar aesthetic to the Korean version, but with even more eyeliner somehow.

Danger (Mo-Blue-Mix) ft. THANH (2014)
- Australian-Vietnamese singer-songwriter Thanh Bui co-write the original version of ‘Danger’.
  - This remix is slower but still has a lot of energy, and his feature is good.
  - MV is very simple: monochrome and single-location.

I Need U (original ver.) (2015)
- An extended version of the drama MV with more explicit violence.
- Released second, despite the title.

I Need U (Japanese ver.) (2015)
- Dance/thematic MV. Extremely flowers.

Run (Japanese ver.) (2016)
- Dance/thematic MV. Simple but I love this one. Lots of water and mirrors.

Fire (dance ver.) (2016)
- A cut of just the three dance locations from the original MV.

Blood Sweat & Tears (Japanese ver.) (2017)
- Thematic/drama MV. Ambitious and kinda incoherent.
- They didn’t really use the HYYH storyline for the Japanese ‘I Need U’ and ‘Run’ MVs, so they put it all in here. But they also put all the aesthetics and symbolism from the Korean ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ in. And then turned everything trippy radioactive colours.

Not Today (dance ver.) (2017)
- Runs through the choreography twice with different camera angles, so it’s 8 minutes long.

Fake Love (extended ver.) (2018)
- A 6 and a half minute version set to a rock remix of the song, with a new epilogue.

- I fuckin’ love this one. Nicki’s verse improves the visual pacing of the video for me, and she looks and sounds great.

Boy with Luv (‘ARMY with Luv’ ver.) (2019)
- A different edit with a few more cute moments, including with Halsey.

Other MVs
Not comprehensive because the line for what constitutes a music video can get fuzzy, but these are the highlights of their solo, non-Korean and less official MVs.

**Graduation Song** (2013) by J-Hope, Jimin and Jungkook

- Pre-debut. The cutest thing to ever exist. Jungkook and Hoseok had just graduated middle school and high school respectively.
- Adapted cover of ‘Young, Wild and Free’ by Snoop Dogg & Wiz Khalifa ft. Bruno Mars.
- MV Filming Behind (g)

**What Am I to You?** by RM (2014)

- The intro track and comeback trailer for *Dark & Wild.*
- Animated. A bit odd but part of a good intro track/trailer tradition.

**Buckubucku** by MFBTY ft. EE, RM & Dino-J (2015)

- MFBTY are a legendary crew in the k-hiphop scene, so it was a big deal when RM was invited to feature on this song in early 2015.

**Do You** by RM (2015)

- Principal MV for the mixtape *RM.*
- Black and white, very aesthetic.
- MV Filming Behind (g) (The rest of BTS turns up in a joyful incursion to support him.)

**Joke** by RM (2015)

- For *RM.*
- Content warning for straitjacket imagery and the trappings of medical abuse.


- Animated. A basketball and cherry blossoms story.
• The intro track and comeback trailer for *HYYH Pt. 1*.

**For You** (2015)

• A Japan-only single.
• Dance/drama MV. Cute and gets cuter at the end.

**Never Mind** by Suga (2015)

• Animated. A butterfly story.
• The intro track and comeback trailer for *HYYH Pt. 2*.

**Fantastic** by RM ft. Mandy Ventrice (2015)

• Created as part of promotions for the film *Fantastic 4*. RM scenes intercut with movie footage.
• I actually still don’t know how and why RM was doing a song for *Fantastic 4*, but it’s fun and kind of ridiculous.

**Agust D** by Agust D (Suga) (2016)

• Principal MV for Suga’s mixtape *Agust D*. High energy and fast cuts.
• ‘Agust D’ is ‘DT Suga’ backwards, a reference to his predebut Daegu rap crew, D-Town.

**give it to me** by Agust D (2016)

• For *Agust D*. Lots of fire, good looks.

**Boy Meets Evil** by J-Hope (2016)

• The intro track and comeback trailer for *Wings*.
• Evocative and powerful dance MV.

**Change** by RM & Wale (2017)

• Free download/mixtape collaboration.
• Came about after Wale reached out on Twitter.

**Serendipity** by Jimin (2017)

• The intro track and comeback trailer for *Love Yourself: Her*.
• There’s a full-length version of ‘Serendipity’ the song on *LY: Answer* that I like better, but the MV is pretty and has a calico cat in it.

**Daydream** by J-Hope (2018)

• Principal MV for J-Hope’s mixtape *Hope World*. Colours!
• **Making Of (g)** (All the members and V’s puppy visit the set. Watch if you like to have feelings.)

**Airplane** by J-Hope (2018)

• For *Hope World*.
• The BTS song ‘Airplane pt.2’ on *LY: Tear* (and *Answer*) was inspired by this J-Hope song.
• **Making Of (g)** (Also includes the parts of the ‘Daydream’ shooting that aren’t member visits.)
Singularity by V (2018)

- The intro track and comeback trailer for *LY: Tear*.
- One of the very best aesthetic BTS MVs.

Epiphany by Jin (2018)

- The comeback trailer for the album *LY: Answer*.
- I think they hoped the doppelganger concept would carry this further than it really did, without an interesting set or storyline to back it up.

forever rain by RM (2018)

- MV for RM’s mixtape *mono*.
- Animated, black and white.

moon child by RM (2018)

- For *mono*.
- A lyric video, but pretty close to the production values of a regular music video.

Airplane Pt.2 (2018)

- For the Japanese version of the song.
- A seriously excellent dance/aesthetic MV.

Persona by RM (2019)

- The comeback trailer for the album *Map of the Soul: Persona*.
- Really good aesthetics. Callbacks to RM's last intro MV, 'What Am I to You?'

Heartbeat (2019)

- Music video for the title track of the *BTS World* game's soundtrack.
- Uses footage from the game.

Lights (2019)

- A Japan-only single.
- Thematic and simple, with some visual call-backs to 'Boy With Luv'.


- Includes an appropriative hairstyle that disappointed a lot of fans.
- Otherwise fun and colourful.

Chapter End Notes

Up until 'Save Me' all their principal MVs were uploaded on both Big Hit's youtube channel and the third-party distributor channel 1theK. I've linked to the Big Hit ones because 1theK do that infuriating pinned-videos-over-the-last-five-seconds thing. But the 1theK ones are the versions that got more traffic, so if you thought the view
numbers looked low-ish on the earlier videos, that's why.

Next part: **Music**
All the members of BTS are creatively involved in their music, and RM, Suga, and J-Hope especially do a lot of songwriting and producing for BTS songs. But the members have other full-time jobs, and the main bulk of their production is done by the in-house Big Hit producer team, especially Pdogg, Slow Rabbit, and Supreme Boi, who have all been with them since the beginning (Supreme Boi was originally going to be a member of BTS with RM, back when they weren't going to be idols). They've also worked with a lot of international producers and songwriters, especially since the Love Yourself series.

Their lyrics are almost all written by the members: the rappers write their own verses, all the members contribute bits and pieces of other lyrics, and RM writes nearly everything else.

All of their albums are well worth listening to, but the ones that I would start with would be 2018’s Love Yourself: Tear and 2015’s twin mini-albums HwaYangYeonHwa (The Most Beautiful Moment in Life) Pt.1 and Pt.2.

Main Discography

Album links are to Spotify for convenience, but their albums are also on the other major streaming and download platforms. (Physical album sales are also a big thing in k-pop, mostly because albums come packaged with photobooks.)

THE SCHOOL TRILOGY

2 Cool 4 Skool (2013)

- 3 real songs + some extra stuff + a hidden track (linked in ‘Other Songs’ below)
- Skit translation (g)

**O!RUL8,2?** (‘Oh! Are You Late, Too?’) (2013)
- 9 songs
- Skit translation (g)

**Skool Luv Affair** (2014)
- 9 songs
- Skit translation (g)
- There’s also a special edition with one original song on it (‘Miss Right’).

**DARK & WILD**

**Dark & Wild** (2014)
- 14 songs
- The idea is that the first 7 songs are ‘dark’ and the ones after the interlude are ‘wild’. (The ‘wild’ songs are pretty fluffy.)

**THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOMENT IN LIFE**
**HYYH Pt.1** (2015)

- 8 songs
- Skit translation (g)

**HYYH Pt. 2** (2015)

- 8 songs
- Skit translation (g)

**HYYH: Young Forever** (2016)

- Repackage album
- 3 new songs + 7 remixes and extended versions + 13 re-issued songs

WINGS
Wings (2016)

- 15 songs
- Each member has a solo track.

You Never Walk Alone (2017)

- Repackage album
- 3 new songs + 1 extended version + 14 reissued songs

LOVE YOURSELF

- The Love Yourself album titles include the characters of the Chinese phrase 起承轉結.
pronounced Gi Seung Jeong Yeol in Korean, meaning the 4 parts of a story: Introduction, Development, Turn and Conclusion.

- The LY series follows the arc of a love story with that structure: falling in love (起Wonder), happily in love (承Her), heartbreak or disenchantment (轉Tear) and finally self-love (結Answer).
- Wonder doesn’t have its own album, it’s represented by a couple of songs at the beginning of the Answer album (Jungkook’s ‘Euphoria’ and J-Hope’s ‘Trivia起: Just Dance’).
- For the record, most of this was extremely unclear when they started the series, and Love Yourself: Her sounded like the most nonsensical title ever.

**Love Yourself承Her** (2017)

- 8 songs + a hidden track (linked below)

**Love Yourself轉Tear** (2018)

- 11 songs

**Love Yourself結Answer** (2018)

- Repackage album
- 8 new songs + 5 remixes and extended versions + 13 reissued songs
- Basically consists of all the songs in the series that most closely fit the 起承轉結 story arc.
- Each member has a solo track.

The current album series is MAP OF THE SOUL, beginning with *Map of the Soul: Persona* (2019).

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**Japanese Albums**
Wake Up (2014)

- 3 original songs: ‘Wake Up’, ‘I Like It Pt.2’ & ‘The Stars’
- 9 Japanese-language versions of Korean songs

Youth (2017)

- 3 original songs: ‘Good Day’, ‘For You’ & ‘Wishing on a Star’
- 9 Japanese-language versions

Face Yourself (2018)

- 3 original songs: ‘Don’t Leave Me’, ‘Let Go’ & ‘Crystal Snow’
- 7 Japanese-language versions

Solo Mixtapes

These are self-composed and produced rap albums released for free download. Links are to the official download posts.

RM by RM (2015)

- 11 tracks
- RM was still using the name Rap Monster for his BTS activities at this point.

Agust D by Suga (2016)

- 9 tracks
- Also on official streaming and download sites, except for the title track.
- Skit translation

Hope World by J-Hope (2018)

- 7 tracks
• Also on official streaming and download sites.

*mono.* by RM (2018)

• 7 tracks
• Also on official streaming and download sites.

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**Other Albums**

*BTS World Soundtrack*

• Soundtrack for the mobile game *BTS World*
• 1 full-group song, 3 unit/collaboration tracks, 2 tracks by other artists + instrumentals
• Unit collaborations are with the western artists Charli XCX, Zara Larsson and Juice WRLD.
• The other two tracks are by the Korean artists OKDAL and Lee Hyun.

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**Other Songs**

Some important songs that aren’t on digital albums:

• **Path** (2013) A hidden track for *2 Cool 4 Skool*. Korean title: (*Gil*), also translated ‘Road’. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **So 4 More** (2014) *It's been a motherfucking year*. A song released for Festa 2014. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **I Verse** by J-Hope (2015) A mixtape track from 2015. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **I Know** by RM & Jungkook (2016) A fan song written by RM and released for Festa 2016. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Come Back Home** (2017) A cover of a 1995 song by pioneering k-pop group Seo Taiji and Boys, released as part of an official collaboration project. They do it really well. ([Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/))
• **Mic Drop** ft. Desiigner (2017) A special remix single (a different version to the one in the MV, which doesn’t include Desiigner’s feature). ([Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/album/4hN2aWwDq2wB2AjeF4d6Uh))
• **Ddaeng** ( ) (2018) A rapline-only song released as part of Festa 2018. Reeeeeeally good. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Promise** by Jimin (2018) Composed by Jimin & Slow Rabbit, lyrics by Jimin & RM. Released through SoundCloud. This is the song Jimin talks about working on in *Bon Voyage* in Malta. The person he's singing to is himself. Korean title: ■■ ('Yaksok') ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Scenery** by V (2019) Composition & lyrics by V. A really pretty ballad using both his low and falsetto registers. Korean title:  ('Pung Gyeong') ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Tonight** by Jin (2019) A song written (co-composed) for his pets, and released for Festa 2019. A gentle and warm sound. Korean title:   ('I Bam'), also translated ‘This Night’. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Winter Bear** by V (2019) Nothing has ever expressed who V is and wants to be as an artist more than this song and video. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))

Some good unofficial covers and adaptations:

• **Born Singer** (2013) Adaptation of J.Cole’s ‘Born Sinner’, released for their one-month anniversary after debut. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Someone Like You** by V (2014) Cover of the Adele song.
• **Christmas Day** by Jimin & Jungkook (2014) Adaptation of Justin Bieber’s ‘Mistletoe’. Super cheesy as Christmas songs tend to be, but smile-making. (Jimin wrote the Korean lyrics.) ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Lost Stars** by Jungkook (2015) Cover of the Adam Levine song. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Fools** by Jungkook & RM (2015) Cover of the Troye Sivan song.
• **We Don’t Talk Anymore** by Jungkook & Jimin (2017) Cover of the Charlie Puth song. (Jungkook initially covered this by himself.)
• **So Far Away** by Suga ft. Jin & Jungkook (2017) A special version of the *Agust D* mixtape track. ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))
• **Autumn Outside the Post Office** by Jin (2018) Cover of the YB song. Korean title: 가† ('Gaeul Ucheguk Apeseo'). ([Soundcloud](https://soundcloud.com/))

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Choreography**
Sharp and appealing choreography has always been a pretty essential part of k-pop, but when they started out BTS were one of only a handful of groups doing consistently really *interesting* and imaginative choreo, thanks to their in-house choreographer Son Sungdeuk. And also to their ability to pull off the moves with flare, even as new baby duckling idols with a pretty wide range of raw skill levels.

Their choreography has gotten more ambitious as the members’ skill levels rise, and even though there are a lot more groups these days with really strong and interesting choreo, BTS dances are still among the very best.

They’ve also worked with quite a few international choreographers. I’ve listed a credit where I could find one.

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**School Trilogy era**

**No More Dream:**

- Dance practice
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- Jimin *flying kicks everyone in the head*, this dance is incredible.

**We Are Bulletproof Pt.2:**

- Dance practice
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- J-Hope, Jimin and Jungkook all have their own dance break.
N.O:

- Dance practice
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- Highlights include the power body rolls and Suga standing on people.

Attack on Bangtan (also called Rise of Bangtan or Attack on BTS):

- Dance practice
- A deliberately casual muck-up feeling and really fun backup dancer interaction.
- Korean title: ‘Jingyeogui Bangtan Sonyeondan’.

Satoori Rap:

- Dance practice
- A regional street dispute! At one point Jimin gets conveyor-belt carried by backup dancers.
- Korean title: ‘Paldogangsan’.

Boy in Luv:

- Dance practice
- Choreographer: David Lim
- This dance is so visually satisfying and well put together. Also J-Hope leaps over everybody for his part.

Just One Day:

- Dance practice | Muck-up dance practice ('Appeal' ver.)
- A chair dance, fun and sweet.

Tomorrow:

- BigHit focus cam
- A 2014 song (from Skool Luv Affair) but this is a 2018 performance
- A lowkey but pretty dance.

Dark & Wild era

Danger:

- Dance practice | Muck-up dance practice ('Appeal' ver.) | MPD focus cam
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- Very cool formations and power, but punishingly hard work – you get exhausted just watching them.

War of Hormone:

- Dance practice | Muck-up dance practice ('Real War' ver.) (incredible) | MPD focus cam
- A laddishly cute riot of a dance.

I Like It Pt. 2:

- Dance practice
- Some slinky body rolls, and Jimin is a telephone.
- The song is from their 2014 Japanese album Wake Up, but the dance practice was filmed for
Festa 2017.

Blanket Kick (also called Embarrassed):

- Dance practice
- More gimmick than dance, but cute. The bed was also part of the staging for this song on tour.
- A 2014 song (from Dark & Wild), but the dance practice was filmed for Festa 2015.
- Korean title: ‘Ibul Kick’

HYYH era

I Need U:

- Dance practice | MPD focus cam | MPD focus cam 2 (because they’re both so good and I couldn’t choose)
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- This dance is like water flowing through machine cogs.

For You:

- MV dance ver.
- As pretty as you would expect for a song like this. There’s even a twirl.

Dope:

- Dance practice | MPD focus cam
- Choreographers: Keone Madrid, Carlo Darang
- Some of their fanciest footwork! The dance practice video has a slightly awkward camera angle, so the dance doesn’t look quite as cool as it usually does on stage.

Converse High:

- MPD focus cam
- They had to change the lyrics for the broadcast, to remove the brand name, but the choreo is still all about shoes, and it’s silly and enjoyable.

Run:

- Dance practice
- Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
- The sexy jacket dance.

Butterfly:

- MPD focus cam
- Choreographer: Brian Puspos
- A beautiful dance full of butterflies.

Fire:

- Dance practice | BigHit focus cam (from a 2018 performance)
- Choreographer: Keone Madrid
- Super impressive.
Save Me:

- MPD focus cam
- Choreographers: Quick Style Crew
- The MV is already a dance MV, but choreo is always a bit different on stage.

Baepsae ( ):

- Dance practice (fun ver.)
- This is ridiculous and perfect
- Also called by the English titles ‘Crow Tit’, ‘Silver Spoon’ and ‘Try Hard’, and sometimes romanised ‘Baebsae’.
- A baepsae or crow tit is a little bird with short legs; there’s a Korean saying that if a baepsae gets uppity and tries to walk like a stork, it will break its legs.

Wings era

Blood Sweat & Tears:

- Dance practice | MPD focus cam | MPD focus cam 2
- Choreographers: Keone Madrid & Quick Style Crew
- Sexy and elaborate in the same way as the MV, and perfect for the song.

21st Century Girls:

- MPD focus cam | MBC focus cam
- Choreographer: Jose Ramos
- Super cute and good use of theatrical physical humour (the bar wave!).
- Korean title: 21 (‘Isipilsegí Sonyeo’).

Am I Wrong?:

- MBC focus cam
- Choreographer: Keone Madrid
- Pretty simple, but fun and tongue-in-cheek.

Spring Day:

- Dance practice | Muck-up dance practice (‘Lovely’ ver.) | MPD focus cam | 1theK focus cam
- Choreographer: Probably Son Sungdeuk (unconfirmed)
- Pretty as cherry blossoms.

Not Today:

- Dance practice | MPD focus cam
- Choreographer: Keone Madrid
- Both sharp and flamboyant, a good dance.

Love Yourself era

DNA:

- Dance practice | MPD focus cam
- Choreographers: Christopher Martin, Keone & Mari Madrid
• They had a tonne of fun with the concept for this one.

Mic Drop:

• **BigHit focus cam** | **BigHit focus cam 2** (special stage) | **Dance practice (MAMA dance break ver.)**
• Choreographers: Rie Hata, Lyle Beniga
• Super fucking cool.

Go Go:

• **MPD focus cam**
• This dance is straight-up adorable, in a relaxed and comfortable-looking way.
• Korean title: Go (‘Gominboda Go’).

Best of Me:

• **BigHit focus cam**
• Lots of flashing lights in the video.
• The song is from *LY: Her*, but this is a 2018 performance.

Fake Love:

• **Dance practice** | **BigHit focus cam** (from a different angle; very screaming because it’s the BBMAs stage)
• Choreographer: Son Sungdeuk
• There are *so many* incredible moments in this dance.

Airplane Pt.2:

• **MPD focus cam**
• Choreographer: Rie Hata
• Fuckin’ magical.

Anpanman:

• **BigHit focus cam**
• Choreographer: Rie Hata
• Super cute and effective.

Idol:

• **Dance practice** | **MPD focus cam**
• Flamboyantly leggy.

I’m Fine:

• **BigHit focus cam**
• Not a stand-out, but has some nice moments.

*Map of the Soul era*

Boy with Luv:

• **Dance practice** | **Eye contact ver.** (gigglier and with close-ups) | **MBC focus cam**
Choreographer: Rie Hata
Flirty and charming.

Dionysus:

- Dance practice | BigHit focus cam | Dance practice (MMA dance break ver.)
- Choreographers: Sienna Lalau & Andrew Elam
- Very prop-heavy, but with some great moments.

Special Choreographies

O!RUL8,2? Concept Trailer Namjoon brings the dead back to life.


MBC Gayo Daejejeon 2014 Intro Performance An impressive display of military precision. The ‘Good Camera’ title cards in this dance practice are probably snarking about the mind bogglingly terrible camerawork in the actual performance footage aired on the night (they literally panned away to the back of the arena during the human cannon part). This fancam of the performance by Gene of HOPE is good though.


Dance Practice for 2015 Begins Concert by J-Hope (Linked in profile section.)

Adult Ceremony (g) by Jimin & Jungkook A cover of k-pop’s most famously sexy dance, for Festa 2016.

Boy Meets Evil by J-Hope The first half of this video is the progress of him practising the flip, then there's a full run-through. Choreographer: Dylan Mayoral.

Lie by Jimin (Linked in profile section.) Choreography for Jimin’s Wings solo. Choreographer:
Markus Pe Benito.

**Own It by Jimin & Jungkook** A dance practice to Drake’s ‘Own It’. Devolves into giggly messing about halfway through. Choreographer: Brian Puspos.

**3J Urban Dance** by Jungkook, Jimin & J-Hope Special stage for Festa 2017. A really good showcase of their three styles. Choreographers: Scott Forsyth; Brian Puspos; Chris Martin & Carlo Darang.

**J-Hope & Jimin Dancing in Highlight Reel (Focus ver.)** A dance practice for the *Love Yourself Highlight Reel* (set to Troye Sivan’s ‘Youth’).

**Golden Disk Awards 2018 Dance Practice** Contains a regular ‘DNA’ and ‘Not Today’ dance practice, but opens with a minute thirty of very cool special choreo featuring an army of backup dancers.

**Black or White (g) by Jimin & Jungkook** God actual damn. A special stage for Festa 2018, to Michael Jackson’s ‘Black or White’.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **The BTS Universe**
A significant part of the BTS ~mythology is the storyline that began in the Most Beautiful Moment in Life or HYYH series and continued to weave through some of the music videos and additional content for the Wings and Love Yourself series. Big Hit eventually decided to call it the BTS Universe, but a lot of fans simply refer to it as the HYYH 'verse. The story has been presented in small out-of-sequence pieces like a kind of puzzle to put together, and involves multiple timelines or outcomes, from quite grim to brighter and more hopeful. Jin’s character is the key to the timeline differences, and has some kind of ability to alter key moments.

It’s about youth and trauma and love, and there’s a lot of focus on contrasting sadness and joy, and how each can exist inside the other. There are events and motifs that repeat in different ways throughout (things like fire for Yoongi, water and drowning for Jimin, narcolepsy and medication for Hoseok). Some of the instalments are literal storytelling, some are clearly symbolic.

You don’t have to care about the BTS Universe to care about BTS. But you will see it crop up again and again.

**Main BTS Universe instalments in the order they were released:**

- I Need U MV (original ver.)
- **Butterfly Prologue** (12 mins) Officially called ‘ on stage : prologue’, released as part of the lead-up to a 2-day concert of the same name.
- Run MV
- Epilogue: Young Forever MV
- Wings Short Films (each short film is only a few minutes long):
  - 1: Begin
  - 2: Lie
- 3: Stigma
- 4: First Love
- 5: Reflection
- 6: Mama
- 7: Awake

- **Blood Sweat & Tears MV (Japanese ver.)**
- **The Notes: Seokjin 13 June Year 22** (text)
- **Love Yourself Highlight Reel** (13 mins)
- **The Notes: Her** (text) A booklet included with the physical album *Love Yourself: Her.*
- **Euphoria** (9 mins)
- **The Notes: Jungkook 22 May Year 22** (text)
- **Fake Love Teaser 1**
- **Fake Love (extended ver.)**
- **The Notes: Tear** (text)
- **The Notes: Seokjin 3 August Year 22** (text)
- **The Notes: Answer** (text)
- **Save Me** A 16-episode webtoon/webcomic series telling (part of) the story of Seokjin’s attempts to change the past and save the others. (Links to other languages [here](#) & [here](#).)
- **The Notes: Persona** (text)

BTS and their creative team are extremely fond of callbacks, so there’s other canon beyond this list that can also be linked into the HYYH ‘verse (including easter-egg content: there are various bits of ephemera floating about related to a not-explicitly-affiliated blog for a flower shop specialising in the [imaginary flowers](#) Jin carries a bouquet of in the *Love Yourself Highlight Reel*). HYYH theories are their own whole big thing, and kind of a deep dive once you start googling and link hopping.
There’s also a printed book called *The Most Beautiful Moment in Life: THE NOTES 1*, which I’m told includes BTS Universe content that isn’t anywhere else. Last I checked the official English edition was still available to buy from primary retailers.

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Next part: **BT21 & Hip Hop Monster**
BT21 & Hip Hop Monster

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

BT21

BT21 are a set of characters developed as a collaboration between BTS and the messaging app LINE in 2017. The members came up with initial sketches and ideas for 7 characters. Then the LINE team developed them into finished characters, adding an eighth character as a link between the others (usually regarded as representing the BTS fandom, ARMY). There are LINE stickers, a tonne of merch, and official little comics and animations, and they're all funny and adorable.

Characters L-R: RJ the alpaca (Jin’s character), Cooky the bunny (Jungkook’s character), Shooky the cookie (Suga’s character), Chimmy the puppy (Jimin’s character), Van the space robot (the ARMY character), Mang the masked pony (J-Hope’s character), Koya the koala (RM’s character) and Tata the shape-shifting alien (V’s character).

Official art and short animations are posted to the BT21 twitter account bt21_. Some cute instalments are:

- Mang loves Chimmy’s cheek
- Mang selfie
- Horror movie night together
- Fur the fun of it
- Cooking skill level up
- This Halloween, who would be who?
- Our whole day goes like this
- Same same but different facial expressions
- Done with cleaning..? Start decorating?!
- Hello, future
- BAEBY LEAF KOYA alone!

**Making of BT21:** A playlist of 13 short videos showing all the parts of the character development the members of BTS were a part of.

**BT21 Universe:** In 2019 the members collaborated with LINE again to expand the BT21 universe to include backstories and families and friends for the 8 original characters - documented in a second series of short videos.

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**Hip Hop Monster**

*Hip Hop Monster* was an official webcomic that ran during part of 2014 and 2015, about a high school hip hop club. The characters were drawn as animals, but not intended to be literally animals (unlike BT21). It’s mostly put-down humour, so less endearing than BT21, but it has some fun moments.
I would call the comic itself pretty supplemental content, rather than required reading. Arguably more vital: this incredible twitter exchange from January 2015 between Taehyung and Jimin (5 tweets).

Chapter End Notes

The other official tie-in universe, as of its launch in June 2019, is BTS World: a mobile game in which the player is a BTS fan mysteriously transported back to 2012 and employed as a manager at Big Hit, responsible for guiding BTS's debut.

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Next part: Navigating Map of the Soul Era
Navigating Map of the Soul Era

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Map of the Soul Era began with the release of the mini album *Map of the Soul: Persona* in April 2019, and its single ‘Boy With Luv’. I won’t be doing individual content recs for Map of the Soul as I have for the catch-up eras (the rest of this primer), but here are some top-level links.

**Twitter**

*BTS_twt* is the only public social media account wholly run by the members themselves. All 7 members use it. Jimin is the only one who always signs his tweets (with the hashtag #JIMIN) but you can usually tell who’s tweeting from context/photos. Tweets are usually in Korean (sometimes English), but fan translators translate almost instantly.

*bts_bighit* is run by staff for official news, including links to new official videos on YouTube and photo sets on Facebook. They also upload the #______ pics here (usually translated #todaysbangtan): after every performance or event, the members pose for a backstage group shot that gets posted with this hashtag.

*BTS_jp_official* is run by staff for Japanese promotions. They also upload post-performance pics, but without a standard hashtag.

**Translations**

Some active fan translators whose work I’ve linked to in this primer:

- **BTS Trans**: blog | twitter (translation arm of Bangtan Subs)
- **wisha**: blog | twitter
- **ARMY Salon**: blog | twitter
- **Kimmy Yang**: blog | twitter

**YouTube**

*ibighit* is Big Hit’s official channel. Music videos and things like teasers get uploaded here. (Japanese music videos are uploaded to *Universal Japan*’s channel.)

*BANGTANTV* is the channel for behind-the-scenes BTS content. Videos usually don’t have official subs, but fansubbers sub and reupload them to their own channels. The main things uploaded to the BANGTANTV channel are:

- **Bangtan Bombs**: Short behind-the-scenes videos of cute or funny moments. Some are under a minute long, some are over 10 minutes (they’ve been getting longer with each era). Some are filmed by Big Hit staff and some by the members themselves. They’re almost all ridiculous and endearing. The long-running translation team *Bangtan Subs* have a playlist of every Bomb which they update as they go.
- **BTS Episodes**: Longer videos documenting specific events. Like the Bombs, they’ve been getting longer with each era – some are still under 5 minutes, but many are over 30. (Bangtan Subs playlist for Episodes).
- **Logs**: Short video diaries recorded by individual members. They don’t do them very often
any more, but there’s a new one occasionally. (Bangtan Subs playlist for Logs.)

**YouTube Pt. 2: Performances**

**Music Shows**

During album promotions, k-pop groups perform live or semi-live on music shows. Afterwards the performances are uploaded to the individual networks’ YouTube channels. (The performances from each broadcaster’s end-of-year song festival or award show usually get uploaded to these channels too.)

- **Mnet**: *MCountdown* (Thursday night)
- **MPD**: Focus cams for *MCountdown*
- **KBS**: *Music Bank* (Friday night)
- **MBC**: *Music Core* (Saturday night)
- **SBS** (largely region-locked): *Inkigayo* (Sunday night)

*MCountdown* and *Music Bank* are both also livestreamed on their YouTube channels: about 20 artists perform, in seniority and popularity order, and then at the end of every show a trophy is given for that week's no. 1 song, according to each show's chart system.

The other music shows are *Show Champion* (Wednesday) and *The Show* (Tuesday), but BTS haven’t performed on them recently (they're on cable networks with smaller viewership).

**Fancams**

Most high-quality stage fancams are by fansite masters – fans who run near-professional sites and social media accounts, usually dedicated to a particular member. Here are some currently active accounts (check the Love Yourself Performances chapter for more):

- **Jin**: Apple Tape | Dandelion | Jin Kiss Let's Go
- **Suga**: It’s Your Day | Major Scale | Day Off
- **J-Hope**: 218 | HopeSmiling | MiniHope
- **RM**: Limited Edition | Stand by RM | Hegemony spectRuM
- **Jmin**: JamJam | Mighty J | Peach Jelly
- **V**: Nuna V | TaeTae Land | Crescendo
- **Jungkook**: I Dare U | Made in 1997 | Snowpeach

(Terminalogy note: All still or focus videos of performances tend to be called fancams, which is why you'll see e.g. Mnet releasing 'fancams' which are actually professionally filmed by staff. I've called those focus cams in the primer.)
**Weverse & Weply**

**Weverse** is a new platform launched by Big Hit in 2019. It's mostly a space where both members of BTS and fans can post and reply, but it's also a platform for paid streaming content. So far a couple of series have been hosted on Weverse: a tour docu-series and season 4 of *Bon Voyage*.

**Weply** was launched at the same time, as a commerce app for buying official merch. You have to use Weply to actually buy the streaming content you watch on Weverse.

*Bon Voyage* is a generally beloved travel show BTS have been doing for 4 years now. The first three seasons were hosted on VLive.

**VLive**

**VLive** (the mobile version is called V App), is a direct-to-fans idol livestreaming and broadcasting platform owned by Naver (essentially South Korea’s Google). BTS have had a VLive channel since the launch of the app in 2015. Most of the members do solo or pair/small-group livestreams fairly often, especially when they're touring. Since they're live they're not subbed, but subs are usually added pretty quickly to the replay version (by VLive staff or fans).

The other main thing on the BTS channel is **Run BTS!**, which is a long-running variety show commissioned by Big Hit. It's always fun, and often it's excellent. Each episode or multi-episode-arc has a different theme for the games or challenges. It airs every Tuesday night, with season hiatuses. Episodes are about 20-30 minutes long, and have official subs. (Full list of episodes [here](#).)
Other Social Media Accounts

- **Facebook**: Maintained by staff. Behind-the-scenes photo sets from things like album jacket shoots are released as photo albums here.
- **Soundcloud**: Covers and other unofficial music releases are uploaded here.
- **Instagram**: Maintained by staff.
- **BTS Blog**: They rarely post here now, but the blog was one of the earliest platforms the members used to communicate with fans.
- **Weibo**: Official Chinese social media account.
- **Fancafe**: Mostly locked to fanclub members only.

Other Photos

Concept photos for each comeback are released on the official BTS website (click on an album and scroll down to PHOTO). The concept photos are a subset of the photos in the physical album jackets, released ahead of the album.

**Dispatch** is a news and gossip agency, but they also collaborate with artists’ agencies to release high-quality and quite gorgeous (though airbrushed and lightened) behind-the-scenes photos. Photos are uploaded on Naver here.

**Starcast**: These are photo stories released by Naver – behind-the-scenes photos with commentary. As far as I understand it, sometimes the photos and text are sent in by the artists’ agencies, and
sometimes Starcast staff write them. So some Starcast stories have funny and insightful commentary, and some have kind of twee filler captions that don’t really add anything. They’re released here, with English translations.

**Fansites:** The main work of most fansites is photos, and these days most fansites are on twitter. The BTS Fansites List twitter accounts for each member each follow and retweet from as many fansites as they can, so they’re a super-helpful way to browse all the photos for a recent event, or find accounts you want to follow: jin_fansites | suga_fansites | jhope_fansites | rm_fansites | jimin_fansites | v_fansites | jk_fansites

**Schedules**

The fan-run BTS Updates twitter account maintain a calendar for all BTS events. The group BTS Diary have another.

Some repeating events:

**BTS Festa** is a two-week content blitz to mark their debut anniversary on 13 June – they release things like special dance practice videos, special tracks like remixes or cover songs, photos, written profiles, and usually there’s a fanmeeting-style live event.

**Muster** is their not-quite-annual fanmeeting – a live performance event where they do special stages and a lot of fanservicey variety stuff. There's also an official Japanese fanmeeting, scheduled separately.

**Award shows:** Korean popular music award season is two to three months around the turn of the year. The main awards that BTS usually attend/perform at are the Melon Music Awards (MMA, late Nov/early Dec), the Mnet Asian Music Awards (MAMA, early Dec), the Golden Disc Awards (GDA, early Jan) and the Seoul Music Awards (SMA, late Jan). The MAMAs are usually the biggest one for fans, and I believe the SMAs have the highest mainstream profile. They’re all livestreamed, if you google close to the date.

BTS have also attended the Billboard Music Awards in the US the last three years, in May.

**Song festivals:** All the big networks do a fancy end-of-year song festival around Christmas and New Year, with special performances from about 20 artists. These are SBS Gayo Daejeon, KBS Gayo Daechukje and MBC Gayo Daejejeon. (Gayo means popular music, and the other words are all ‘Great something or other’.) These are also livestreamed.

**Everything Else**

The BTS Content Index is a fan-maintained index of every single BTS video, organised chronologically by era (with a few exclusions for things like DVD and fanclub-only content).
Chapter End Notes

**Bonus:** Youtube playlists of all the [official lives](#) and [fancams](#) in this primer (except the ones that aren't on YT or need queuing), which I mostly put together so I could put them on shuffle when I wanted to watch some performances and didn't want to decide which ones. I'm also adding favourite Map of the Soul performances as I come across them, but not in a really systematic way.

* 

Next part: [Pre-Debut Era](#)
PRE-DEBUT ERA

Chapter Notes

All sources for the chronology section are in this much more detailed timeline I put together a while back: A BTS Pre-Debut Timeline from 2010 to 2013.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Chronology

Namjoon (RM) grew up in Ilsan, a satellite city of Seoul. His family put a lot of emphasis on study, and he was a model over-achieving student. Then he discovered music, and started performing in the underground rap scene as a teenager, using the name Runch Randa (after his character in MapleStory). When he was in his final year in middle school he was recommended to a producer at Big Hit, and he joined the company as a trainee in 2010. He moved into the trainee dorm in August, when he was 15 international age. In 2011 he wrote and recorded a song that ended with him shouting “Rap Monster!”, and after that Big Hit staff started using it as a nickname for him, and it stuck.

In 2010 Big Hit was a smallish company, but their founder Bang Shihyuk had some industry credibility as a longtime producer at industry heavyweight JYP Entertainment, which he still had a friendly working relationship with. Big Hit didn’t have any hip hop artists, but Bang Shihyuk apparently felt strongly enough about signing Namjoon that he decided to create a group for him. So BTS was built around Namjoon. It was originally going to be a duo of Namjoon and one other rapper, and then more rappers were added to the team to fill out a hip hop group, including Yoongi and Hoseok.

Yoongi (Suga) grew up in Daegu, a city in southeastern Korea. His family sometimes struggled financially, and Yoongi has said that as a teenager he was pretty focused on becoming rich and successful (and less interested in becoming famous). His family were opposed to his music, but he joined an underground rap crew in Daegu – mostly as a producer – using the stage name Gloss, which is the English translation of the word  (yoongi). He auditioned for Big Hit in 2010, when they held auditions nationally, including in Daegu. He moved to Seoul to live in the trainee dorm in November, when he was 17 international age.

Hoseok (J-Hope) grew up in Gwangju, a city in southwestern Korea. His family also sometimes struggled financially – at one point his mother had to move away from the family home for work. His father worked as a high school literature teacher. Hoseok’s dad opposed his dancing at first, but his mother supported him, and he attended a dance academy and also joined a street dance crew. (In 2016 he wrote a song, Mama, about all of these things.) He competed in street dance competitions and won a bunch of prizes. He auditioned for Big Hit in the spring of 2010, when he was 16 international age, and became a trainee. He didn’t move to Seoul right away – for a while the company sponsored his classes in Gwangju. He moved to Seoul to live in the dorm on Christmas Eve in 2010. That was when he started learning to rap.

A few months after Hoseok moved in, the concept for BTS began to shift from classic hip-hop group to something more idol-ish, and three or four of the other BTS members left the team. For over a year there were no new members added to the team, and no firm decisions made about their
debut, and Namjoon, Yoongi and Hoseok have described feeling neglected and incredibly discouraged about whether they would ever debut.

**Jungkook** grew up in Busan, a coastal city in southeastern Korea. In 2011, he auditioned for a nationwide TV singing competition. He didn’t make it, but his audition tape got him offers from several different entertainment companies (including some really big ones). He chose Big Hit after seeing Namjoon and thinking he was really cool. (The intention wasn’t for him to join BTS at that point, he was just inspired to join the same company.) He moved to Seoul to live in the trainee dorm in June 2011, when he was 13 international age.

**Seokjin** (Jin) grew up in Gwacheon, a satellite city of Seoul. His family were fairly well-off – Jin attended a private university, had snowboarding holidays etc. He originally intended to pursue acting. He was street scouted for his looks on his way to university as a first year film arts student, and joined Big Hit as a trainee when he was 18 international age. For the first year or so that he was a trainee he commuted from home, so he was the last member to move into the dorm (in July 2012).

**Taehyung** (V) grew up in Geochang, an agricultural area outside Daegu, in a farming family. He had aspirations of becoming an idol, but when he auditioned for Big Hit in 2011, he’d only gone along to keep a friend company and because he was curious. One of the rookie development staff saw him there, was presumably struck by his looks and/or middle-schooler charisma, and convinced him to call his parents on the spot and get permission to audition. He moved to Seoul to live in the dorm in September 2011, when he was 15 international age.

Sometime in probably mid-2012, Big Hit at last finalised the concept for BTS, as a hip hop and dance-based idol group, with visuals and vocals. Jungkook was added to the BTS team, and then they started putting together the rest of the vocal line. Seokjin joined the team – probably at the same time he moved into the dorm, in July. Taehyung began to be considered as a possible member, along with various other trainees. And there was another round of nationwide auditions.

**Jimin** grew up in Busan. His parents probably managed a restaurant there (at least, they did by 2014). He attended an arts high school (focusing on contemporary dance), and auditioned for Big Hit in their third round of nationwide auditions in 2012, after his middle school dance teacher contacted him to recommend he try it. He moved to Seoul to live in the dorm in May of 2012, when he was 16 international age. He had nearly a year less training time than any of the other BTS members, and he threw himself obsessively into practising before and after school, but it was still an extremely near thing when he made it into the final lineup. He was the last member to be confirmed (probably right at the end of 2012).

All the members were revealed via pre-debut music videos, dance practices, vlogs, twitter selfies etc throughout the first half of 2013, leading up to their June debut, except for Taehyung. Big Hit decided to make him a secret weapon, and only revealed him ten days before their debut. (After months of being hidden while the other members were starting to connect with fans, he received a single fan letter after he was revealed, and says: “I didn’t sleep until 4:00 am and read it about fifteen times. I kept showing it off to the hyungs.”)
Clockwise from left: Seokjin in the red collar, Taehyung throwing a V, Namjoon at the back, Hoseok doing finger guns, Jungkook in the fur hood, Jimin out front. (Taken at Lotte World in March 2013; Yoongi was there that day but he’d gone home early.)

Pre-Debut Releases

Animal dance practice by Jo Kwon ft. Jung Hoseok Hoseok had a rap feature on labelmate Jo Kwon’s song ‘Animal’ in 2012. It is amazing in every respect, starting with Jo Kwon’s studded heels and ending with how good Hoseok already sounds.

Animal on Music Core Ramping up that vamp bondage vibe.

Harlem Shake This.

Hard Krump Instrumental 2012 dance practice by Jimin

Save Your Goodbye dance practice by Jungkook

Graduation Song MV by Jungkook, J-Hope & Jimin Already linked in the Music Videos section, but it’s always a good time to rewatch the cutest video on the internet.

School of Tears MV by Rap Monster, Jin & Suga I didn’t link this one in the MVs section because it’s only barely a music video. But apparently it did attract some attention for them at the time. Anyway watch for Jin being ~hard.

Logs
Logs are one of the earliest kinds of BTS content. These are my favourites of the pre-debut ones.

130214 Jimin & Jungkook's Log (2.08 minutes) Hilarious music choices, and Jimin and Jungkook both looking absurdly baby faced.

130217 Suga's Log (Feat. Rap Monster) (1.16) & 130225 Rap Monster's Log (Feat. Suga) (1.21) Yoongi trying to do his first Log while Namjoon freestyle disses him in the background, then Yoongi’s attempt at revenge.

130219 J-Hope’s Log (2.17) Hoseok giving himself a birthday cake and playing a birthday song for himself. It's really cute.

130325 Jimin's Log (3.22) Jimin giving little profiles of each member of the team (minus Taehyung).

130503 Rap Monster's Log (3.40) Namjoon talking about already having haters, and about their sincerity as a team.

130514 Rap Monster & Jungkook's Log (2.39) Namjoon thinks Jungkook is really cute.

130710 V's Log (2.44) Taehyung talking about the time before he was revealed as a member (Log filmed a month after debut). This is the photo of his back he mentions.

**Text Things**

These short print interviews from 2014 & 2015 talking about pre-debut days are amazing:


Also these important Suga tweets, because pre-debut Twitter Suga was freaking adorable:

- Legs as nice as SNSD
- Tweeting about donkeys with adorable donkey photo
- Tweeting about Jimin
- Offering to do the laundry on Jimin’s washboard abs and following through. (This is the teaser he's talking about.)

**Chapter End Notes**

Next part: **School Trilogy Era**
SCHOOL TRILOGY ERA: Intro & Concept Photos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

The School Trilogy era spans from June 2013 to July 2014, with the school-themed albums 2 Cool 4 Skool, O!RUL8,2? and Skool Luv Affair and their lead singles ‘No More Dream’, ‘N.O’ and ‘Boy in Luv’.

The general fandom narrative is that coming from a smallish company, BTS debuted with nothing and as nobodies – which is more true than not, but there was some buzz (x, x) around their debut, thanks to their pre-debut content getting some attention and to Bang Shihyuk’s reputation (x). 2013 was also a bit of an anomaly of a year in that none of the really big-name companies debuted an idol group.

BTS got some flak when they debuted, for things like the rappers having sold out to become pretty-boy idols, or the school protest message being too nineties retro. And their September comeback song ‘N.O’ didn’t do very well (I love it a tonne). But the strength of their debut release combined with the less-competitive-than-usual playing field was enough for them to win a bunch of rookie awards in the end-of-year award shows for 2013. So overall they had a pretty good start.

Maybe because the response to ‘N.O’ was lukewarm, in 2014 they made a swerve away from school protest songs and towards bad-boy love songs, with very much the same kinds of lyrics as every other boy band. The last instalment of the School Trilogy was, as the album title says, about high school love affairs. (Though there was still a bit of youth-focused social commentary, in the song ‘Spine Breaker’.)

The change in direction seemed to pay off, at least initially. ‘Boy in Luv’ is a really strong song with really good choreo, and although it wasn’t quite a breakout for them – they still didn’t win first place on a music show – it definitely got some traction. Even now, it’s the only pre-2015 BTS song that is regularly covered by other groups.

Album Concept Photos
2 Cool 4 Skool concept photos (scroll down to PHOTO)
O!RUL8.2? concept photos
Skool Luv Affair concept photos

Chapter End Notes

Next part: School Trilogy Performances
Good stages for School Trilogy songs.

**Official Lives**

- **No More Dream @ MBC Changwon Hope Concert** (g) (2013) A good outdoor performance. Highlight is the crowd reaction to Jimin’s ab flash.
- **No More Dream @ Show Champion** (2013) V pulls off his glasses-being-shot-off move in this one (he had about a fifty percent success rate).
- **We Are Bulletproof Pt.2 @ Show Champion** (2013) I feel like this is one of the purest distillations of debut-era BTS performance style.
- **N.O @ Show Champion** (2013) Eternally a little sad that ‘N.O’ flopped kinda, look how good it was.
- **Concept Trailer + N.O @ MCountdown** (2013) With the concept trailer choreo!
- **Satoori Rap @ Show Champion** (2013) A tonne of fun.
- **Attack on Bangtan @ Music Core** (2013) This was their first proper promo song where they got to goof around a bit. (The ‘Satoori Rap’ performance was a special stage.)
- **Boy in Luv @ the Skool Luv Affair Showcase** (2014) ‘Boy in Luv’ was cursed with a terrible camerawork hex, but this stage managed to escape it.
- **Jump @ the Skool Luv Affair Showcase** (g) (2014) The choreo is fairly simple but it has great energy and my favourite BTS choreography lift, in Suga’s chair carry.
- **Just One Day @ MCountdown** (2014)
- **Kung Ddari Sha Bah Rah @ MCountdown** (2014) A really fun cover of a 1996 song by first gen k-pop duo Clon (featuring Clon’s Koo Junyup).
- **Boy in Luv @ the MAMA Red Carpet** (2014) From a special red carpet concert at the MNet Asian Music Awards at the end of the year. Some styling decisions were made, and only some of them were good.
- **Tomorrow @ Wake Up Tour in Tokyo** (g) (2015)
- **Born Singer @ BTS Begins Tour** (g) (2015) Wahh.
- **We Are Bulletproof Pts. 1 & 2 @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) A super-enjoyable performance of the original predebut ‘We Are B.P.B’ – including vocal line rapping! – and then a ‘Bulletproof Pt.2’ stage.
- **No More Dream @ the DNA Comeback Show** (g) (2017)

**I Like It (Acoustic ver.) @ BTS Talk Show for ARMYPEDIA** (2019) A cute unplugged performance. (There are also acoustic versions of ‘No More Dream’ and ‘Just One Day’ earlier in the video.)

**Fancams**

**We Are Bulletproof Pt 2 (V) @ MBC Busan Beach College Music Festival** by PREVIEW (2013) Super appealing.

**I Like It (V) @ MBC Busan Beach College Music Festival** by Limelight (2013) (This song is also called ‘Like’.) Taehyung was in really good form at this show. (Also mouthing along to all the raps ahaha.)

**Attack on Bangtan (J-Hope) @ Lotte World Concert** by 218 (2013) Such great energy (also a bunch of screaming) (ngl that one girl singing along in scream makes me laugh).

**N.O (Jin) @ MBC Multicultural Festival** by firstsight jin (2013) The N.O choreography is very upper-body focused and Jin is like 80% shoulders, so it’s a v. good fit.
Boy in Luv (V) @ Cheolwon Taebong Festival by Night Breeze (2014) Looking alive in denim and leather.

Miss Right (BTS) @ The Red Bullet Tour in Bangkok by Maxxiiz ANGE (2014) A very close fancam with some cute crowd singing.

I Like It (RM) @ Countdown Seoul by Limited Edition (2015) Namjoon in his most cute-baby-dinosaur stage mode.

I Like It (Jimin) @ Sungsin Women's University Entrance Ceremony by poco a poco (2015) Jimin wearing a soft pink-and-grey jumper and doing a lot of body rolls. (Not a full song.)

Jump (Jungkook) @ BTS Begins by Snowpeach (2015) (Not a full song) The cutest ‘Jump’ dance break ever, with school backpacks.


Boy in Luv (Jimin) @ Super Seoul Concert in Sky Dome by Mera (2015) A beautiful fancam with ‘Run' hair and styling. (Mera also has a good full-group fancam of this stage.)

Tomorrow (Suga) @ Epilogue Concert in Beijing by It's Your Day (2016) A really pretty fancam with really pretty stage outfits.

No More Dream dance break (J-Hope) @ Epilogue Concert in Beijing by 218 (2016) New dance break choreo.

Attack on Bangtan (Jungkook) @ Epilogue Concert in Nanjing by Snowpeach (2016) The audio is distorted, but the picture quality is crisp and the content is aces. Taehyung spends 70% of the song having Jungkook carry him around on his back. (Meanwhile Jin and Jimin had their own piggyback shenanigans going on.)

We Are Bulletproof Pt. 2 (Jimin) @ 5th Muster in Busan by JamJam (2019) An incredible full-choreo 2019 performance of a 2013 song, for Muster (their official Fanmeeting). Multicam.

Spine Breaker (Jin) @ 5th Muster in Seoul by Apple Tape (2019) A special stage featuring the choreo and costuming that they came up with during this 2017 episode of BTS Gayo. Jin owned this stage in more than one way.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: School Trilogy Bombs, Other Tiny Videos & Episodes
ST Bombs & Episodes

Chapter Notes

Part 10! One quarter through!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Bangtan Bombs

My favourite Bombs from School Trilogy era: Playlist (doesn’t include the other tiny videos at the end of this section), or individually:

Suga with basketball Yoongi doing basketball tricks during ‘No More Dream’ MV filming.

Let’s make an autograph! Hoseok and small duckling Jungkook during ‘No More Dream’ filming.

Tom and Jerry SUGA&Jimin and Jin Yoongi idly pets Jimin’s neck while he teases him, and Jin meerkats behind them. Filmed in night vision.

Kind & Big Lion Styling Jimin with Taehyung the kind lion.

Jimin’s See Through Sleeveless Shirt Jimin being adorable about his sexy shirt.


BTS Like BAAAM of Dynamic Duo Ft. Dance Monster in a leather skirt.

Sleeping Beau…ty! Jin mimicking Jungkook’s sleepy head nodding.

Really Jimin Is Elder Than Jungkook Jungkook being gleefully obnoxious about having become taller than Jimin.

Naughty Boys V&Jimin! Camera shenanigans with 95line.


Rap Monster’s Change Magic show! J-Hope is the true star of this one.

BTS Style ‘Hush’ of Miss A Namjoon, Taehyung and Jungkook entirely failing to copy the ‘Hush’ dance.

Jimin’s Sexy Dance One-point Lesson Jimin attempting to get Taehyung to join his sexy dance tutorial.

BTS Magic Show Hoseok, Jin and 95line messing around with teleportation effects in a hotel room.

Sudden... Suddenly Attack! Jungkook’s first person shooter in the waiting room.
Free Dance Time in Front of A.R.M.Y (g) Dancing for fans in the stands at ISAC. Suga (recovering from a burst appendix at the time) is represented by a teddy bear.

Ringa Linga (by Taeyang of BIGBANG) Dance Party (g) School Trilogy Jimin 100% wanted to be Taeyang when he grew up.

Just Watching Jungkook Lipsync Show (g) Jungkook and Taehyung lip syncing Linkin Park and playing air guitar. Every time I watch this I smile so hard it hurts.

Suga on the Basketball Hoop (g) Yoongi possibly regretting all those times he talked about basketball.

Something by Jungkook, Jimin and Jin! (g) Extremely important girl group covers on the set of ‘Boy in Luv’.

BTS Run Way! (95z cam #2) (g) More ‘Boy in Luv’ set shenanigans.

Let's Test BTS' Nerve! (g) A jump-scare test.

Medley Show Time! Performed by BTS (g) The stylist gives Hoseok cat ears with hair gel, and 95line dance to Fantastic Baby. Really good.

Always Happy Happy Boy, J-Hope! (g) Hobi cradling Jimin in his lap as Jimin ineffectually protests.

Finding Jung Kook by Jimin PD (g) Jimin is looking for Jungkook! No one else will do!

Whatcha Doin Today? (g) More important girl group covers with Jimin and Hobi.

... (EYES, NOSE, LIPS) of Jung Kook (Feat.Jimin) (g) A fairy prince vocal cover of Taeyang’s ‘Eyes, Nose, Lips’.

SUGA's Way to Make a 'Ssam' Fast! (g) Important time-saving tips from Yoongi.

Friday & Some with BTS (g) Maknae line in the backyard in the sunshine, while they were recording in LA for Dark & Wild. Jungkook steals Taehyung’s spot next to Jimin, because apparently it’s impossible to sit on Jimin’s other side.

Other Tiny Videos

Jung Kook & V bubble bubble Jungkook very seriously filming Tae blowing bubbles.

MTV K: Top 10 Countdown: Meet the Bangtan Boys A self-intro video from their debut promotions. Yoongi’s specialty is rolling around in bed on their days off.

Maknae line at Banpo Fansign fancam by Night Breeze V laying claim to the rest of maknae line.

Taehyung drawing on Jimin’s arm at a fansign fancam by no kim (Bonus: Fancafe photo.)

1st Muster tickling game - Jimin fancam by Today PJM

Jin kissing Hoseok up against a locker (g) I think this is from the making video for the Japanese version of ‘No More Dream’, but I couldn’t track down a link to the full video.
BTS Episodes

Most important School Trilogy Episodes (other than the music video making-of ones, already linked in the MV section).

**BTS Debut Day** (g) (8.10) Babes in the wood.

**Be the BEST NEW ARTIST 2013 in Melon Music Awards** (g) (5.35) They’re so excited and happy. This was their first rookie award.

**It’s a j-hope-ful Day!** (g) (8.44) Hidden camera for Hoseok’s birthday, in which he cries and hugs people and everything is painfully lovely.

**Jungkook Went to High School With BTS!** (g) (2.57) Jungkook’s high school entrance ceremony (he took a gap year between middle school and high school while they debuted).

**SUGA Birthday Support Event** (g) (9.34) Yoongi prepared fan gifts on his birthday, and roped in maknae line to help.

**BTS Letter to ARMY in Birthday Party** (g) (11.01) Reading letters to ARMY (the BTS fandom). From Jin onwards, nearly everyone cries.

**'Skool Luv Affair' Jacket Photo Shooting Sketch** (g) (8.26) Poor frozen kiddos.
1st BTS Birthday Party (Jin chef of BTS) (g) (11.19) A dorm party for their first anniversary since debut!

Chapter End Notes

Next part: School Trilogy Variety & Reality Shows
ST Variety & Reality Shows

Series

**Kkul FM 06.13** is a visual ‘radio show’ DJ’d by Suga, in which they semi-follow a script and make fun of each other a lot. They record an episode for various anniversaries, and upload them to the BANGTANTV channel. School Trilogy era episodes:

- [Congratulation of BTS 100 Days!](#) (38 mins)
- [The Very Happy Christmas with BTS! + Part 2](#) (28 mins all up)
- [1st BTS Birthday 'BTS FESTA 2014'](#) (1hr 12mins) (long but might be my favourite one of this era.)

**Rookie King: Channel Bangtan** was an 8-episode variety show that aired in September and October of 2013 (all episodes). It’s basically a patchwork of parodies of various kinds of TV shows. It’s perfectly watchable but there’s a lot of filler content and the episodes are long (fifty minutes). The only parts I would call ~important are:

- [MTV Diary](#) (10 mins) (link goes to the relevant part of episode 7) Including adorable late-night self camera shenanigans with over-excited maknae line and sweetly tolerant hyungs.
- [End Plate King](#) (15 mins each) A punishment game segment involving drawing cards. The best and most terrible part of each *Rookie King* episode.

**American Hustle Life** was a reality show that aired between July and September of 2014. The concept was basically a surprise 2-week LA boot camp in hip hop, with Coolio and Warren G as mentors. It's important to many fans as evidence of BTS's respect for and engagement with Black culture, history and expertise, as a hip hop group - but I’ll admit I couldn’t get through two full episodes. There’s good stuff but also a bunch of second-hand stress/embarrassment, and the boot camp starts with a hidden-camera kidnapping in the middle of the night which a) leans on some anti-Black stereotypes, and b) the members have no idea what’s going on and are legit terrified. (This happens in the second half of Episode 1.)

- [Playlist of episodes](#)
- If you don’t watch the full show, you should definitely watch this tiny cut from episode 6 of [Jin and Hoseok trying to practise beatboxing](#).
- Also this [cute unaired clip](#) of the members watching fireworks.
- And here’s a nice [photo set](#) of some of the fun parts.
Guest Episodes

**Let’s Dance: Boy in Luv** (7 mins) *Let’s Dance* is a web series where idols teach 3 point dances from their current song’s choreography. It’s always fun. (The new name for the third dance is in the video notes if you were curious.)

**Weekly Idol 30 April 2014** (g) (28 mins) *Weekly Idol* is an interview/variety show with different idol guests each week. The hosts’ style is put-down humour, so it takes a little bit for Bangtan to find their feet, but it’s good as soon as they get to the dance challenges.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Logs & Other Videos**
ST Logs & Other Videos

Chapter Notes

General policy on DVD rips: I’ll link to fan uploads of anything that’s now only available from resellers.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Logs

Favourite School Trilogy logs:

130620 Jimin & Jungkook’s Log (g) (4.01) Talking about their flying kick move in ‘No More Dream’.

130702 Rap Monster’s Log (g) (3.17) Namjoon talking very fast about his theory of happiness.

131017 Rap Monster’s Log (g) (4.33) A serious log about trying to sublimate confusion and bad feelings into music.

131101 Jimin’s Log (g) (3.08) Jimin’s struggles with how to make his expressions and gestures cool, and special guest Taehyung who is already cool.

131103 Jin & Jungkook’s Log (g) (2.15) Black bean noodle memories.

131116 Rap Monster & J-Hope’s Log (g) (2.47) Very hype after winning their first rookie award.

131123 Jungkook’s Log (g) (2.01) Low-key hilarious due to Taehyung’s off-screen echo chorus.

140410 Suga’s Log (g) (1.47) Talking about them having more fans and feeling challenged by that.

140515 Jimin & Jungkook’s Log (g) (4.29) Determined hair-petting from Jimin, talking about skimming stones at the Han River, and the two of them ratting out Taehyung’s practice habits.

140602 V’s Log (g) (3.17) Talking about the day he was revealed as a member, and how it felt doing everything for the first time.
Other Videos

**Suga's 2 COOL 4 SKOOL Album Review** (g) (11 mins) Suga talking through the songs on the album, with only the physical album and his hands on screen.

**Suga's Skool Luv Affair Album Review** (g) (16 mins) All of Suga's album reviews were super-interesting and engaging.

**BTS in Russia: Self Cam** (g) (10.27 mins) A self-cam from a trip to Russia to judge a k-pop dance cover competition. From the *Memories of 2014* DVD.

**NOW: BTS in Thailand photobook filming + part 2** (g) (1 hr all up) Behind the scenes of the photobook shooting! (The photos are linked in the next section.)

**Skool Luv Affair Special Addition: Showcase Making / Interview / Hidden Story** (g) (1 hr 21 mins) A DVD included with the special edition (‘addition’) of *Skool Luv Affair*, along with the full *Skool Luv Affair* showcase performance. All three parts are good: the rehearsal for the showcase has a famous stretching scene, the interview segments include interesting predebut and contemporary stuff, and the ‘Hidden Story’ is a collection of Episode- and Bomb-style behinds from the first half of 2014.

Chapter End Notes
Next part: School Trilogy Photo Sets & Text Things (the last School Trilogy section)
ST Photo Sets & Text Things

Chapter Notes

General policy on scans: As for DVDs, I’ll link to fan uploads of anything with a limited print run that you can now only buy from resellers. All of their albums are still available to buy from official vendors so I haven’t linked to any album jacket photobooks.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Photobooks

*NOW: BTS in Thailand* (scans by jalmotaesseo) (I’ve linked to the Flickr album so you can page through the photobook at full screen, but the credit link is to the scans on their tumblr.)

Magazine Shoots

*BTS for Woman Joongang Magazine December 2013* The one with the baby.


Facebook Photo Sets

*Rookie King: Crossdressing Feature* Photos of all the crossdressing penalties from End Plate.

*Skool Luv Affair Jacket shooting behind the scenes* Gorgeously crisp and warm shots.

*Just One Day MV filming behind the scenes* Beautiful on-set shots. (Bonus: they also put some shots up on the Fancafe.)

*IZE Magazine shoot behind the scenes* Bright and super-cute old amusement park shoot. (Here are the versions the magazine went with.)

*BTS 1st Anniversary Photo Album #2: Growth* Group poses from debut to first anniversary!

Fancafe

These days Big Hit are pretty serious about not wanting Fancafe content reposted elsewhere, but that was much less of a thing in the early years. So there’s some excellent early Fancafe stuff around, especially photos. Here are my faves:

- *2 Cool 4 Skool promotions*
- *O'RUL8,2? promotions*
- *Skool Luv Affair promotions*

#todaysbangtan

The #todaysbangtan tradition started during ‘N.O’ promotions. In this era the pics were mostly shenanigans.
- **O!RUL8,2? promotions**
- **Skool Luv Affair promotions**

### Fansites

Links are to curated collections of pics by various fansites.

- **MBC Busan Beach College Music Festival** (Jul 2013) Energetic in We Are Bulletproof Pt.2 black and gold.
- **Busan Bulletproof Pt.2 Fansign** (Jul 2013) The fans came equipped with stickers for this one.
- **Ilsan N.O Fansign** (Sep 2013) Looking fresh-faced in the autumn sunshine.
- **Idol Star Athletic Championships** (Jan 2014) Everyone in pink jumpsuits for ISAC (the one where Suga was represented by a teddy bear).
- **Samsung Dream Class Event** (Jan 2014) White hoodie looks (and Jin).
- **Seoul Music Awards** (Jan 2014) A handful of striking shots from their SMA 2014 stage.
- **Skool Luv Affair Showcase** (Feb 2014) The showcase was pretty much the peak level of attractiveness for Boy in Luv styling.
- **WAPOP Show** (Apr 2014) Everyone in Just One Day white, half powerful half ethereal.
- **Airport 13 June** Getting the hang of this airport fashion thing. (Although uh interesting details on Jimin's hat.)
Festa 2014: I’m Writing a Profile (music autoplay warning) Profiles written by the members about themselves and each other.

Taehyung’s Fancafe post: June 21st weather is nice and hot Taehyung likes nice and big lions and dogs.

Seokjin’s Fancafe post: Dazzling Suga Dazzling Suga.

IZE Magazine interview A great interview from a month after debut. A lot of honest and interesting thoughts from each of them about what being a hip-hop group means to them, as well as about their mission statement of telling the stories of the younger generation. Reading, you get the impression their debut couldn’t even hold all of their ambition.


Jimin’s Fancafe post: Everyone gather here! It’s a sudden pitching of a picture^^ Jimin’s namjin agenda.

A.R.M.Y 1st Term BTS Fanclub Magazine Vol. 1 A long and incredible interview from ‘Boy in Luv’ promotions.

features a member autobiography each year, always with lots of really interesting stuff about their childhoods and trainee time. J-Hope’s was the first, in 2014.

**Twitter**

**Jimin & Yoongi** 15 June 2013 (2 posts) Coffee in the morning.

**Jimin & Taehyung** 30 July 2013 (2 posts) A sad gaze.

**Seokjin** 19 September 2013 Jin’s twitter habit in this era was cutely swapping in the suffix -jin into words. (Photo from the ‘N.O’ filming set.)

**Seokjin** 2 October 2013 The softest Jin & Jimin selfie. (There’s a typo in the trans, they’re waiting for a fansign.)

**Seokjin** 24 October 2013 (2 posts) Jin gleefully selling Jimin out for compliments.

**Seokjin & Namjoon** 13 November 2013 (2 posts) Gentle dissing about their family dogs (Rapmon & Jjanggu) (Rapmon was named by Namjoon’s parents).

**Jimin** 29 November 2013 A very memeable photo.

**Taehyung** 5 December 2013 On catching a plane for the first time (to Thailand).

**Namjoon** 10 December 2013 Visiting Yoongi in hospital after his appendicitis.

**Seokjin & Jimin** 15 December 2013 (2 posts) A selfie in the snow.

**Jimin** 7 January 2014 Taehyung’s low-key vendetta against vegetables.

**Yoongi** 22 January 2014 Yoongi does not love cold.

**Yoongi** 14 February 2014 Student’s parent style.

**Hoseok** 24 February 2014 Hoseok inventing ship names for himself and Yoongi.

**Suga impersonations** 9 March 2014 Impersonations from Hoseok, Namjoon, Seokjin, Jimin & Taehyung for Yoongi’s birthday. Meanwhile Jungkook’s Suga impersonation was a proposal.

**Namjoon** 13 March 2014 Parental validation. (His mum had a photo of Namjoon accepting a rookie award as her profile omgosh.)

**Hoseok** 30 March 2014 J-Hope isn’t a crybaby! (He’s talking about the fanmeeting they just had).

**Jimin** 11 April 2014 A gleeful selfie with Yoongi.

**Namjoon, Hoseok & Jungkook** 24 May 2014 (3 posts) Cute baby pics! (Namjoon’s twitter habit in this era was referring to himself as Kim [Concept], which eventually morphed into his #kimdaily outfit-of-the-day twitter series.)

**Namjoon** 12 June 2014 Another Kim Concept. I cackled.

**Taehyung** 7 July 2014 (2 posts) Taehyung climbs a tree in L.A.
Jungkook & Jimin 8 August 2014 (2 posts) Cuteness on the way to KCON.

Seokjin 14 August 2014 Jin is a benevolent dictator.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Dark & Wild Era**
Dark & Wild era spans from August 2014 to April 2015, and covers the album *Dark & Wild* and its singles ‘Danger’ and ‘War of Hormone’, the Japanese album *Wake Up* and RM’s mixtape *RM*.

Coming off the moderate but energising success of ‘Boy in Luv’, their next release was a full-length album. They recorded the album in LA at night, while filming their surprise variety show *American Hustle Life* during the days and practising the choreography any time in between. So they were already stressed and exhausted even before promotions started.

‘Danger’ leaned even harder into the bad-boy love song genre. And *Dark & Wild* the album did decently, but ‘Danger’ only just charted (x). From the way they talk about it, it was internally marked down as a failure – maybe a career-threatening one. So they were coming up on the end of being a rookie group, and they hadn’t broken through, and it didn't seem like they were steadily advancing. At different times in the years since, all of them have described feeling lost and discouraged during this period. Suga was the most direct, in the 2019 *Season’s Greetings* DVD: “What I felt then was that working hard may not be enough, that there are some things that may just never work.”

*But this was also the era when they had their first concert tour, which was a major milestone. The Red Bullet tour started in Seoul in October, with their very first real concert, and took in stops in five countries in Asia through the end of the year, with one extra stop in March just before their next comeback. They also had a 4-city Japan tour in February, to go with *Wake Up*. On a shallower but still important note, their styling (hair, clothes, makeup) got way better with ‘Danger’ and especially with ‘War of Hormone’.*
Dark & Wild concept photos: Danger (scroll down to PHOTO)
Dark & Wild concept photos: War of Hormone (excellent, award-worthy)

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Dark & Wild Performances
D&W Performances

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Official Lives

Good stages for Dark & Wild-era songs.

**Danger @ Music Core** (2014) An outdoor stage with lovely clean camerawork.

**Let Me Know @ MelOn Premiere Showcase** (2014) This song doesn’t have any choreo, but gosh such a pretty performance. (There’s also a Danger performance after it and a War of Hormone if you skip back to the beginning, but neither are must-watch.)

**War of Hormone @ Simply K-pop** (2014) Wearing their MV clothes.

**Danger @ Music Core** (2014) Busy camerawork and lighting, but I’m into this staging.

**War of Hormone @ MCountdown** (2014) ‘War of Hormone’ stages were *so much fun.*

**BTS vs Block B @ the MAMA’s** (2014) A stage battle with one of the groups BTS was most frequently compared with at this point – memorable mostly for Jimin tearing his shirt off. (The fansite I Like It captured the moment of shirt ripping.) (The great reaction shot is two members of Girl’s Day, ftr.)

**Danger @ KBS Gayo Daechukjae** (2014) The main performance isn’t filmed very well, but watch for the dance line intro – Jimin and Jungkook have a video game battle and then there’s a short J-Hope solo.

**Blanket Kick @ Wake Up Tour in Japan** (2015) A cute ~surprise.

**Hip Hop Lover @ 花樣年華 On Stage Tour in Korea** (2015) No dancing but really good energy.

**Cypher 3: Killer @ 花樣年華 On Stage Tour in Japan** (2016) Rap line only.

**I Like It Pt. 2 @ 花樣年華 On Stage Tour in Japan** (2016)

**Cypher Medley @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (2017) J-Hope, Suga and RM take a verse each from Cyphers 1, 2 and 3.
Fancams

Including actual fancams by fans and official focus cams.

**Danger (V) @ Show Champion in Cheongju** fancam by Running Time (2014) Not the best sound, but quite magnetic.

**War of Hormone (Jungkook) @ MCountdown** MPD focus cam (2014) Jungkook really found a new kind of stage presence in 'War of Hormone' era.

**War of Hormone (RM) @ MCountdown** MPD focus cam (2014) Namjoon being goofy and watchable.

**Danger (J-Hope) @ Music Bank in Osong** fancam by 218 (2014) Distorted audio but super attractive.

**Danger (Suga) @ Goham Concert** fancam by It's Your Day (2014) A good part of this consists of the camera trying to find and focus on Suga, but it’s very dramatic and enjoyable.

**War of Hormone (Jimin) @ Inkigayo** fancam by Today PJM (2014) This fancam is battling the lighting all the way through, but it’s Jimin in Those Pants.
Look Here – Suga aegyo cut @ The Red Bullet in Chile fancam by Miss Hyun (2015) For ‘Look Here’ stages they always picked someone via rock-paper-scissors to do an aegyo break.

War of Hormone (BTS) @ The Red Bullet in Manila fancam by rinakookie (2014) A really nice cam from just under the stage.

Throw Away (RM) @ All Force One fancam by Love on Top (2015) Rapmon performing one of the RM mixtape tracks, with backup by Suga and J-Hope.

Jimin solo dance @ BTS Begins Concert fancam by JamJam (2015)

J-Hope solo dance @ BTS Begins Concert fancam by Brilliant Violet (2015)

Chapter End Notes

If you have a favourite Jin fancam for a Dark & Wild song, let me know!

Next part: Dark & Wild Bombs, Other Tiny Videos & Episodes
D&W Bombs & Episodes

Chapter Notes
See the end of the chapter for notes

Short Bombs

My favourite short Bombs from Dark & Wild era: Playlist (doesn’t include the other tiny videos and longer Bombs at the end of this section), or individually:

What Am I to You (g) Rap line workshopping their lyrics.
BTS Stretching Time (g) A hamstrings competition (Busan boys are show-offs).
Runway in the Night (g) Extremely everyone.
BTS Match! (2) Hit the Bottle Top (g) End Plate King gave them terrible habits (or encouraged terrible habits they already had).
Eating Salad (g) Alpaca Jin looks.
SUGA Free, HOPE Free, MON Free! (g) Dancing to T-Ara’s ‘Sugar Free’.
Jimin’s Dance Detail Practice (g) Jin mimicking Jimin as he practises.
Dance #2 Wiggle! (g) Wiggle.
Jimin Is on the Phone with Ms.A.R.M.Y (g) Jimin and Taehyung being horribly cute.
BTS Cypher Fan No.1 V (g) Maknaes being way too hyped about rap line practising ‘Cypher 3’.
j-hope’s Exercise (g) “Why is it always sleeveless?” Jimin asks, a thousand years old.
Follow BTS! (j-hope Cam) (g) Hoseok being a pest.
SUGA’s Sleep Mate (g) Yoongi being cute about a travel pillow.
Rapmon’s Dance Lesson (g) Namjoon’s signature dance move.
Follow BTS! 2222 Jimin Cam (g) Jimin being a pest.
95z Dance Time with a Beat App (g) Jimin and Taehyung being pests together.
Who Are Elders in BTS? lol (g) Always respectful maknae Jeon Jungkook.
Finding Jung Kook by Jimin PD (2) (g) A remake! Ft. ever more shameless Jimin.
Jin and Jimin’s Push-up Time (g) Koala push-ups.
Jin and Jimin’s Push-up Time 2 (g) Extremely important reprise.
It’s Tricky Is Title! BTS, Here We Go! (by Run–D.M.C.) (g) Dance flash mob! (They did a special It’s Tricky stage for KBS Gayo Daechukje in January.)
j-hope vs 95z (g) Staggering demonstrations of loyalty.
UP DOWN UP DOWN (by EXID) (g) More girl group dancing.

BTS' Rhythmic Farce! LOL (g) A Bangtan in-joke.

Namhansanseong (g) & Trip to Namhansanseong! Summit Self-Cam (g) Sunshine line climb a mountain! (J-Hope, Jimin & V.)

Other Tiny Videos

Show Champion Backstage 20 September 2014 (g) A cut of Jimin representing BTS for the mini Show Champion Games (mock Olympics).

MCountdown Backstage 25 September 2014 (g) A ‘dance to past September hits’ challenge. Two minutes of chaos.

J-Hope kissing Jimin on the head at a fansign fancam by Afterimage

U-chu-chu-chu (feat. TaeTae) fancam by poco a poco An obnoxiously cute vmin moment at a fansign, feat. a bunny ears headband.

Daegu Fansign fancam by It's Your Day A bossy Suga selfie. (And the selfie itself.)

Guess What? (g) A really cute little video of BTS blowing up month-themed balloons, for their 2015 Season’s Greetings calendar.

Myeongdong Fansign photo time fancam by Love on Top I don’t know what’s going on, but some quality manhandling (of Suga, Jimin & Jin).

Suga startled by fireworks fancam by It's Your Day At the MBC Gayo Daejun at New Year’s.

Longer Bombs

Hide and Seek with JM, V, JK (#1) (g) (9.41) Maknae line in a hotel room playing blindfolded hide and seek. It’s gigglly and ridiculous and amazing. (Released Jan 2016, but from their hair it looks like it was filmed around the end of 2014.)

BTS Jenga Championship Thanks to Twitter (g) (10.32) Way more entertaining than it really should be.

BTS Episodes

'DARK&WILD' Jacket Photo Shooting (g) (2.12)

BTS SUGA B-day Present for Fans (g) (12.33) The second year of Yoongi’s birthday fan gifts ft. assistant Jimin. Also some important Jimin & Taehyung moments.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Dark & Wild Variety & Reality Shows**
Go! BTS (45 mins) A reality special in LA, filmed when they want to KCON in 2014. A sunny meme good time.

After School Club 26 August 2014 (53 mins) ASC is an English-language talk show (with realtime subs) aimed at international k-pop fans. It’s live so some episodes can be a bit of a mess, but when it’s good it’s pretty delightful. Also feat. my girl the other Park Jimin as co-host.

+ After School Club: Behind Scenes (6 mins) Ancient Jin complaining about the relentless noisy energy of maknae line.

MBC Sharing Concert: VCR & Interview (g) (14 mins) BTS joining a food bank delivery to a children’s community centre and a community of elderly women. By definition this is a staged sort of charity, but there’s also real feeling there.

Problematic Men: Sexy & Clever Kim Nam Joon Solving a Problem on the Board (5 mins) During this era RM had a regular spot on the brain-teaser quiz show Problematic Men, which did quite a bit to raise his profile among the general public. I don’t love the show so I haven’t linked any full episodes, but this short compilation of RM solving riddles is pretty good.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: Dark & Wild Logs & Other Videos
D&W Logs & Other Videos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Logs

140913 Jin & Rap Monster's Log (g) (3.30) Namjoon being uncharacteristically and adorably dongsaeng-ish and whining about Jin not making him seaweed soup for his birthday.

141021 Jin's Log (g) (2.18) Talking about their first concert, wistful and animated.

150105 V's Log (g) (2.27) Taehyung recording a log at home with his excited family dog. He says almost nothing, but – puppy!

150107 Jimin's Log (g) (5.11) A home-on-break log from Jimin as well, cold but happy on a rocky beach.

Other Videos

BTS' Summer out of the country in 2014 (3.44) A practice room medley through various countries, set to their song ‘24/7=Heaven’.

Danger MV Commentary with MPD (18 mins) BTS commentating the ‘Danger’ MV.
**SUGA's DARK&WILD Album Review** (g) (26 mins)

**The Red Bullet: School VCR** (g) (7.33) A video played during a costume change in the *Red Bullet* concerts. In which there is a red bullet of liberation and the members are too cool for school. (If you’re into HYYH theories, this has relevance.)

**The Red Bullet: Concert Preparation** (g) (49 mins) The first 29 minutes of this is the behind for the filming of the School VCR above, which involved an entire night and day in a spooky abandoned factory. The rest is rehearsal. Long but pretty rewarding. From *Memories of 2014*.

**2015 BTS Season’s Greetings** (g) (33 mins) The behind for their 2015 calendar photo shoot. This is where Suga in a *shark hat* is from.

**BTS Begins VCR + Part 2** (g) (about 3 mins each) Concert VCRs for the *BTS Begins* concerts in Seoul. They’re back in the creepy warehouse school with the menacing teacher.

**BTS Begins: Concert Making Film** (g) (41 mins) A behind for the VCR filming, rehearsal and both days of the *BTS Begins* concert. (This is the concert where they perform ‘Born Singer’ and everyone cries.) From *Memories of 2015*.

**The Ark’s dance cover of ‘Boy in Luv’** + **BTS reaction** (g) Short-lived (and much-missed) girl group The Ark covered ‘Boy in Luv’ in early 2015, and BTS did a reaction video for it.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Dark & Wild Photo Sets & Text Things**
D&W Photo Sets & Text Things

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Photobooks

*Now 2: BTS in Europe & America* (scans by jalmotaesseo) Concept photo shoots in Germany, Brazil and the US. (The Brazil shoot in particular is fantastic.)

Magazine Shoots

*W Korea December 2014* The full magazine shoot actually included a regrettable war bonnet dress-up pic (not in the set at this link), but this shoot is kind of incredible all the same.

*Rap Monster for CéCi Korea April 2015* (music autoplay) Namjoon lounges on some lockers, with attitude.

Facebook Photo Sets

*Danger MV filming behind the scenes*

*War of Hormone jacket shooting behind* Also includes some *Red Bullet* tour pics.

*Now 2 B-cuts*

Fancafe

- [Danger promotions](#)
- [War of Hormone MV behind pics](#)

#todaysbangtan

- [Danger promotions](#)
- [War of Hormone promotions](#)
- [Touring & award shows](#)

Japanese Twitter Photos

- [Wake Up](#) Concept photos and post-performance pics for their full-length Japanese album *Wake Up.*

Other

*BTS 2nd Muster: Zip Code 17520 Photo Cards* (scans by 3Limit) Infants of 2014, sometimes with ice cream on their nose. (OK that’s just Jimin.)

Fansites

Favourite fansite pics from this era:


*Sinchon Danger Fansign on RM’s birthday* (Sep 2014) Hugs for the birthday boy.
Mokdong Danger Fansign (Sep 2014) Shenanigans in sharp Danger looks. Also a snake (very dangerous).

Cheongwon Organic Life Festival (Sep 2014) Stage shots in chequered black-and-white. Extremely eyeliner.

MCountdown Begins (Oct 2014) Excellent War of Hormone looks, during RM’s brief green-hair phase.

Gyeosangnam-do Youth Unison Festival (Oct 2014) Sunny outdoor stage shots. (With Danger styling for some reason.)

Good Korea Broadcast (Oct 2014) Performance shots with their War of Hormone MV outfits, including Those Pants of Jimin’s and That Shredded Sweater of Jungkook’s.

Gimpo War of Hormone Fansign (Nov 2014) Adorable fansign pics, also in their MV outfits. Feat. an alpaca.

Inkigayo Mini Fanmeeting (Nov 2014) Shenanigans in winter coats.

Guro War of Hormone Fansign (Nov 2014) The one with Suga napping in tartan pants on the stage.

Myeongdong War of Hormone Fansign (Nov 2014) Lethally adorable.

Gangnam War of Hormone Fansign (Nov 2014) More fansign cuteness, with a delicate cat-ears headband. (Night Breeze has a fancam of the pile.)

Mnet Asian Music Awards 2014 (Dec 2014) Extremely striking looks, including RM’s firetruck-red hair and Jimin’s infamous shirt-ripping stage and foreshadowing temporary ‘Nevermore’ tattoo.

Busan War of Hormone Fansign (Dec 2014) Very good looks in variations of pink and stripy.

The Red Bullet Tour in Manila (Dec 2014) Confetti stage shots.

KBS Gayo Daechukje (Dec 2014) This is the one where they did that ’It’s Tricky' cover stage.

Sungsin Women’s University Entrance Ceremony (Feb 2015) A memorable stage flooded with violet light and bubbles.

BTS Begins Concert (Mar 2015) Gorgeous emotional stage shots.

Miscellaneous Dark & Wild-Era Dates They did so many events in Dark & Wild era.
Text Things

NBN News: Rap Monster: “‘Dark & Wild’? It’s What the Group Is” A good RM interview about Dark & Wild.

BTS Blog: Jimin’s Travel Diary in Mexico A photo story from when they went to Mexico for a special Music Bank recording in October 2014.

BTS Blog: Jimin’s Travel Diary in Japan A photo story from the Japan leg of the Red Bullet tour, in November 2014.

Starcast

Naver photo stories.

BTS, recording day of comeback album <DARK & WILD>! A photo story about one day of Dark & Wild recording in LA.

This is correspondent BTS in Hong Kong! The behind story of ‘2014 MAMA’! A J-Hope photo diary (with a lot of Jimin in it).

Marinate the meat while I will cut the rice cake! A Jin photo diary about cooking Lunar New Year’s food with Jimin and Jungkook. (The part 1 they mention is here, but Jin doesn’t commentate that one.)

BTS revealed B-cuts in Europe and America! A behind from the Now 2 photobook shooting.

The boys went on a picnic to Namhansanseong! A behind from sunshine line’s mountain climbing Bombs.
Twitter

Jimin & Taehyung 8 October 2014 (3 posts) A 95line soulmate pledge in a hotel room.

Yoongi 5 November 2014 An important selfie wearing the shark hat from their 2015 Season’s Greetings calendar shoot.

Taehyung 9 November 2014 Taehyung’s daughters.


Jimin 20 November 2014 (2 posts) Jimin being adorably bratty with an oversized teddy bear a fan gave Yoongi at a fansign.


Taehyung 2 December 2014 Exposing Jimin’s hotel room drama viewing habits.

Namjoon & Taehyung 13 December 2014 (3 posts) Further competitiveness over family dogs.

Taehyung & BTS 13 December 2014 (2 posts) Continuing the dog theme with added brattiness.

Namjoon 14 December 2014 Harry Potter nerd Kim Namjoon.

New Year’s break tweets (5-7 Jan) They got a rare few days’ holiday in early January to go home.

- Jungkook
- Jin (2 posts)
- Taehyung (3 posts)
- Hoseok (2 posts)
- Yoongi (3 posts)
- Namjoon
- Jimin

Yoongi & Hoseok 15 February 2015 (2 posts) Candids in Osaka.

Yoongi 16 February 2015 Citrus bath foam.

Yoongi & Namjoon 24 February 2015 (5 posts) A legend begins. (Namjoon was away in California, recording a collaboration track.)

Jimin 11 March 2015 An extremely shameless hype tweet for RM’s mixtape.

Yoongi 20 March 2015 Yoongi is also inspired by RM’s mixtape!

BTS 3 April 2015 (4 posts) An incredible candid quadrilateral.

Hoseok & Jungkook 3 April 2015 hopekook choose their carsonas.

Yoongi 24 April 2015 A tragic coffee love story.

Chapter End Notes
Next part: HYYH Era!
**HYYH ERA: Intro & Concept Photos**

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.


This era was the beginning of a lot of things. BTS were terrifyingly candid about wanting first place on a music show with ‘I Need U’ – they literally included a skit on the album talking about how much they wanted it – and it finally happened. They won five times. The *Pt.1* follow-up single ‘Dope’ was also well-received, and even though *Pt.2*’s single ‘Run’ didn’t strike the same kind of chord, by that point they had enough momentum that it also collected five music show wins. *HYYH Pt.2* was also their first album to break into the Billboard 200 chart in the US (it charted for one week at no. 171). *Young Forever* made it to no. 107, and was also their first album to squeak into the Billboard Canada album chart, at no. 99, while ‘Fire’ was their first song to get an all-kill at home (simultaneous no.1 on all Korean charts). ‘For You’ was their first no.1 song in Japan.

HYYH was also the beginning of a more fundamental change in how BTS were perceived as a group. Despite their best efforts, they hadn’t quite won the aura of hip hop credibility and authenticity that they’d been fighting for since debut. But with HYYH, they came back with a different kind of authenticity – something more broadly artistic and human rather than specifically hip hop. And it finally really resonated, especially with international fans. ‘I Need U’ and ‘Run’ were love songs again, but the lyrics were nuanced and vulnerable and individual in ways that they’d done before for some album tracks, but not for title songs. They also returned to more fearless social commentary with songs like ‘Baepsae’ and ‘Fire’. The fact that the members were creatively involved in songwriting and lyrics and producing began to be a bigger part of the conversation about them. And their music and aesthetic broadened enough that all the members could more naturally express themselves in their own colours.

They continued the *Red Bullet* tour in this era, with dates in Southeast Asia, Australia, the US and Latin America, and then toured through Asia again with *花樣年華 On Stage*, including several arena stops.
HYYH Pt.1 concept photos: I Need U: florescence | daydream | anxiety
HYYH Pt.1 concept photos: Dope
HYYH Pt.2 concept photos (scroll down)
Young Forever concept photos

Chapter End Notes

Next part: HYYH Performances
HYYH Performances

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Official Lives

**I Need U @ Show Champion** (2015) Everyone in white and sailor blue. I love INU stages more than I can really express.

**I Need U @ Music Bank** (2015) With falling cherry blossoms (also lyrics).

**Fun Boys @ Show Champion** (2015) Also called ‘Boyz with Fun’, or by its Korean title ‘Heungtan Sonyeondan’ to keep the pun intact. A chaotic good mood.

**I Need U @ Show Champion** (2015) More sailor boy looks.

**Tomorrow + I Need U + War of Hormone @ MBC Picnic Live** (2015) Tiny sit-down outdoor performance with a live band. Really good. Lots of the members hanging out with the crowd in ‘War of Hormone’.

**Fun Boys @ KBS Open Concert** (2015) A really beautiful location for a concert.

**Dope @ MCountdown** (2015) On a circular stage!

**Dope @ Music Core** (2015) Super cute stage clothes.

**For You @ Show Champion in Yokohama** (2015) A pretty performance of a pretty song.

**Dope @ Inkigayo in Jeju** (2015) One of the coolest entrances they’ve ever made.

**Run @ Show Champion** (2015) Super pretty lighting and camerawork.

**Never Mind @ 花樣年華 Pt.2 Japan on Stage** (2015) A very good Suga stage.

**Move @ 花樣年華 On Stage Tour in Korea** (2015) Ayo Suga!

**Ma City @ 花樣年華 Pt.2 Japan on Stage** (2015) Ma City always feels like a party. The signs above their heads are their hometowns.

**I Need U + Run @ MBC Gayo Daejejun** (2015) There’s no RM in these end-of-year song festival performances (he’d injured himself), but this one is vital for the opening with Suga playing piano for Jungkook’s dance solo.


**Butterfly + Dope + Run @ KBS Gayo Daechukje** (2015) For the dance line intro, especially Jimin’s beautiful modern dance to Butterfly (this was before there was group choreo for Butterfly).

**Fire @ MCountdown** (2016) Wearing their MV clothes and surrounded by a necessary amount of fire.
Baepsae @ Music Bank (short version) (2016) The only music show stage they did for this song.

Save Me @ Show Champion in Manila (2016)

Butterfly @ Music Core (2016) An HYYH Pt.2 song, but they did more stages for it during Fire promotions because the choreography was new (created for their tour).

If You @ King of Masked Singer by Jungkook (2016) A cover of the Big Bang song. The concept of King of Masked Singer is singers competing anonymously wearing fanciful masks. (Here's a cut of Jungkook’s reveal scene.)

Fire @ Melon Music Awards (2016) With fire dancers! Staging that believes more is more.

I Need U @ 4th Muster (g) (2018) The animal onesies performance. (Except that Jungkook is a carrot for some reason.) Anyway not the greatest video quality but this is genuinely cute as hell.

Fancams

I Need U (Jin) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2015) Illegal body rolls.

I Need U (V) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2015) Really pretty lines.

Dope (J-Hope) @ Show Champion fancam by 218 (2015) Hoseok in sunshine yellow against sky blue and flames. This is so good.

J-Hope solo dance @ Dream Concert fancam by Brilliant Violet (2015)
Dope (Suga) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2015) Frequently obstructed view because of the staging, but Yoongi is so alive.

Dope (V) @ Universiade Gwangju Festival fancam by TaeTae Land (2015) Taehyung performing with every bit of his face.

Dope (BTS) @ Asia Youth K-Pop Festival fancam by Mera (2015) I just really like these stage clothes. (See Photo Sets for fansite pics.)

Run (RM) @ the MAMAs fancam by Stand by RM (2015) Some camera jerkiness, but a very attractive fancam.

Run + Dope (Jungkook) @ Seoul Music Awards fancam by KOOKTV (2016) Probably nobody does the Run sexy jacket dance quite so well as Jungkook.

Fire (Suga) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2016) The Fire choreo suits Suga so well.

Fire (J-Hope) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2016) Extremely legs.

Baepsae (Jungkook) @ Epilogue Concert in Nanjing fancam by KOOKTV (2016) Nice and crisp Jungkook fancam, feat. a couple of adorable moments with Taehyung and also, by accident, Hoseok’s excellent freestyle at the end.

Fun Boys (Jin) @ Epilogue Concert in Nanjing fancam by Apple Tape (2016) Fighty stage shenanigans.

Save Me (BTS) @ Ulsan Summer Festival fancam by Peach Jelly A stage in blue and green.

Fire (Jimin) @ Ulsan Summer Festival fancam by Jimson Weed (2016) Super attractive and powerful.

Fire (Jungkook) @ Smart Uniform Family Event fancam by KOOKTV (2016) Jungkook in black skinny jeans, and he’s never been more legs.

Dope (Jimin) @ K-pop World Festival in Changwon fancam by Peach Jelly (2016) A cute-and-sexy style Dope.

Fire (Jimin) @ Busan One Asia Festival fancam by Off the Deep End (2016) Somehow this fancam turns Fire into something downright ethereal. (Peach Jelly also has an excellent Jimin fancam of this performance, from a different angle.)

Fire (RM) @ KBS Open Concert fancam by Limited Edition (2016) This is pretty sexy.

Save Me (J-Hope) @ Geumsan Residents One-Heart Festival fancam by 218 (2016) Save Me in Blood Sweat & Tears outfits works surprisingly well.

Fire (BTS) @ Golden Disc Awards fancam by TheGsd (2017) Fire in an inferno. This is excellent.

Fire (Jin) @ G-100 Concert for Pyeongchang Winter Olympics fancam by Apple Tape (2017) A sleek and relaxed look.

Fire (BTS) @ Lotte Family Concert fancam by TheGsd (2018) Relaxed and barely choreographed but magnetic. Includes Taehyung in the angel-rocker shaggy blond stage of his 2018 mullet.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: **HYYH Bombs, Other Tiny Videos & Episodes**
HYYH Bombs & Episodes

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Short Bombs

Favourite short Bombs from this era: Playlist (doesn’t include the other tiny videos and longer Bombs at the end of this section), or individually:

1st Meeting with Seolbing ?! (g) Some joyful eating.

BTS Waking-up HOBI CAM @Dream Concert (g) A pest J-Hope reprise.

Bike Rider (g) V gets hold of a bike and rides it inside.

Jimin I Got Yes Jam (g) Mature and sober roommates Namjoon and Jimin.

It s the Pose When BTS Sleep Normally (g) Hobi and Jungkook compete to out-weird each other.

Becoming Younger Brother (g) Yoongi trying to save Jimin from a ~naive bet with Hobi.

A 400-meter Relay Race @ ISAC (g) Jimin, V, Hobi & Jungkook winning the relay at September 2015 ISAC! (Idol Star Athletics Championships, a biannual event.)

Cheerleader Jin with ARMY Bomb —○ (g) Jin didn’t compete in this ISAC, but he went with everyone else, and spent almost the whole time dancing with Army Bombs (BTS light sticks) for the fans in the stands.

Shooting Guard SUGA with Cheerleader 2 Jimin (g) Jimin the one-person cheer squad for Suga’s basketball match.

The Amazing Spider-kook...! (g) At the Butterfly Prologue filming site.

Dancing with Rain (g) Jimin making up a raining dance.

Know-How for Making a Handsome Look (Bonus. Mr.Lip Balm-JK) (g) Jin attempts to teach Jimin how to look handsome and sophisticated in a suit.

Sleepy j-hope (g) Jungkook petting Hoseok’s hair.

Jung Kook Is Still a Baby.... (g) Kookie playing with rocks during the ‘Run’ MV filming.

Rap Monster on the Special Stage ’Buckubucku(____)’ feat.BTS (g) RM had a collaboration stage with MFBTY for the song he featured on, and the rest of Bangtan were super hyped. (Here’s the full stage.)

Jimin Drawing a Piano for SUGA (g) Baffling but cute.

Jung Kook’s Shopping (g) Jungkook is so loved and suffers so much.

Snowball Fight (Jimin’s Cam) (g) + a Twitter video: Yoongi 13 January 2015

Professional ’Kim Daily’ Photographer (g) Jimin photographing Namjoon’s outfit-of-the-day for
Dart King Jung Kook (g) Jeon Jungkook: innately good at sports things.

Jin & Kook Massage Time (g) Tough-love eldest hyung.

Other Tiny Videos

I Need U first win (The Show 5 May 2015) (g) (Not subbed) Their very first first-place on a music show. They were a bit shocked and less responsive for this first one, which might be why it was their second and third wins (MCountdown & Music Bank) that were made into Bombs. (Or it might have been because The Show is less prestigious than the other music shows.)

[MPD MISSION] 150507 Congratulations No.1 BTS~! In which Taehyung inhales 14 strawberries.

Suga in the ISAC 2015 Basketball Final A brief cut of the actual broadcast of the game Jimin was cheerleading in that Bomb above.

Star1 Shooting Sketch Behind the shoot for the October 2015 issue. The photos are in the Photo Sets section.

BTS V App Making Film (g) Just a compilation of tiny clips from other videos, but fits a lot of adorable shenanigans into 36 seconds.

2015MAMA Behind BTS Selfcam #3 Jimin and Taehyung being nervous and adorable in a hotel room before the 2015 Mnet Asian Music Awards. (This was their main stage at those awards, if you’re curious.)

Twitter video 19 July 2015 Face masks with Jimin & Taehyung.

Twitter video 1 September 2015 A meme!Kookie moment posted by Hoseok for his birthday.

ISAC February 2016 Men’s Relay BTS competing in another ISAC relay, this time with Yoongi! (Instead of Taehyung.) This race is the most incredible mess, it’s amazing.

Twitter video 16 February 2016 Eldest hyungs: ‘Wow, it’s the sea.’

Jimin & Jungkook @ Epilogue Concert in Beijing fancam by Little Blossom A tiny moment of Jimin dancing to Jungkook singing 'Butterfly'.

Jungkook & Namjoon @ Mokdong Fansign fancam by Limited Edition What’s a little casual biting between bros.

Twitter video 30 June 2016 Namjoon caught a frog.

Twitter video 27 August 2016 Hoseok spotted a Jungkook birthday bus.

BTS Special film. 2 (2.21) In which Taehyung & Jimin film a breakup video, and then edit it together by filming their phones with their phones. From Memories of 2015. (Disclaimer: I can’t actually see it there, but so the internet says - there are three full concerts included in the box set and I haven’t watched through them all, so I guess it’s probably a VCR for one of them.)
Longer Bombs

After M!Countdown 1st Place T_T (g) (4.48) Jubilant ‘I Need U’ music show win, laughing and tearing up and everyone smeared in messy lipstick. (It’s a tradition for groups to make a pledge for what they’ll do during the encore if they win, and they’d apparently promised red lipstick).

After KBS Music Bank 1st Place (g) (6.05) Another INU win. Swapping parts for the encore, and Namjoon crying this time.

BTS 5th Win @ Real Last Day of Run (g) (6.28) Winning 1st place at Music Bank on the last day of ‘Run’ promotions.

Jung Kook Collaboration Stage with Zion.T (g) (4.48) Jungkook had a collaboration stage with one of his favourite artists. (Here’s the full stage.)

BTS' Vocal Duet 'SOPE-ME' Stage Behind the Scene (g) (5.27) For Festa 2016’s Happy BTS Day Party everyone did some kind of unlikely cover stage. Suga and Hoseok’s was their debut as a vocal duo.

'Coming of Age Ceremony' Dance Cover by Jimin & Jung Kook (g) (6.44) Practising and rehearsing the ‘Adult Ceremony’ (also called ‘Coming of Age Ceremony’) stage!
V's Dream Came True - 'His Cypher Pt.3 Solo Stage' (8.21) Taehyung’s BTS Day Party cover was his favourite cypher. He continues to very much not be a rapper, but he is very cute.

RM and Jin Dance Stage Behind the Scene for BTS Day Party 2016 (8.02) Namjoon and Seokjin each covered Jimin’s and Hoseok’s dance solos from the BTS Begins concerts!

BTS Episodes

‘pt.1’ Jacket Shooting (g) (3.47) HYYH Pt. 1 jacket photos behind.

2015 Melon Music Award (g) (9.08) They won a handful of mid-level awards in the 2015 award season, but this was the most satisfying of them (it was for ‘I Need U’ specifically, since the Episode doesn’t mention that). Also feat. the entrance that launched car door guy Jin. (Here’s the official broadcast for their performance, so you can see the effect with the light-up gloves.)

The Most Beautiful Moment In Life (‘pt.2’) Jacket Shooting (g) (4.13) In which they frolic in a field with bubbles. (Jimin: “Please save us there’s no one here. There’s not even a bathroom. All we were given is bubbles.”)

‘Young Forever’ Jacket Photo Shooting (g) (5.36)

BTS 'Fire' 2nd Win @ 160513 Musicbank (g) (6.17) Just a super good energy to this one. (Jimin’s reference to 3 minutes 33 seconds refers to that point in the MV, which fans had made a hot topic.)

Chapter End Notes

Next part: HYYH Variety & Reality Shows
HYYH Variety & Reality Shows

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Series

Kkul FM 06.13

- **2nd BTS Birthday** (59m) Kkul FM continues v good. This one was for Festa 2015, in between 'I Need U' and 'Dope' promotions.
- **3rd BTS birthday** (1h 7m) For Festa 2016, after 'Fire'.

**BTS' Lucky Draw** was a drawing-games-out-of-a-bowl variety show for Naver Starcast. Full list of episodes: [Episode 1](#) | [Episode 2](#) | [Episode 3](#) | [Episode 4](#) | [Episode 5](#). My favourites:

- **Episode 1** (g) (9.47) Charades! Dissolves into hilarity.
- **Episode 3** (g) (8.19) Blindfolded hide and seek.
- **Episode 5** (g) (8.20) Cup-stacking game! Pride goeth before a fall, and things.

**Run BTS!** started in this era. BTS were kind of early-adopter ambassadors for VLive when it was new, and Run was one of the first things they did on it. (Full list of episodes with summaries [here](#).) My favourite episodes from HYYH era:

- **30 Seconds Gate:** [Episode 4](#) (10.50) Swimming pool games.
- **100 Seconds Sports Day:** [Episode 5](#) (9.08) 100-seconds sports relay challenge. Extremely shenanigans.
- **Treasure Hunt:** [Episode 8](#) (14.29) A find-the-flags game in the mountains, with quad bikes.
- **Bungee Jumping:** [Episode 9](#) (15.57) Bungee jumping! Everyone is supportive during the jumps, and Jungkook is so excited.

**BTS Gayo** was another VLive variety show which originally aired on alternate weeks to Run. It was Korean music-themed. See full list of episodes with descriptions [here](#). My favourite episodes from HYYH era:

- **Track 3** (10.59) Reenacting scenes from romantic dramas.
- **Track 6** (12.50) Guessing the rankings of BTS choreography, as voted by (Korean) fans. (When they say ‘MBC’ they mean [this](#) special choreography with the human cannon.)
- **Track 7** (11.58) A boy-group-song guessing game – for Hoseok screaming, 95line being perfectly in sync, and blatant sabotage by the other team.

**Eat Jin** is a mukbang, or eating broadcast, which Jin started on his own initiative. Most of the early ones are very short (less than 2 minutes), edited with music and no dialogue but plenty of emoting. They’re all delightful and inexplicably soothing.

- **150520** (skewers)
- **150531** (bibimguksu)
- **150630** (doughnuts)
- **150706** (hamburger)
- **150720** (meat and rice)
- **150729** (hot soup)
There are also some talky Eat Jins that are still edited but usually a bit longer. My favourites of those ones are:

- **150604** (g) (1.40) A speed challenge with guest Jimin and commentary by the others.
- **150715** (g) (7.55) Fruit-flavoured fried chicken with guest Jungkook.
- **150820** (g) (6.11) Mango rice in Thailand.
- **150830** (g) (5.32) Pizza in Chicago with cameraman Jimin.
- **150912** (g) (1.04) A wasabi punishment with commentary from the others.
- **160624** (g) (7.16) Udon with guest Jungkook and cameo RM (includes one famous moment of hilarity in particular).

**Bon Voyage**'s first season aired in this era:

- **Season 1 in Northern Europe** (Norway, Sweden, Finland) This first season is the cheapest, about US$8.

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**Guest Episodes**

**#hashtag: I Need U** (9 mins) An online interview show in which idols explained popular hashtags related to them. This one is from the day of their comeback!

**After School Club 5 May 2015** (52 mins) Flower crowns for everyone!
**Crisis Escape No.1** (5 mins) A short reality show segment BTS appeared on, in which they do a strawberry quiz and have extremely strong opinions about them (especially Taehyung).

**MV Bank Stardust Interview: Fire** (g) (20 mins) (Turn on subs.) Talking about the ‘Fire’ MV, then there’s an MV filming segment, then they do some ridiculous reality challenges including Jungkook carrying other members beneath a limbo bar. MC Jin.

**Running Man 22 May 2016** (17 mins) Competitive chaos and Jimin being a koala, it’s really good.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **HYYH Livestreams & Logs**
Livestreams

VLive videos that were streamed live by the members, rather than pre-recorded and edited by Big Hit staff.

Series

What Are 95z Up To? (actual phrase is ‘Guojeu Mandakko’, so it’s also called the Mandakko Show) was Jimin and Taehyung’s satoori (regional dialect) series that they started for themselves on VLive. It’s all hella adorable roleplays and arguing over schoolyard rhymes.

- **Episode 1** (4.14) An argument over team-dividing.
- **Episode 2** (5.36) Intensely soft and cuddly.
- **Episode 3** (3.56) Also feat. Jungkook and Hoseok.
- **Episode 4** (6.09) Schoolyard tough-talking. Incredible.

Hope on the Street is a freestyle street dance series J-Hope started for himself. The first three instalments were short videos uploaded to the BANGTANTV youtube channel, and then he followed up with some longer livestreams on VLive.

- BANGTANTV: **150920** (3.10) | **151008 - 1** (1.29) | **151008 - 2** (1.40) (Hoseok mentions in a later Hope on the Street that Jimin also did a freestyle but asked him not to upload it, which is why Jimin seems to be wandering about for no reason in the background of the 150920 video.)
- **Hope on the Street Live 27 Jan 2016** + **Part 2** (47 mins all up, in two parts because the connection cut out) Hobi talking about street dance, stretching and then freestyling, with guest Jungkook (being shy).
- **Hope on the Street Live 14 April 2016** (46 mins) This one is Hobi dancing and talking about dance for 15 minutes, before Jimin and, near the end, Taehyung show up to be adorable and also dance. Maybe the most important sunshine line video of them all.

Hwagae Market is Yoongi and Hoseok’s VLive series (named after a real market where historically people from their two home provinces traded). It’s honestly more the idea of a series than an actual series – they almost never record an episode – but it’s beloved by both them and the fandom.

- **Hwagae Market pre-open** (1 min)
- **Hwagae Market Episode 1** (13 mins) Five months later, recording an actual episode, in which they watch funny BTS videos and try not to be the first to laugh. The videos they’re watching aren’t necessarily that funny - a lot of them are Hoseok being scared of things - but the two of them laughing/trying not to laugh/pretending they weren’t laughing is excellent.
- **Hwagae Market Episode 1.5** (2 mins) Important follow-up.

Standalone

Live in Osaka (21 mins) Jungkook starts a live broadcast with zero plans, and then wakes up his napping hyungs to help him fill it. Mostly low-key and kinda soothing, ends with some hyper
Suga Watching the Pt 2 Preview (9 mins) Yoongi demonstrating what reaction videos look like, and talking about the songs in HYYH Pt.2.

Live in Hong Kong (10 mins) A Taehyung solo live, in which he pretends to get drunk on water and then gets shy because he has nothing to say.

Play with JHOPE (49 mins) Hoseok did a special live for his birthday where he played an online kart-racing game with fans. The first 3/5 of the video is charming but I wouldn’t say essential – it was meant more as a fun livestream to be a part of than something to be replayed later – but about 30 mins in Jimin turns up as a guest to play a team version of the game, and it becomes one of the more vital jihope videos on the internet.

<KKul FM 03.09> Mini Radio with SUGA (32 mins) Another birthday live! Yoongi does a mini Kkul FM (crashed by Hoseok, Jimin and Taehyung) for his birthday and Bangtan’s 1000 day anniversary. The video resolution isn’t the best but this is still pretty delightful.

Live in Kobe: Taehyung Voyeur (6 mins) Taehyung is bringing sexy back. This is Jimin and Taehyung in a hotel room, and it was an unstable connection so the video quality bounces around, but it is ~memorable all the same.

COUNTDOWN LIVE "BURNING BTS!" (1 hr 12 mins) A countdown show for the release of ‘Fire’. The first 18 minutes are talking about the album tracks and some ‘everybody thinks JK is really fuckin cute’ instances, then they show a Young Forever jacket shooting behind clip (also great). The rest of the video is variety games, and it’s fun but a bit of a shambles the way livestreamed variety always is. I would say this second half is not essential if an hour plus looks daunting.

BTS Live in Osaka (Mandakko + Eat Jin) (28 mins) In which Taehyung has decided to stop doing the 'What Are 95z Up To?' show (he wants to get rid of his dialect habits), and Jimin is inclined to punish him for it.Feat. Jimin, Jungkook, Seokjin & Taehyung, plus a Hoseok cameo.
Logs

150513 Jimin & Jungkook’s Log (g) (5.23) In their hotel room in Kota Kinabalu for the Summer Package photoshoot, all relaxed and wistful about how un-schedule-like it’s been and how they have to leave tomorrow.

160107 Jimin’s Log (g) (7.50) Back on a few days’ new years holiday again, back on a beach in Busan. Making new year’s wishes and walking with his little brother (face not shown), and it’s just a sweet comfortable mood.

160424 Jimin’s Log (g) (11.48) Flinging himself about a hotel bed in Japan, then talking seriously about his difficulties with singing practice. He’s extremely himself here.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Other HYYH Videos
Other HYYH Videos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Other Videos

HYYH Pt.1 Jacket Making (g) (15 mins) Memories of 2015 and 2016 included longer-and-better versions of all the HYYH-era jacket shootings and MV filmings. (There are multiple backup links for all the Memories videos at those main links.)

'I Need U’ MV Making Film (g) (28 mins) From Memories of 2015.

[Self MV Reaction] MPD & BTS - I Need U (9 mins) An ‘I Need U’ watch-through and discussion.

Summer Package in Kota Kinabalu + Part 2 (g) (37 and 27 minutes) The Summer Packages are holiday-themed photobooks accompanied by photo shoot behinds on DVD. The Summer Package in Kota Kinabalu (Malaysia) was the first working trip BTS had been on that was actually relaxing (this was before Bon Voyage), and they were delighted.

‘Dope’ MV Making Film (g) (23 mins) Also includes the concept photos shooting. From Memories of 2015.

Q&A BTS MCountdown Backstage (6 mins) In which Jungkook flat out eats a post-it note because Jimin wants to keep it. (Not subbed 100%; there’s a text trans here if you want to fill in the gaps.)

Undercover Mission in Osaka (g) (37 mins) In which, among other things, Jungkook has to get Jimin to say ‘thank you’ and embarks on a relentless compliments campaign to make it happen, Taehyung tells cute Namjoon-sleeping stories, and Hoseok loses his shoe on stage.

HYYH Pt. 2 Jacket Making (g) (10 mins) From Memories of 2015.

‘Run’ MV Making Film (g) (32 mins) From Memories of 2015.

BTS Explains the RUN MV (g) (8 mins) Watching the Run MV together, with commentary (they do not actually explain it).

[D-6] KBS Gayo Daechukjae (33 mins) J-Hope, Jimin and Jungkook recording a VLive show as part of the lead-up to the 2015 KBS Song Festival. The first 8 minutes are pretty scripted, but after that it gets very giggly and full of Bangtan stories. (The family photos from the public that they mention were used for that collaboration stage with Zion.T that Jungkook did, linked in Longer Bombs.)

Show Champion Backstage 12 December 2015 (g) (17 mins) (‘MakPD’ in the subs stands for ‘Maknae PD’, the junior staff member filming them.) In which they haven’t slept in two days and they’re punch drunk with it and a whole lot more unfiltered than usual. Also Jin and Taehyung have an extended drama-style fight over the attention of their girlfriend the camera.

Show Champion Backstage 19 December 2015 (g) (14 mins) A much less delirious follow-up to the video above, including the result of Hoseok’s promise to drink from the Show Champion cup if they won first place.
Tension Escalator (g) (6 mins) A variety game during one of their Japanese fanmeetings. Incredible.

BTS The Manual (BTS Standee user manual) (g) (4 mins) A helpful user’s guide from each member on how to interact with the life-sized standees at a fan event.

Korean Wrestling Semifinal @ 2016 Idol Star Athletics Championships (6 mins) (Unsubbed but they’re wrestling, so it’s easy to follow along.) BTS vs. Teen Top; the BTS team is V, Jungkook & Jin. (They ultimately won Silver.)

Puma BOG SOCK X BTS (g) (Playlist of seven 1-minute videos) These are ads, but they’re genuinely sweet and hilarious – I don’t know what the process behind them was, but they must have been written in close collaboration with Big Hit.

Now 3 in Chicago + Part 2 (g) (34 and 45 mins) The behind for the Now 3 photobook shooting.

Young Forever Jacket Making (g) (12 mins) From Memories of 2016.

'Epilogue: Young Forever' MV Making (g) (8 mins) From Memories of 2016.

'Save Me' MV Making Story (g) (10 mins) From Memories of 2016. Reeeally good.

'Fire' MV Making Story (g) (16 mins) From Memories of 2016.

'Agust D' MV Making Story (g) (10 mins) From Memories of 2016. All very action movie.

'Give It To Me' MV Making Story (g) (10 mins) From Memories of 2016.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: HYYH Photo Sets & Text Things
HYYH Photo Sets & Text Things

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Photobooks

*Now 3: BTS in Chicago* (scans by jalmotaesseo) My favourite of the *Now* photobooks, although that might be because it’s the only one I own. But also it’s excellent.

*Summer Package in Kota Kinabalu* (scans by jalmotaesseo) The Summer Packages aren’t as stunning as the *Now* photobooks, because they’re meant to have more of a holiday snaps sort of feel – but these are still gorgeous: blue water and tropical greenery and stars on their faces. ‘I Need U’ hair.

*2015 BTS Live 花樣年華 on Stage* (scans by jalmotaesseo) Beautiful ‘Run’-era stage photos.

*Summer Package in Dubai* (scans by fymyg) None of the follow-up Summer Packages have been as delightful as that first one, but there are some very good dramatic-sand-dune shots here.

Japanese Releases: Concept Photos

*Youth* Dreamy boys hanging out on roads and train tracks.

Magazine Shoots

*Rap Monster for Vogue Korea May 2015 Issue* (music autoplay) There are actually only two photos, but they’re both kind of amazing. (There's also a tiny behind video.)

*Star1 October 2015 Issue* Nothing high-concept, but super appealing looks.

*Star1 August 2016 Issue* (music autoplay) A hodge-podge sort of collection, but with a few very important pics.

*Suga for Marie Claire September 2016 Issue* (music autoplay) Extremely a look.

Facebook Photo Sets

*HYYH Pt.1 Sketch Photos* Artsy behinds from the jacket shooting and MV filming. These are beautiful.

*2nd Anniversary 가치 ‘Real Family Picture’* Extremely posed but also extremely them.

*Starcast photos: Kota Kinabalu Summer Package* behind photos.

*‘HYYH on Stage: Epilogue’ Behind* Some good tour pics.

#todaysbangtan

In this era they started to use the hashtag for when they’d completed other kinds of activities as well as performances.

- I Need U promotions
- Dope promotions & touring
- Run promotions & touring
- Fire promotions & touring

Japanese Twitter Photos

- For You Concept photos and promotion for their Japanese single ‘For You’.
- I Need U (Japanese ver.) Concept photos and MV behind. Many flowers.
- RUN (Japanese ver.)
- 花様年華 on Stage Tour in Japan Posters and backstage group pics.

Other

Puma Photo Cards (scans by 3Limit) Appealing Run-era semi-candids.

Fansites

HYYH Pt.1-Era

Gwanghwamun I Need U Fansign (May 2015) Fluff. And RM’s choker.

Ilisan I Need U Fansign (May 2015) You should see him in a crown.

Dream Concert (May 2015) Cherry blossom boys take the stage.

Daegu I Need U Fansign (May 2015) The one where somebody brought their small child along and made Taehyung’s entire week.
Yongsan I Need U Fansign (May 2015) This pic set is mostly just one very important group photo, in stages.


Show Champion Special (Jul 2015) These outfits might be their most striking Dope stage clothes.

Inkigayo Mini Fanmeeting (Jul 2015) The one where they’re all in police uniforms (i.e. Jungkook’s Dope Persona). Or: BTS vs the insect world.

Idol Star Athletics Championships (Aug 2015) BTS (along with the other groups and soloists in their ISAC team) won the overall gold medal at this one.


The Red Bullet in Hong Kong (Aug 2015) A particularly good Red Bullet tour set. (The cake was an early birthday celebration for Jungkook and RM.)

iFun Music Concert in Shanghai (Sep 2015) War of Hormone filtered through HYYH.

All Force One (Sep 2015) This was a hip-hop concert RM participated in after his mixtape came out, with Suga & J-Hope as his special guests.

Gangwon K-POP Festival (Oct 2015) Low-key pretty stage looks and high-key Taehyung.

One K Concert (Oct 2015) Unreasonably attractive hoodie stage looks.

Asia Song Festival in Busan (Oct 2015) Rainbow boy scouts.

Asia Youth K-Pop Festival (Oct 2015) All in jewel-tone streetwear.

Hope Concert (Nov 2015) Lots of dramatic dry ice.

Melon Music Awards (Nov 2015) Feat. car door guy Jin, light-up gloves, and those memorable (for better or worse?) shiny black shorts and jackets they wore for I Need U at MMA.

HYYH Pt.1-Era Miscellaneous Performances | They played a lot of festivals in this era, as well as continuing the Red Bullet tour.

HYYH Pt.1-Era Miscellaneous Fansigns | There was a peak fansign-flower-crowns era, and it was I Need U.

HYYH Pt.1-Era Between Schedules | BTS in their own clothes (although they do all seem to be wearing the same shirt on that first day).

HYYH Pt.1-Era Other Schedules | Including among other things the pink maid outfit. (It was some kind of penalty, I forget the details.)
**HYHY Pt.2-Era**

**HYHY on Stage in Seoul** (Nov 2015) Debuting their new Run looks, which somehow pulled off both brash and ethereal.

**Mnet Asian Music Awards** (Dec 2015) Honestly no era did colour like Run.

**Sinchon Run Fansign** (Dec 2015) Including the first time someone brought along a Kumamon hood for Suga. It was not the last time.

**Super Seoul Concert** (Dec 2015) Gorgeous painterly stage shots.

**Gwanghwamun Run Fansign** (Dec 2015) That very random kind of cuteness you only get at a fansign.

**Apgujeong Run Fansign** (Dec 2015) A smaller and even more random set.

**Gimpo Run Fansign** (Dec 2015) The artsiest, most Pre-Raphaelite Fansign.

**MBC Gayo Daejejun** (Dec 2015) The one with the Perfect Man cover. Extremely good.

**Myeongdeong Run Fansign** (Jan 2016) Gentle shenanigans.

**TTV Red and White in Taipei** (Jan 2016) Aesthetic: Christmas, but beautiful like a knife.

**Fanmeeting in GuangZhou** (Jan 2016) Iconic jackets and piggybacks.
HYYH Pt.2-Era Miscellaneous Performances | All the stage jackets.

HYYH Pt.2-Era Miscellaneous Fansigns | All the cute headbands.

HYYH Pt.2-Era Between Schedules | BTS in their own clothes (mostly winter wear).

HYYH Pt.2-Era Other Schedules

You Never Walk Alone-Era

HYYH on Stage: Epilogue Concert in Seoul (May 2016) Half soft half drama.

Gangnam Fire Fansign (May 2016) In their MV outfits and with their most vibrant fresh-dyed hair colours. (Jungkook absent.)


Smart Uniform Family Event (Jun 2016) Leggy, clean-cut youths.

Epilogue Concert in Taipei (Jun 2016) Some luminous stage shots.

Epilogue Concert in Macau (Jun 2016) Starting to mix in more playfulness at this stage of the tour.

Epilogue Concert in Nanjing (Jul 2016) Part ethereally beautiful and part piggy backs.

Ocean World’s Wave Pool DJ Party (Jul 2016). Nobody is in a pool and nobody is DJing, but these still probably look exactly what you’d expect a Wave Pool DJ Party to look like. (V absent.)

USF Ulsan Summer Festival (Jul 2016) Rude.

Show Champion in Manila (Sep 2016) Bangtan in motion.

Pyeongchang Winter Olympics Concert (Sep 2016) Full of dappled light and fire. (This concert was to celebrate the upcoming Olympics, which were still a year and a half away at that point.)

Young Forever-Era Other Schedules | Mostly stages.

Young Forever-Era Between Schedules | BTS in their own clothes.

TenAsia April 2015: ‘Blooming Youth’ as described by BTS Talking about ‘I Need U’ and HYYH Pt.1. (‘Blooming Youth’ is another translation for 花樣年華.)

TenAsia April 2015: It’s youth because it’s beautiful The second instalment of the same interview, talking about the concept of youth, their new dorm, and how excited they are when junior artists come and talk to them.

TenAsia December 2015: Interview with Son Sungdeuk A long, interesting interview with BTS’s choreographer, about their choreo (in particular for ‘Run’) and the members. (He also mentions the ‘Dope’ one-take choreo – he didn’t choreograph ‘Dope’ but he was the choreography director.)

Popteen January 2016 BTS interview (click through to part 2) Jin teaching himself to meet fans’ eyes, Suga’s feelings about furniture, Taehyung says Jimin is the shiniest on stage.

Grazia September 2016: Suga Interview A thoughtful little Agust D interview.

Festa 2016: BTS Self-written Profiles Ver. 3 + Part 2 + Part 3 (music autoplay)

- There’s also a Festa 2015 version of the Profiles (1, 2, 3) but the 2016 one is the best.

BTS Japan Official Fanclub Magazine Vol 2: Suga’s Biography Yoongi’s autobiography instalment in the Japanese fanclub magazine’s annual My Biography series (following Hoseok’s
one in School Trilogy era). Again, really interesting childhood and trainee era stuff.

**BTS Japan Official Fanclub Magazine Vol 3: V’s Biography** Taehyung’s turn.

**Jungkook’s Young Forever Thanks To** In which he finds a funny or touching thing to say about every single staff member.

**Starcast**

*Flower boys ‘BTS’ is here! The behind scenes of the band’s cover photo shooting!* A photo story behind from the *HYYH Pt.1* jacket photo shoots.

*BTS, show us the stand-by room of ‘I NEED U’!* A photo story from a music show waiting room + a short gif story. (*In the Mood for Love* is yet another translation for 花樣年華.)*

**Releasing BTS’ Dreaming Days, Chicago pictorial book B-cut photos!** A behind and B-cuts for the *Now 3* photobook.


*Let’s enjoy the summer holiday together! BTS in Dubai!* A behind for the *Summer Package in Dubai* photobook shooting.


**Twitter**

*Yoongi 2 May 2015* Suga selfies in this era were something else.

*Namjoon 6 May 2015* A nostalgic callback.

*Taehyung 7 May 2015* Taehyung’s arm elephant.

*Yoongi 8 May 2015* Yoongi’s new sound mixing system.

*Namjoon 9 May 2015* Namjoon’s choker.

*Jungkook 27 June 2015* Respectful maknae lovingly exposing his hyung (Jimin).


*Yoongi 13 August 2015* The most infamous of all Suga selfies.

*Jimin 1 September 2015* Kiss kiss. (A JK birthday tweet.)

*Jimin 5 September 2015* (2 posts) Jimin croaky-voiced in a hotel room demanding a dance from Namjoon. Somehow the most romantic thing I have ever seen.

*Jimin 12 October 2015* The first time BTS fans pooled money to put a member’s face on the side of a bus for their birthday!

**Taehyung Fancafe & Twitter September/October** (4 posts) The vhope #oh series.
Namjoon & Taehyung 27 October 2015 (2 posts) I love Namjoon’s mum. Context: Three days before, Namjoon had tweeted about Taehyung and Jungkook copying his use of music recommendation tags, and Taehyung responded with a deluge of music rec tweets tagged ___rmusic (‘rmusicAreYouSeeingThis?’).

Namjoon 30 October 2015 This is the horcrux bag Namjoon's mum was complaining about.

Yoongi 11 November 2015 (2 posts) A long tweet thread remembering his university entrance exam, and giving advice to students about to take it now. (The trainees living in the dorm at the time he’s writing about included Namjoon, Hoseok, Jungkook, Taehyung and some others who didn’t make it into the BTS lineup.)

Namjoon 16 November 2015 (2 posts) I can’t tell if he’s gently trolling or being earnest, but I’m charmed either way. (Also: horcrux bag sighting.)

Jimin 1 January 2016 A new year’s message to Namjoon, missing out on the end-of-year song festival stages due to injury.

Jimin 1 January 2016 Jimin has discovered that Yoongi really does play piano.

Seokjin 6 January 2016 (4 posts) Snowboarder Jin! (Tiny videos.) He was on a holiday with VIXX’s Ken and B1A4’s Sandeul, his closest idol friends.

Yoongi 16 January 2016 A long tweet thread, attempting to hold himself to heartbreakingly high standards. He’s referring to a Japanese concert they had to cancel due to his health.

Jimin 6 February 2016 Actual caring dongsaeng Jeon Jungkook.

Seokjin 13 February 2016 Jin on the Street (at the Run episode waterpark).

Namjoon 2 March 2016 Namjoon wants to catch a fish in his boot.

Taehyung & Jimin 7 March 2016 (2 posts) Maknae line: cool now. (Click through to the tweet itself if the video won't play.)


Jungkook 10 April 2016 A beautifully lit shot of Jimin sleeping, for reasons. (Precursor to Golden Closet Photos.)

Jimin 7 May 2016 Jimin, Jungkook and spicy chicken. (A tiny video that is nothing and also A Lot.)

Seokjin 29 May 2016 (2 posts) Jjangu and Jin back with a new photoshop assignment.

Jimin 30 May 2016 Kooks is dancing. (idk this is just kinda nice.)

Hoseok & Jimin 7 June 2016 (4 posts) Hope and Jimin’s pop art date.

Jimin & Namjoon 18 August 2016 (2 posts) Jimin supporting Suga’s Agust D mixtape, Namjoon memeing.

Yoongi 17 September 2016 Yoongi joins the cute-family-dogs squad! The first introduction of Min Holly.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Wings Era**!
WINGS ERA: Intro & Concept Photos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

Wings era spans from October 2016 to September 2017. It covers the full-length album *Wings* and its repackage *You Never Walk Alone*, and their singles ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ and ‘Spring Day’.

Wings era was a dizzying upwards climb. The jaw-dropping aesthetics of ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ drew a rush of new fans, and for the first time BTS charted for two weeks in a row on the Billboard 200 album chart (x) (the first k-pop artists to ever stay in the chart longer than one week) (x) and also on the Billboard Canada albums chart (x). *Wings* was also the first ever k-pop album to make it into the UK Official Albums chart, entering for one week at no. 62 (x). At home, ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ stayed in the Melon music charts for 72 weeks. ‘Spring Day’ struck even more of a chord at home – at time of writing it was still charting, at two years (x) (the longest an idol group song has ever charted on Melon) (x) and counting.

This was the era when BTS began to win daesangs (grand prizes) at the Korean music award shows (although only for award shows that gave out more than one daesang – for song, album and artist of the year). They’d named winning a daesang as their goal, but it was still almost stupefying when they actually did – the top awards at all the major award shows had been overwhelmingly dominated by artists from the Big 3 companies for the previous decade. The end of Wings era is also when BTS began to break into the US in earnest, when in May of 2017 they were nominated for and won the fan-voted Top Social Artist award at the Billboard Music Awards.

They spent most of 2017 on the *Wings* tour, which included arena dates in South America, the US, Asia and Australia, and a couple of stadium dates at home and in Japan.
Wings concept photos (scroll down)
You Never Walk Alone concept photos

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Wings Performances
Wings Perfromances

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Wings era is when Big Hit started to have the money for cool and beautiful sets for BTS stages.

Official Lives

**Blood Sweat & Tears @ MCountdown** (2016) An incredible set and a really good performance.

**21st Century Girls @ Music Core** (2016) Cute and sassy.

**Am I Wrong? @ Inkigayo** (2016) A lot of Inkigayo’s channel is region-locked so you may or may not need a VPN to watch this one. Short version.

**Blood Sweat & Tears @ Inkigayo** (2016) Satin shirts, satin chokers and a lot of sparkles. (Region-locked.)

**Blood Sweat & Tears @ MCountdown in Jeju** (2016) The windiest and most softly dramatic outdoor stage.

**Am I Wrong? @ Music Core** (2016) Full-length version.

**Tony Montana @ 3rd Muster** (2016) by Agust D ft. Jimin This stage is famous for Jimin rapping.

**Intro + Fire @ the MAMAs** (2016) I’m putting this in Wings era rather than HYYH because the main point of it is the Jin/Taehyung fallen angel wingfic intro.

**Boy Meets Evil + Blood Sweat & Tears @ the MAMAs** (2016) An extremely satisfying Boy Meets Evil, also ft. Jungkook on wires and Jimin in a blindfold.

**Blood Sweat & Tears @ Music Core Christmas Special** (2016) The camerawork is a bit jerky and Suga is absent, but this is still a really pretty stage, all in sumptuous red.

**Taemin & Jimin Showdown @ KBS Gayo Daechukje** (2016) A collaboration stage between Jimin and SHINee’s Taemin. Jimin and Taemin have similar fluid and sexy dance styles (and are also close friends), so this is a satisfying collaboration. Includes a Lie performance.

**Class Idea @ KBS Gayo Daechukje** (2016) A cover of the original k-pop school protest song, by Seo Taiji and Boys in 1994. Very hype, very nineties rock.

**Rainism @ MBC Gayo Daejejeon** (2016) Jungkook covering second-gen K-pop artist Rain, with most of the rest of BTS dancing backup. Including Rain’s famous cane dance, which manages to be equal parts ridiculous and cool. (Also linked in profile section.)

**As I Told You @ MBC Gayo Daejejeon** (2016) A super-cute and fun cover of a 1995 song by first-gen k-pop artist Kim Sung Jae. (The hilarious sports gear was part of original performances.)

**Spring Day @ MCountdown** (2017) This stage combines a pre-recorded performance with a live featuring a deluge of cherry blossom confetti in order to be The Most. (All of J-Hope’s parts in the
studio version of this song are vocal harmonies, so for lives he takes on half of RM’s rap verse.)

**Not Today @ MCountdown** (2017) With their MV outfits and the full complement of backup dancers.

**Spring Day @ Music Bank** (2017) With their MV outfits and a carousel.

**Spring Day @ Music Core** (2017) Every Spring Day stage is so pretty. This one is baby blue ribbons and a train station.

**Spring Day @ Inkigayo** (2017) In a suspended forest of silver streamers. (Region-locked.)

**Intro + Not Today @ the MAMAs** (2017) The Not Today stage itself isn’t essential, but watch for the very fancy hologram intro.

**Spring Day @ Melon Music Awards** (2017) Spring Day in an underwater coral-scape!

**Begin (Jungkook) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) Begin on stage was way dancier than expected.

**Lie (Jimin) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) Not as well shot as the KBS Gayo stage, but it’s a full version so it includes the super-important lift.

**First Love (Suga) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) With a live string section on stage, leading into the So Far Away stage at the end.

**So Far Away @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) So Suga, confusingly, is not in this even though it’s an Agust D song – we leave him at the piano after ‘First Love’ and it’s just vocal line singing the hook. But it’s super pretty.

**Lost @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) Vocal line in extremely shiny silver tops.

**Reflection (RM) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) RM and V meet in the phone box from the Wings short films.

**Stigma (V) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) That high note, goddamn.

**Mama (J-Hope) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) According to the *Burn the Stage* documentary, Mama was the other members’ favourite stage to watch during the Wings tour. You can see why.

**Awake (Jin) @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) Extremely pretty, and with the string section again.

**You Never Walk Alone @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) On moving platforms.

**Outro: Wings @ The Wings Tour in Seoul** (g) (2017) Wings in hot air balloons! It’s the concert finale, so the video’s 8 and a half minutes long.

**Cypher 4 @ KBS Gayo Daechukje** (2017) A rapline-only stage.

**Not Today @ the Golden Disc Awards** (2018) A good big-stage version.

**Come Back Home @ 4th Muster** (g) (2018) A stage for their excellent Seo Taiji and Boys cover.
**Bonus:**  **Two! Three! @ 3rd Muster** (2017) I can only find a Vietnamese sub of this performance video, but watch it for the crowd-singing and the purple ocean project (fans wrapped their ARMY Bombs in purple plastic to create this effect; it’s the origin of Taehyung using ‘purple’ as a verb to mean love for ARMY).

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**Fancams**

**Blood Sweat & Tears (RM) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam** (2016) The legginess of this dance suits Namjoon super well.

**Blood Sweat & Tears (Suga) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam** (2016) A lot of very effective lip-biting.

**21st Century Girls (Jin) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam** (2016) Jin is so in his element in 21C Girls stages. (Also linked in profile section.)

**21st Century Girls (RM) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam** (2016) Also super fuckin cute.

**Am I Wrong? (Suga) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam** (2016) No one did this song with more feeling than Suga.
Am I Wrong? (Jin) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2016) Some very cute eyebrows.

Blood Sweat & Tears (J-Hope) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2016) The slinky pyjamas stage.


Blood Sweat & Tears (Jin) @ Music Core MBC focus cam (2016) This has an uneven beginning but it’s pretty mesmerising by the end.

Blood Sweat & Tears (Jimin) @ Music Bank in Gyeongju fancam by Peach Jelly (2016) Sharp suits in the rain.

Blood Sweat & Tears (Jungkook) @ Music Core Christmas Special MBC focus cam (2016) The crimson brocade and velvet stage.

Modern Dance (Jimin) @ SBS Gayo Daejun fancam by Mera (2016) A lovely clear fancam of a modern dance collaboration stage Jimin took part in, with VIXX’s N, TWICE’s Momo & Mina, Lovelyz’ Yein, WJSN’s Chengxiao and professional dancer Luda Lee. (Mighty J has some beautiful photos of this performance.)

Lie (Jimin) @ KBS Gayo Daechukje fancam by Off the Deep End (2016) A very good multi-cam of Jimin’s part of the Taemin vs Jimin stage.

Blood Sweat & Tears (V) @ MBC Gayo Daejun fancam by VIA (2016) Sparkly and icy-breath cold. (Not a full song.)

Boy Meets Evil (J-Hope) @ Seoul Music Awards fancam by (2017) Really nice fancam taken from diagonally above.

Not Today (J-Hope) @ MCountdown MPD focus cam (2017) Revolutionary leader Hobi in pink pinstripes and leather pants.

Not Today (Jungkook focus) @ M!Countdown MPD focus cam (2017) Watch out for the slow-mo somersault at 2.07.

Not Today (Jimin) @ Music Core MBC focus cam (2017) Electric in pink.

Mama (J-Hope) @ The Wings Tour in Newark fancam by TheUltimateDodo (2017) A close fancam of the Mama choreography and staging.

Begin (Jungkook) @ The Wings Tour in Saitama fancam by Just Keep Going (2017) The colours are a little washed out, like most arena fancams, but this is lovely.

Cypher 4 (RM) @ the MAMAs fancam by Limited Edition (2017) A 30-second cut of RM’s part, with Mic Drop hair.

Intro (J-Hope) @ Melon Music Awards fancam by 218 (2017) A fancam of the intro dance J-Hope and Jimin did for BTS’s MMA stage (J-Hope focused but mostly includes both of them). Twilight-pretty.

Spring Day (V) @ Melon Music Awards fancam by Night Breeze (2017) Taehyung being very
beautiful.

**Not Today (Jimin) @ SBS Gayo Daejun** fancam by Mighty J (2017) Electric in gold.

**Not Today (Suga) @ KBS Gayo Daechukjae** fancam by Aquatic Sprite (2017) Really good Dope throwback looks.

**Blood Sweat & Tears (BTS) @ 4th Muster** fancam by Peach Jelly (2018) The animal onesies version, for reasons.

**Even If I Die It’s You (V & Jin) @ BTS Prom Party** BigHit focus cam (2018) Taehyung & Seokjin performed their Hwarang duet for Festa 2018! You can watch the broadcast version by buying the Prom Party VLive+ video, but this fancam is also great.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Wings Bombs, Other Tiny Videos & Episodes**
Wings Bombs & Episodes

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Short Bombs

Jimin’s Birthday at M Countdown (g) Jimin spent a year single-handedly making birthday presents a thing, and reaped the benefits this birthday. A lot of joy and love.

Sweet Jin & Jung Kook’s Chatter (g) Jin and Jungkook pop culture bonding across their immense generational divide.

Jimin’s Best Dance Imitation by Jung Kook (g) Jungkook imitating Jimin’s opening part in ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’.

Checking Out the Interview Script After Camera Rehearsal @ Inkigayo (g) Performance leader Hobi.

‘WINGS’ Short Film Special - Awake (Jin lip-sync) (g) Jin being cute on the set of his Wings teaser film.

‘WINGS’ Short Film Special - Reflection (Power Monster) (g) Monster of Destruction vs the locked phone booth.

‘WINGS’ Short Film Special - Stigma (Camera Director: V) (g) Taehyung play-acting on his own and charming the staff.

Mission! Make Jung Kook Laugh! (g) Jimin being a goof behind the camera to help Jungkook laugh in his photo shoot.

V’s New Game (Feat. a Water Bottle) (g) Also feat. Jungkook.

Ready to Do ‘Heart to A.R.M.Y’ Mission @ Inkigayo (g) Dance wings ganging up on Jimin.

Jin’s Skin Diving’ Training for Law of the Jungle (g) Diving practice for a survival reality show Jin was going on.

Hobi’s Self Camera Diary (g) Hoseok: ‘Today is our last broadcast, say a word.’ Yoongi: ‘A word.’

Jin’s Personal Practice ‘Fire’ for SBS Song Festival 2016 (g) Emergency choreo practice, feat. serious teacher Hoseok and less serious teacher Jimin.

Jin’s Chatter Time @ M Countdown Comeback Stage of ‘Spring Day’ (g) Seokjin has some indignation he would like to share with us.
Other Tiny Videos

**Twitter 26 September 2016** Jimin and Jungkook reacting to J-Hope’s ‘Boy Meets Evil’ trailer. Made of joy.

**Barefoot encore @ Music Bank** Their first-place pledge for 28 October’s Music Bank was doing the ‘Blood Sweat and Tears’ encore barefoot.

**Twitter 4 November 2016** Jungkook imitating Taehyung’s part in ‘Blood Sweat and Tears’.

**Jung Kook & J-Hope’s “Russian Roulette” Dance Cover** A segment from a variety show BTS appeared on called *Star Show 360*, of Jungkook and Hobi dancing to Red Velvet’s ‘Russian Roulette’ and IOI’s ‘Very Very Very’.

**VLive: VV** Taehyung’s Pingu imitations.

**Singles Magazine shoot behind** A behind clip for perhaps the most incredible photo shoot 7/5 of BTS have ever done together. Bonus: a tiny **RM-only clip**. (The photos will be linked in the Photo Sets chapter.)

**Twitter 25 December 2016** Taehyung singing 30 seconds of ‘Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas’.
Twitter 30 December 2016  Taehyung’s birthday, backstage at an end-of-year Gayo, face covered in cake.

Twitter 31 December 2016  A Jungkook-focus dance practice video by Jimin, from the ‘Rainism’ practice.

MBC Gayo Daejejun 2016 New Year’s Countdown fancam by Today’s Park Jimin + right-hand side fancam by The Moonboy Chaotic dancing for midnight.

Hwarang Episode 5 clip  (2.13) Taehyung had a minor ensemble role in the historical drama Hwarang. I wouldn’t necessarily recommend the drama overall (it had a lot of good elements but terrible pacing) but this is a really cute clip of Taehyung and all the other young knights being made to drink ultra-strong liquor as a character test.

Jin, Jimin & Taehyung @ February 2017 ISAC fancam by Apple Tape Baffling manhandling and shoe throwing shenanigans during the Idol Star Athletics Championships.

Jungkook @ February 2017 ISAC fancam by KOOKDAE Jungkook helping staff collect rubbish at ISAC.

Twitter 9 February 2017  Seokjin vs. the claw machine.

Twitter 24 February 2017  Jimin filming Hoseok filming Jimin filming a selfcam. Fondness dialled up to like, 300.

Jin & Jungkook @ YNWA Fansign in Hongdae + fancam 2 fancams by Apple Tape Eldest and youngest memeing at a fansign table, then Jungkook gives Jin beautiful hair spikes.

Jungkook & Jimin @ YNWA Fansign in Hongdae fancam by Kookdae Pokemon ball violence and a possible neck kiss.

Jungkook’s birthday video for Suga  (g)  This really happened.

’Not Today’ Wire-cam Making  A behind on the wire-cam set-up for the ‘Not Today’ MV filming, by the aerial filming company contracted for it.

Jin’s Twitter Video in Brazil  (g) A cute annotated behind video Jimin made of their Wings Tour show in Sao Paulo.

Jungkook throwing the first pitch at Koshien fancam by Made in 1997 A 9-second video from 2 June 2017. (Snowpeach has some photos.)

Twitter 9 August 2017  The 94line friendship run into the waves from Bon Voyage, as filmed by Taehyung and laughed at hysterically by Jin.

SKTelecom VarieT Advertisement  Lolsy like any attempt to to make an ad jingle ~cool, but also smile-making.

BTS Unreleased Broadcast for Good Insight: Producer Bang Sihyuk Episode  (g) An enjoyable clip of Bang PD visiting the members’ dressing room at the AMAs, released for a hybrid lecture/documentary Bang presented about BTS and k-pop (here).

Jin’s heart events: During Wings Tour, Jin’s tradition was to pull a handmade heart from somewhere improbable during his ment (the talky segment near the end of the concert). Here’s a selection:
- **161215 Japan Official Fanmeeting** (a sort of prototype heart event from before the tour)
- **170423 Bangkok**
- **170514 Hong Kong**
- **170607 Hiroshima**
- **170622 Saitama**
- **171015 Osaka**
- **171021 Taipei**
- **171104 Macao**
- **171208 Seoul**

**Longer Bombs**

**Jung Kook Went to High School with BTS for Graduation!** ([g](#)) (7 mins) Jungkook’s high school graduation. Really goddamn darling.

**j-hope & Jung Kook Show Music Core Special MC** (5 mins) ([g](#)) An aegyo-ful MC practice. ([Here’s](#) a cut of how they did during the broadcast.)

'As I Told You' Special Stage @ MBC Song Festival 2016 ([g](#)) (6 mins) Behind the Kim Sung Jae cover stage, including a full performance fancam and their post-performance monitoring. Some v good moments in this.

**Jin, RM and j-hope Monitoring Time** ([g](#)) (5 mins) Watching Jimin’s and Jungkook’s special collaboration stages at the KBS Gayo! (‘When did he get this grown up?’)
613 BTS Home Party Practice - Unit Stage 'SIN' (g) (9 mins) For Home Party Suga and Jin covered each other’s songs, ‘Awake’ and ‘Nevermind’. Amazing.

613 BTS Home Party Practice - Unit stage 'R&V' (g) (7 mins) Namjoon wrote a song based on Taehyung’s ideas for them to perform together at Home Party. (Studio version: 4 O’Clock) Everyone is adorable here.

**BTS Episodes**

'Wings' Jacket Shooting Sketch (g) (6 mins)

'Blood Sweat & Tears’ Win (g) (10 mins) Their first three music show wins for BS&T.

BTS @ 2016 MMA (g) (12 mins) Winning Album of the Year at the Melon Music Awards: their first daesang. (It was actually for HYYH: Young Forever rather than for Wings.)

BTS @ 2016 MAMA (g) (24 mins) Winning Artist of the Year at the MAMAs. So many feelings and also crying.

'You Never Walk Alone’ Jacket Shooting Sketch (g) (4 mins)

This is Hansung of 'Hwarang’ (a.k.a. BTS V ^ᴥ^) (g) (13 mins) Behind the scenes of Taehyung’s drama filming. (Hansung was the name of his character.)

BTS @ Billboard Music Awards 2017 (g) (19 mins) Behind the first BBMAs! A really big moment.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Wings Variety & Reality Shows**
Wings Variety & Reality Shows

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Series

Kkul FM 06.13: Happy BTS birthday! ‘BTS FESTA 2017’ (g) (1 hour 23 mins) Every Kkul FM is so good.

Run BTS! had a new season in Wings era, with episodes twice as long as the original season. My favourite episodes from Wings era are most of them – this was a very good season:

- **Back to School: Episode 11** (26 mins) Min Yoonji, cute female transfer student. (The classroom skit.)
- **Cops: Episode 12** (23 mins) The police station skit. This one is a mess, especially compared to how tightly they kept the Yoonji skit together, but it’s maybe vital anyway.
- **The Return of the Spy: Episode 13 & Episode 14** (22 & 21 mins) The water park episodes! (Episode 15 is actually part 3 of ‘The Return of the Spy’, but they’re out of the pool and it’s not as great as the first two.)
- **Winter Olympic Games: Episode 16** (20 mins) The Bangtan Winter Olympics! Sled games at a snow park.
- **Arcade Olympics: Episode 18** (20 mins) This is actually the second of a two-parter set at the arcade, but this one is especially memorable for the table hockey game.
- **Strike: Episode 19** (20 mins) The bowling episode! Ends with punishment spanking because that is … the Bangtan way? Uh.
- **Taste of Korea: Episode 20** (20 mins) The first cooking episode! Judge Seokjin is so ready to be pleased by everything, and Jimin is so sweetly bossy with Taehyung, and Jungkook’s adhesive sweet potato nearly killed me.

BTS Gayo also had a second season in Wings era, also with twice the original episode length (although fewer episodes). Favourites:

- **Track 10** (26 mins) Guessing the rankings of BTS songs, as voted by (Korean) fans in 2016. (Note that when the subs list ‘Etc.’ as having gotten whatever percentage of the vote, they mean ‘various other songs’.)
- **Track 13** (18 mins) A k-pop quiz with ridiculous buzzers and chaos. It’s actually super interesting, one of the categories is recognising a song from misheard English lyrics.
- **Track 14** (20 mins) Team games extremely loosely based on movies with famous soundtracks. Includes blindfolded partner dancing.

Bon Voyage Season 2: Hawaii is, as with season 1, paid content available as a one-off purchase through VLive. For this second season, there are fewer artificial challenges and more having fun and relaxing.

Burn the Stage: The Series (paid subscription content on Youtube Premium) is an 8-episode documentary series chronicling the Wings Tour, with performance and rehearsal and backstage footage and some really lovely interviews. Episodes are about 25 minutes long. (Note: there’s also a film of the same name, now also available on Youtube Premium. The series is much better though – the film has an odd first-person voiceover by a voice actor.)
**Law of the Jungle** is a long-running reality show in which groups of celebrities are sent to remote locations and have to survive on what they can hunt and gather. **Jin** was part of the first team of 2017: it was 5 episodes, each an hour and a bit long, set on and around a series of small Indonesian islands. I enjoyed it a bunch – it’s rewarding whenever they get to eat what they’ve caught, the scenery is beautiful, and Jin has some satisfyingly capable and successful moments, as well as turning on his usual goofing-off-and-being-endearing variety mode.

- Content notes: 1) Arguably the premise itself is kinda racist: civilised urban people go to the wild jungle in another country, except it’s not actually that wild, e.g. there are fruit trees that are obviously cultivated by locals. Also the subs use the word ‘natives’ a couple of times, but I don’t know if that reflects the Korean word used. 2) Mostly they catch and cook seafood, but a couple of times they get something that’s a little bit grislier to prepare.

- Episodes (at Viki) are region-locked, so you may need a VPN: [Episode 247](#) | [Episode 248](#) | [Episode 249](#) | [Episode 250](#) | [Episode 251](#) (Jin has to leave part-way through this ep because of a BTS concert.)

**Guest Episodes**

*Ask in a Box* (15 mins) *Ask in a Box* has a really simple but effective structure as an interview show – I like it a lot. This is during ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ promotions.

*MV Bank Stardust Interview: Wings* (22 mins) Highlights are Namjoon, Jimin and Yoongi supporting Taehyung as MC in their individual ways, and the most famous of Jin’s dad joke moments.

*New Yang Nam Show* (47 mins) A pyjama-party themed variety show with really fun segments. Also includes some really interesting predebut talk (and videos).
Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Wings Livestreams & Logs**

Good luck to the baby bro group tomorrow!
Chapter Notes

Happy birthday Min Yoongi!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Short Livestreams & Logs

160925 J-Hope’s Log (g) (6.29) Hoseok nervously anticipating the release of ‘Boy Meets Evil’.

Daesang Boy Scouts (11 mins) A livestream backstage after winning their first daesang, Album of the Year at the Melon Music Awards: keyed-up chatter and feelings and some tears. (They initially misheard which album this award was for, so during this live they thought it was for *Wings* rather than *Young Forever*.)

Jin’s Graduation Live (10 mins) A full-group livestream celebrating Seokjin’s university graduation!

Thank You Army! Top Social A.R.M.Y! (6 mins) A very excited livestream right after the Billboard Top Social Artist win.

V Pick: RM Showing His Figures (4 mins) Namjoon showing off his newest collectible figures. (This is the full livestream.)
Longer Livestreams

'Wings' Preview Show (46 mins) The Wings comeback was a time, and this countdown show for the release is really good.

Wings Behind Story by RM (41 mins) RM talking through Wings track by track. Really lovely, feat. a lot of him deliberately highlighting the talents and hard work of his members, while also wanting fans to know how much of himself he put into the album. (There’s also a short J-Hope visit.)

Eat Jin + Chimchim (31 mins) An extremely loosely defined Eat Jin (they chew gum and eat lollipops) with Jin, Jimin and later Jungkook. Hilarious bickering and Jimin running mad with power.

Happy Birthday J-Hooooooopooe (20 mins) A cute and hyper birthday live, crashed by Jin and then by most of the others.Feat. violence, head kisses, presents and people dissing Suga in his absence. (There’s also a three and a half minute V Pick edit, but it’s worth watching the full.)

Kookie Live (35 mins) Jungkook has a gift for making solo livestreams feel like a conversation. The connection isn’t great so the video pixelates a few times, but it’s still really engaging. (There’s also a 4-minute V Pick focusing on the part where Jungkook trolls Jimin through the hotel wall.)
**EAT Jin + JM&JK** (40 mins) Arguably the best VLive trio, back together with a guitar and a very late food delivery. (There’s a 4-minute V Pick feat. Jin playing guitar while Jimin sings, and Jin & Jungkook bickering.)

**Hello Taehyungie** (39 mins) A music recommendation solo livestream – Taehyung in a hotel room listening to songs with a lot of animation and some singing along, including delicately singing opera at one point. The video quality isn’t great but he’s very watchable.

**Hwagae Market: Sope’s Honey Skin Please** (Yoongi & Hoseok) (23 mins) A face mask broadcast! Content notes: lots of talk about dieting.

**New Mon Studio** (24 mins) In which Namjoon baby dinosaurs around his studio showing fans his workspace and his many many collectible figures on display. Also a short Suga visit. ([Here](#) is the Jimin photo Namjoon mentions.) There’s also a 4-minute V Pick.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Other Wings Videos**
Soooo I'd already gently let go of the idea of finishing before the comeback, but now that it's confirmed for 12 April there's definitely no way. Pretty sure I was the only one who cared about that deadline though, ahaa.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Wings Jacket Making (g) (11 mins) From Memories of 2016.


Blood Sweat & Tears MV Making Story (g) (16 mins) The full-length version of the ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ MV making from Memories of 2016.

Music Core 5-Minute Delay was a VLive broadcast in which artists came off stage at Music Core and immediately watched and commented on a delayed screening of their performances. The videos include every artist from the show, so you need to skip to the relevant timestamp for a specific artist. These two were my favourite BTS ones:

- 'Blood Sweat & Tears' & '21st Century Girls' 15 October 2016 (timestamp: 42 minutes) This was the first one of these they did. Lots of hyping up each other’s performances and everyone losing it again over Jimin’s sexy shoulder. (The performances they’re watching: 21st Century Girls, Blood Sweat & Tears)
- 'Blood Sweat & Tears' 22 October 2016 (timestamp: 53.35) The one where Suga shouted “J-HOOOOOOOOOPE” so many times it became a meme. (Performance: Blood Sweat & Tears)

Show Champion Backstage 25 October 2016 (g) (15 mins) V & Jimin making soft dirty jokes, Jin being bratty, Jimin & Jungkook trying to dob each other in for ab flashes, RM talking very fast about cuteness, and their encore performance.

House of Army (g) (10 mins) A pre-recorded skit played at the 3rd Muster fanmeeting, about teenage BTS fan Kim ARMY (played by Namjoon) and her family.

You Never Walk Alone Jacket Making (g) (12 mins) From Memories of 2017. On a winter beach, on a rooftop and with a confetti cannon.

Spring Day MV Making (g) (12 mins) From Memories of 2017. A lot of liveliness behind the wintry spring day.

Not Today MV Making (g) (12 mins) From Memories of 2017. J-Hope is an especial energy source in this one.

2017 BBMAs Behind Story (10 mins) From Memories of 2017. Another behind, including Jin and Jimin sneaking up on each other as they played a VR game in LA.

Dispatch: BTS in Billboard! (Magenta Carpet) (4 mins) A behind capturing the fans lining the red (magenta) carpet at the BBMAs.
BTS Home Party: VCR Making (8 mins) From *Memories of 2017*. Shooting the VCR for the Festa Home Party event, which was shot in their dorm.

“SeoTaiji 25th Concert” Practice (8 mins) Everyone being bashfully delighted about collaborating with Seo Taiji for the ‘Come Back Home’ cover and his concert.

*Seo Taiji Concert TIME: TRAVELER Behind Film* (14 mins) From *Memories of 2017*. Has some of the same footage as above, but mostly new, including performance footage.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Wings Photo Sets & Text Things**
Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

**Photobooks**

_Summer Package Vol.3_ (Palawan, Philippines) (scans by jalmotaesseo) Includes Jimin with a cat and Namjoon with a crab, and the rainbow unicorn float.

_2017 Season’s Greetings_ (scans by sweaterpawsjimin) Photos for their 2017 calendar. The ones at the end of the set are especially good.

_The Best of BTS_ (5 posts) (scans by sweaterpawsjimin) Photobook for a 2017 compilation album. Handsomely dramatic looks.

_4th ARMY.zip_ (scans by jalmotaesseo) This is the 2017 edition of the photobook sent out to members of the official fanclub as part of a membership kit. Fun and colourful. Includes an entire spread dedicated to Yoongi’s family dog, Holly.

_血、汗、涙_ (scans by 613℃) Photobook for the Japanese ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ single (later re-released on _Face Yourself_). Everybody is haughtily beautiful and expensive looking.

**Magazines**

_GO Korea December 2016_ Blood Sweat & Tears outfits, some sexy roses, and an extremely fan-famous photo of Suga. For reasons that may be obvious.

_Singles January 2017_ (scans by holy moly) + _B-cuts_ Includes corsets, collars, lace gloves, blindfolds and fishnet stockings – this shoot is legendary for a reason, even though only 5/7 of Bangtan were there.

_Anan June 2017 + Part 2_ (scans by 613℃) Casual-soft allure looks, and some very good unit pics.

_Non-no August 2017 + Part 2 + Part 3_ Photos released on _Non-no_’s website as well as scans from the magazine. Gorgeous warm colours and a few very important b+w shots. (There’s also a short but very attractive _behind video_ for this shoot.)
Dispatch

Wings era was when BTS got big enough for Dispatch to start paying attention to them. Dispatch photos are uploaded here on Naver, but there’s no way to filter them there that I can find, so I’ve reposted my favourite sets to Tumblr for linking purposes. They’re not quite as hi-res as the original Naver versions (although they’re still pretty big), so go to that original link and scroll down until you find what you’re looking for if you need the full-size.

- Blood Sweat & Tears MV Shooting (3 posts) The Jimin shots from this set made an especially big impact at the time.
- Dispatch Photo Shoot in Front of Big Hit Offices (3 posts) Sunshine goths.
- KBS Open Concert Rehearsal A handful of open-air rehearsal shots.
- Billboard Music Awards 2017 (5 posts) All the suits.

Facebook Photo Sets

You Never Walk Alone Sketch Photos Pretty behind photos from the YNWA jacket/concept shoot.

Festa 2017 Family Photos Another instalment of ridiculous and endearing posed group photos for Festa. There’s also a non-ridiculous version with some soft unit pics.

#todaysbangtan

- Blood Sweat & Tears promotions
• Award shows & Gayos
• Spring Day & Wings Tour

Japanese Twitter Photos

• Japan Official Fanmeeting Vol. 3 Backstage group pics (in the #todaysbangtan style) from their multi-day 2016 Japanese fanmeeting.
• Blood Sweat & Tears (Japanese ver.) Group pics from promotions.

Other

Fancafe: You Never Walk Alone jacket shooting bonus shots A cute pole-hugging themed set posted to the fanclub members-only Fancafe.

Starcast: Wings Jacket Shooting (3 posts) These come from a Starcast photo story (here), but the commentary in the photo story is a bit hokey so I just pulled out some important photos.


Wings Tour merch scans (scans by sweaterpawsjimin) Photo cards etc. Everybody cuddling among cotton-ball clouds.

Fansites

Wings-Era

KPOP World Festival in Changwon (Sep 2016) They did several schedules in the period where they already had Wings hair but they weren’t promoting it yet, so the styling is this interesting hybrid effect.

Busan One Asia Festival (Oct 2016) Dramatic lighting with that hybrid styling making for strangely evocative shots.

DMC Festival (Oct 2016) The Fire-est colours and energy with the Wings-est gloss.

KBS Open Concert (Oct 2016) Into Wings era proper: satin and vulnerability set against neon yellow and blue lighting.

Myeongdong Wings Fansign (Oct 2016) The cutest waistcoats and chokers.

Busan One Asia Festival (Oct 2016) Delicate, sexy and dramatic.

Incheon Wings Fansign (Oct 2016) The essential fansign experience of people being adorable with things on their heads.

MCountdown in Jeju (Oct 2016) The very windy stage. Everyone embracing the sexy/cute duality of their souls.

Yeouido Wings Fansign (Oct 2016) Prince Fairy Bunny, first of his name. (This set is 80% Jimin.)

Omokgyo Wings Fansign (Oct 2016) Halloween cuteness.

Gimpo Wings Fansign (Nov 2016) Flowers and Little Prince collars.

Music Bank in Gyeongju (Nov 2016) Dramatic stage shots in the rain.
Melon Music Awards (Nov 2016) Tears and hugging for their first daesang.

Mnet Asian Music Awards (Dec 2016) Dramatic shots for their special stages, and more daesang emotions.

MBC Gayo Daejejun (Dec 2016) Including the icy-breath stage. (Suga absent.)

Golden Disc Awards (Jan 2017) An eclectic series of looks, including a tearaway costume reveal.

Idol Star Athletics Championships (Jan 2017) Cute time-passing shenanigans at ISAC.


Wings-Era Miscellaneous Performances Mostly special stages.

Wings-Era Miscellaneous Fansigns Hard to pick a highlight here, but it might be Jungkook the cute ram.

Wings-Era Between Schedules BTS in their own clothes. Highlight might be Tae-hyung channelling Audrey Hepburn in a wine-coloured beret and fur coat.

Other Wings-Era Schedules The Asia Artist Awards & the VLive Top Ten Awards.

You Never Walk Alone-Era

Wings Tour in Seoul (Feb 2017) Purple velvet and sequins and hot air balloons.

Aladin YNWA Fansign (Feb 2017) Adorable layered pastel Spring Day looks.

Myeongdong YNWA Fansign (Feb 2017) Fansign cuteness in their Spring Day MV outfits, including the infamous pinky finger measuring contest.

Sincheon YNWA Fansign (Feb 2017) Ribbons and blue-and-white embroidery. Also Jimin lying on the floor.

Hongdae YNWA Fansign (Feb 2017) Navy blue uniforms and a pokemon ball.

Wings Tour in Santiago (Mar 2017) Sparkling fresh-faced looks on the Wings tour.

Wings Tour in Manila (May 2017) More delicate stage shots, with added cute headbands.


Music Bank in Singapore (Aug 2017) Gorgeous and vivid stage shots in rose tones; also 95line’s celebrity friendships.

You Never Walk Alone-Era Miscellaneous Performances Glittering mouse-eared snapshots from the Wings tour.

You Never Walk Alone-Era Between Schedules Summertime casual looks.

Other You Never Walk Alone-Era Schedules Including Jungkook’s ceremonial first pitch at Koshien.
Text Things


**Festa 2017: BTS Self-written Profiles**


*Law of the Jungle Relay Letters: Jin to Solbi & Sleepy* Cute letters Jin wrote to two of his *Law of the Jungle* castmates for the broadcast of their last episode. (Solbi is a solo singer and TV personality; Sleepy is actually the rapper who originally recommended RM to Big Hit.)

**Wings Concept Book: Interviews** Thoughtful and moving and endearing and sometimes heartbreaking interviews with each member, released as part of a special photo book. (Really good translations by ktaebwi.)

- **Jungkook** Talking about how young and incomplete he still feels, and how the members teach him.
- **Jin** Really great stuff about the writing process for ‘Awake’ and convincing the producers to use the chorus he wrote, among other things.
- **V** Incredibly sweet talk about the members and RM in particular, and about juggling touring with filming his drama.
- **RM** Songwriting and story-telling and grounding mechanisms, and his sense of his evolving
role as a leader.

- **Jimin** Some heartbreaking stuff on the recurring theme of his self-doubt and anxiety as a singer, but also really interesting recording process stuff. (Additional content note: some talk about extreme dieting.)
- **Suga** A tonne of feelings about both his *Wings* song ‘First Love’ and the *Agust D* mixtape. (On the relief and lightness he felt after releasing *Agust D*: “[Bang PD] even asked where that incisive person full of wrath from before had gone.”)
- **J-Hope** Among other things, some soothing-to-the-soul talk about how happy and proud his mum was about his song ‘Mama’.

**Wings Concept Book: Concepts** A longish write-up on the themes and allusions in the *Wings* videos (‘Boy Meets Evil’, ‘Blood Sweat & Tears’ and the short films) and how the *Wings* concept was envisioned to fit in with the School Trilogy and HYYH concepts. Not ~required reading but if you’re interested in that stuff it’s interesting.

**Kim Hyunjung’s News Show: RM interview** An articulate and thoughtful little interview after the BBMAs.

**Starcast**

“*Tearful album made by sweat*”... *BTS at working studio* An endearing photo story behind for one day of the recording of *Wings*.

**Welcome to the shooting site of BTS! They’ll take care of your year 2017**! Behind from the *2017 Season’s Greetings* calendar.

"*Black bean noodle for graduation*”... *JUNG KOOK’s treat with his own card* A photo story behind for Jungkook’s high school graduation.

**BTS in MV shooting for “Spring Day”** MV behind for ‘Spring Day’.

**The 2017 Summer of BTS** Cute photo story behind for the Palawan *Summer Package*, including B-cuts.

**Twitter**

- **Jimin** 8 October 2016 Die by the smothers of Jin’s hand kisses.
- **Jimin** 19 October 2016 namjin shipper Park Jimin.
- **Hoseok** 16 December 2016 Hoseok is going to be in the grave and still making this pun.
- **Hoseok** 30 December 2016 Uploading a throwback photo for Taehyung’s birthday.
- **Seokjin** 29 January 2017 Wintry encounter with a cute dog.
- **Jungkook** 31 January 2017 Jungkook’s bowling phase.
- **Jimin** 1 February 2017 Min Yoonji! (From *Run BTS!* Episode 11.)
- **Namjoon** 7 February 2017 Bilingual nature puns, pretty much peak Namjoon. (His name with Japanese pronunciation is Namujun.)
- **Seokjin** 8 February 2017 (3 posts) Eldest hyung and his mature pastimes with his mature friends
(B1A4’s Sandeul).

Jimin 11 February 2017 Wink scouts: the student and master.

Jimin 24 February 2017 Cute manager interaction.

Hoseok 9 March 2017 (7 posts) The time Hoseok uploaded a photo of himself and Yoongi for every year they’d known each other, for Yoongi’s birthday.

Taehyung 9 April 2017 Vincent Van Gogh hyung.

Taehyung 3 June 2017 V’s first #vante tweet (riffing on the name of a favourite photographer of his, Ante Badzim). Beautiful ‘Spring Day’ filming shots.

Taehyung 5 July 2017 J-Hope by Vante.

Taehyung 10 July 2017 Obedient maknae.

Hoseok 1 September 2017 A sock-waltz with the maknae, uploaded for Jungkook’s birthday.

Bonus: Seo Taiji’s short Facebook post (after the concert they did with him) “My sons Bangtan.”

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Love Yourself Era!
LOVE YOURSELF ERA: Intro & Concept Photos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Love Yourself era spans from September 2017 to April 2019. It covers the albums Love Yourself: Her, Love Yourself: Tear and Love Yourself: Answer, and their singles ‘DNA’, ‘Fake Love’ and ‘Idol’, as well as the special Her single ‘Mic Drop (Remix)’. It also covers the Japanese album Face Yourself and two mixtapes: J-Hope’s Hope World and RM’s mono.

In Love Yourself era, BTS accelerated past nearly all the limits of what past k-pop trailblazers had achieved globally, especially in the West. ‘DNA’ was BTS’ first song to break into Billboard’s Hot 100, peaking at #67 (x) (at that time the highest k-pop entry on the chart other than Psy’s viral hits), and LY: Her spent 6 weeks on the Billboard 200 charts (peaking at #7). After the massive fan turnout and enthusiasm at the Billboard Music Awards in May when they received Top Social Artist, the American Music Awards invited BTS to perform at their ceremony (they weren’t up for an award). The hype from that performance sent Her back onto the Billboard 200 chart, and the hype from the release of a major remix collaboration with US producer Steve Aoki (‘Mic Drop’) kept it there for 19 straight weeks (x). ‘Mic Drop’ also saw significant US radio play for the first time (x). And at home they began to win daesangs even at award ceremonies that presented only one, taking home the final award of the night for the first time.

The success didn’t come without costs: the pressure of having so much riding on them, and the fairly terrifying vertigo of climbing higher than they’d ever imagined being, apparently put pretty serious strain on them individually and as a group. At the beginning of 2018 they were talking seriously amongst themselves about the possibility of disbanding. But they made the decision to recommit to the group – and released Love Yourself: Tear, one of the most accomplished albums of their career.

Tear debuted at #1 on the Billboard 200, sparking probably BTS’ biggest round of media coverage yet, both internationally and at home. Its single ‘Fake Love’ got to #10 on the Hottest 100. Tear was also their first album to have a significant presence in the UK: it charted for eleven weeks, peaking at #8 (x). At home, Tear broke the record for monthly album sales on the Gaon charts (x). Three months later, they had a second #1 album in the US with Answer. At home they broke the Gaon album sales record again (x) and swept the 2018/19 award season. In February, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry named them the second-best selling artist in the world for 2018 (x).

Concept Photos
Love Yourself: Her concept photos (scroll down)

Love Yourself: Tear concept photos
Chapter End Notes

Next part: Love Yourself Performances
LY Performances

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Love Yourself era is when Big Hit started having the money for BTS stages to be huge, incredible spectacles at the end-of-year shows. ('Why not an enormous lion they ride into the arena?')

Official Lives

DNA @ DNA Comeback Show (2017) Drowning in galaxy colours.

Mic Drop @ DNA Comeback Show (g) (2017) As the first glimpse of the Mic Drop choreo, this stage was a goddamn revelation.

DNA @ Music Bank 22 September (2017) Dressed in saturated red and blue tones.

Mic Drop @ Show Champion 27 September (2017) When the No More Dream MV called BTS ‘the coolest kids in the world’, this is what they were picturing.

DNA @ MCountdown 28 September (2017) All gleaming clean lines.

Go Go @ MCountdown 28 September (2017) Preschool elves fashion.

Best of Me @ Wings Tour (2017) (g) A really pretty performance. (No choreography – I think this was before the Best of Me choreo was created.)

DNA @ The American Music Awards (g) (2017) Their first performance at a US award show! More crowd shots than necessary, but it is cool to see how into it the crowd was.

DNA @ The Ellen DeGeneres Show (2017) Fully choreographed but a surprisingly smiley and informal-feeling stage, maybe because of how near they were to the fans.

Mic Drop (Remix) @ Jimmy Kimmel Live Open Concert (2017)

DNA @ SBS Gayo Daejeon (2017) The most large-scale DNA stage they did. Very cool.

DNA @ KBS Gayo Daeju (2017) A rock remix with a live band.

Go Go @ MBC Gayo Daejun (2017) The ridiculously adorable heart performance (also linked in Profile section).

Mic Drop + DNA @ Seoul Music Awards (2018) A slightly jerky but very cool Mic Drop in black and red, and then a DNA that is maybe less important but very glittery.

Fake Love @ Fake Love Comeback Show (2018) In their MV outfits with a very fancy gothic mansion set.

Airplane Pt. 2 @ Fake Love Comeback Show (2018) The original and the best Airplane stage.

Airplane Pt. 2 @ The Ellen DeGeneres Show (2018) With determinedly live vocals.
Airplane Pt. 2 @ MCountdown 31 May (2018) With glittering nightscapes.

Fake Love @ Music Core 2 June (2018) Fake Love at its Ninetieth, complete with pink tie-dye.

Anpanman @ Inkigayo 3 June (2018) (region-locked)

Fake Love @ Inkigayo 10 June (2018) (region-locked) The double-denim stage, i.e. wearing their infamous concept photo outfits (except Jimin has a shirt under his jacket instead of being a sexy pin-up boy). This was their goodbye stage for Fake Love, so they also throw finger hearts.

Idol @ MCountdown 30 August (2018) Wearing their loud patterned suits from the MV.

Idol @ Music Bank 31 August (2018) A gorgeous stage, all luminous colours and clean lines. (KBS have misnamed the video ‘I’m Fine’ by mistake.)

I’m Fine @ The Tonight Show (2018) Really smart camerawork and a dedication to showing the choreography.

Intro + Idol @ Melon Music Awards (2018) The dance line intro to this stage is bar-none the best one they’ve ever done, with an incredible incorporation of three different kinds of traditional Korean performance arts. (They received a plaque of appreciation from a traditional fan dance society for this performance.)

Anpanman @ MAMA in Japan (2018) The one with Namjoon in a spacesuit!

Fake Love (Rock Ver.) @ MAMA in Japan (2018) Under huge dark hands, with a spooky intro and a cool marionette-dance coda. (The marionette dance is much better filmed in the KBS Gayo, but it’s still a cool effect here.)

Intro + Airplane Pt. 2 @ MAMA in Hong Kong (2018) The sound isn’t great, but watch for the incredibly slick intro dance, including Jungkook’s much-memed runway entrance.

Idol @ MAMA in Hong Kong (2018) Idol against a geometrically colourful lion face.

BTS Special @ KBS Gayo Daechukje (14 mins) Short versions of all their LY: Answer solos, and then ‘Fake Love’ with the marionette dance break from MAMA (even more intensely cool now that it’s clearly lit and filmed). Or individually: Just Dance | Euphoria | Serendipity | Love | Singularity | Seesaw | Epiphany | Fake Love

Mic Drop (Remix) @ MBC Gayo Daejejeon (2018) Really good styling, all in black and a lot of red. (The scroll Suga unfurls says Happy New Year ARMY.)

Idol @ Golden Disk Awards (performance starts at 2 mins) (2019) The one where they entered riding an enormous freaking stone lion.

Fake Love @ Golden Disk Awards (2019) The one where they break free of silken ribbon bonds.
Fancams

Group & Unit Fancams

**Mic Drop (BTS) @ Seoul Music Awards** by Mera (2018) Breathless energy, opening with the microphone bank from the MV.

**Ddaeng (Rap Line) @ BTS Prom Party** Bighit focus cam (2018) Still-camera version of the Festa performance. (The broadcast version is in the Prom Party VLive+ video.)

**Airplane Pt. 2 (BTS) @ Lotte Family Concert** by Mera (2018) The slinkiest Airplane stage. (Also feat. Suga’s missing prop mic stand.)

[paid content] **Anpanman (BTS) @ Prom Party** Bighit focus cam (2018) This is only available with a VLive+ subscription, but it’s the cutest, with everyone wearing BT21 headbands. (The broadcast version is in the Prom Party video, which you have to purchase separately.)

**Tear (Rap Line) @ Love Yourself in New York** by The Ultimate Dodo (2018) A somewhat chaotic but really good cam from right below the stage.

**Intro (Dance Line) @ Melon Music Awards** Bighit focus cam (2018) The close-in version of the 3J Idol Intro. (They also released a full-out version.)
**Fake Love (BTS) @ Melon Music Awards** BigHit focus cam (2018) This stage begins with gorgeous individual intro choreo based on the ribbon-tie boxes from the *LY: Answer* concept photos. (There’s also a [1theK focus cam](http://1theK.com) that shows the effect of all 7 boxes in a wider view rather than zoomed in.)

**Idol (BTS) @ SBS Gayo Daejeon** BigHit focus cam (2018) Idol in bold-pastel patterned knitwear, swirling like capes. Really good colour and texture and motion in this whole stage.

**Anpanman (BTS) @ Speak Yourself in New York** BTS self-cam (2019) For the *Love Yourself: Speak Yourself* tour they had a three-piece bounce castle on stage for Anpanman, i.e. glorious chaos.

**Best of Me (BTS) @ Lotte Family Concert** BigHit focus cam (2019) A half-choreo version.

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Member Fancams

**DNA (J-Hope) @ Inkigayo Super Concert** by 218 (2017) Devastating in patchwork denim.

**DNA (Jimin) @ Inkigayo Super Concert** by JamJam (2017) Like a lil’ candle flame.

**Mic Drop (Suga) @ Inkigayo Super Concert** by Su Can Fly (2017) Slouchy but also luminous.

**Go Go (RM) @ MCountdown 28 September** MPD focus cam (2017) Adorable in pink.

**Go Go (J-Hope) @ MCountdown 28 September** MPD focus cam (2017) This song is perfectly
suited to J-Hope’s style of aegyo.

Mic Drop (V) @ K-pop World Festival in Changwon by Nuna V (2017) Limned in silver light.

DNA (V) @ Pyeongchang Winter Olympics G-100 Concert by Nuna V (2017) Smiles and charisma.

Best of Me (Jin) @ 4th Muster by Apple Tape (2018) Really pretty and captures most of the choreo. Jin-focus but mostly full-group.

Mic Drop (Remix) (RM) @ Seoul Music Awards by Stand by RM (2018) A memorable shades look with an excellent stripy red top.

Mic Drop (Remix) (V) @ Seoul Music Awards by Vicodin (2018) Taehyung being super watchable in a red-and-black checked headband.

Let Go (Jimin) @ Japan Official Fanmeeting in Tokyo by Slow But Steady (2018) Really pretty and shows a lot of the choreo (which there currently isn’t a dance practice video for), although it cuts off very abruptly at the end.

Fake Love (RM) @ MCountdown 31 May MPD focus cam (2018) Making extremely good use of his long limbs.

Airplane Pt. 2 (J-Hope) @ MCountdown 31 May MPD focus cam (2018) Bohemian dreams.

Fake Love (Jin) @ Music Core 2 June MBC focus cam (2018) Soft knitwear, harness straps and jeans distressed all the way up the thighs: a very good look and performance.

Fake Love (Jungkook) @ MCountdown 7 June MPD focus cam (2018) Jungkook really got the vulnerable/powerful dichotomy in the Fake Love choreo. Also: a very good zebra-print scarf.

Mic Drop (Remix) (J-Hope) @ Lotte Family Concert by 218 (2018) Delicate and rude.

Idol (Suga) @ MCountdown 30 August MPD focus cam (2018) All knees and elbows, in the good way.

Idol (J-Hope) @ MCountdown 30 August MPD focus cam (2018) A funky green tropical lizard.

Idol (Jin) @ Music Bank 31 August KBS focus cam (2018) Larger than life and capturing the Idol energy in a super-satisfying way.

Singularity (V) @ Love Yourself in LA by Nuna V (2018) A really nice arena cam, atmospherically full of dry ice.

I’m Fine (Jungkook) @ Music Core 8 September MBC focus cam (2018) The styling decisions for I’m Fine are an enigma to me, but I’m charmed by JK’s neon blue sneakers.

Airplane Pt. 2 (Jimin) @ Love Yourself in Paris fancam by Mighty J (2018) The one where Jimin perches on Jungkook’s knee. (Jungkook was sitting out the choreo at this point in the tour because he’d injured his foot.)

I’m Fine (V) @ MBC Genie Music Awards by Crescendo (2018) All the little details of this
choreo are at their best focused in like this.

**Idol (Suga)** @ Melon Music Awards by Major Scale (2018) A gorgeous explosion of silk and colour. (Not the full song.)

**Idol Intro (Jungkook)** @ Melon Music Awards by I Dare U (2018) An especially good fancam of Jungkook’s part of the incredible 3J Intro.

**Fake Love (Jin)** @ Melon Music Awards by Apple Tape (2018) Fake Love Jin was Jin at his most haughtily beautiful.

**Fake Love (V)** @ MAMA in Japan by Nuna V (2018) Feat. Taehyung with cherry-red hair, and the incredible dance intro they did for this stage, which Mnet cut from their official reupload.

**Anpanman (Jungkook)** @ MAMA in Japan by I Dare U (2018) A little over-exposed in the arena lighting, but a nice fancam of the spacesuit-and-silver-jackets stage. Cute and sharp.

**Idol (Jin)** @ SBS Gayo Daejeon by Peach Jelly (2018) The gorgeous bright-pastel knitwear stage. (Peach Jelly also has a landscape-orientation version.)

**Serendipity (Jin)** @ KBS Gayo Daechukjae by Mighty J (2018) This is the performance Jimin was doing on stage while his official pre-recorded performance aired. Honestly much better than the official.

**Seesaw (Suga)** @ KBS Gayo Daechukjae by DayOff (2018) Suga’s on-stage performance while his pre-record aired – an extremely casual and smiley Seesaw.


**Idol (Jungkook)** @ Seoul Music Awards by The moon boy (2019) In bumblebee stripes.

**Just Dance (J-Hope)** @ Love Yourself in Hong Kong by 218 (2019) Sparkle and swing.

**Anpanman (Jin)** @ Love Yourself in Hong Kong by Slow But Steady (2019) A cute and chaotic stage. Jimin eats the Anpanman.

**Answer: Love Myself (Jungkook)** @ Love Yourself in Hong Kong by I Dare U (2019) This is really sweet.

**Serendipity (Jin)** @ Speak Yourself in New Jersey by Slow But Steady (2019) For Speak Yourself, the Serendipity staging involved Jimin inside a translucent bubble that he burst with a fingertip.

**Dimple (Jin)** @ 5th Muster in Seoul by Flying Angel (2019) Vocal line did a special performance of this song for Muster (their official fanmeeting), with new slinky choreography. Big Hit will probably put out an official focus cam at some point, but in the meantime this Jimin cam is very good and mostly includes all four of them.

**Euphoria (Jungkook)** @ Speak Yourself in Osaka by I Dare U (2019) After being confined to a chair for a large part of the Love Yourself tour due to his injured foot, for Speak Yourself Jungkook flew – on a wire high above the stands.
Chapter End Notes

Next part: Love Yourself Bombs, Other Tiny Videos & Episodes
LY Bombs & Episodes

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Short Bombs

Camera Director Jung Kook & V (g) JK and V are excited and Jin is a thousand years old.

Get Baby JK’s Attention (g) This is exactly what it sounds like.

Jin & j-hope Massage Time! (g) A crushing betrayal.

Sleeping Beauty V! (g) Soft head kiss from Hobi as Taehyung sleeps.

Naughty Boy Hobi (g) Hoseok in a maknae-bothering mood.

Behind Story at Morning of Music Bank Day (180831) (g) The truth about this casual fashion choice of Jin’s.

Jimin Is Eating Snack (g) Self-trained seal Jiminie.

JJIN Time (g) Punning with Jin’s name.

Today JIMIN Has Not Done ‘JIMIN’ (g) Punctual Park.

Excuses About Destroyed JK’s Shirt (g) The behind for the stage in which Namjoon happened to Jungkook’s shirt.

Jin & j-hope Play with Earrings (g) Always endeared by Jin seeking fashion validation from the other members, especially J-Hope. (He went with the original one.)

Jimin’s Surprise Birthday Party @Amsterdam (g) Jimin’s dad’s tradition of sending him flowers on his birthday is the sweetest thing.

Broken English Time! (g) JK is coming for RM’s lead translator spot.

V’s Surprise(?) Birthday Party (g) Peer pressure cake and strawberries.

Playing with Film Camera (g) Camera battles with maknae line.

Monitoring MMA (with. Jjeop) (g) People with one-syllable names are handsome.

Come Again! JK & Jin's Exercise Time! (g) Chin-ups on the LY: Answer concept photo play equipment.

The Day When ‘Kim Yeontan’ Came to the Broadcasting Station (g) Yeontanmmm.
Other Tiny Videos

**JM & JK Travelogue + Part 2** Before Jungkook uploaded his more professional one as the first GCF video, Jimin made these cute twitter vids of the short holiday in Tokyo he and JK went on (captioned ‘My and Kkookie’s first travelogue’).

**Twitter 18 December 2017 + 27 December 2017 (1) + 27 December 2017 (2)** Introducing Yeontan: the tiniest dog in the world.

**Clip from 4th Muster Rehearsal** The full rehearsal video (it’s on the 4th Muster DVD) isn’t essential, but this Jimin & Jungkook moment from the ‘No More Dream’ dance practice is ridiculously cute.

**Vogue: 24 Hours With BTS in L.A.** Two minutes on a party bus.

**Billboard: BTS On Personal Style & The Importance of Fashion in Music** A little interview to accompany their Billboard cover shoot.

**Twitter 25 May 2018 Taehyung (1)** Taehyung’s BBMAs behind-the-scenes vid! (trans)

**Twitter 25 May 2018 Taehyung (2)** A 27-second cute backstage fanvid. (trans)
Twitter 30 June 2018 Namjoon & Jungkook (2 posts) Jimin and Golden Closet Films.

Twitter 23 July 2018 J-Hope’s #InMyFeelingsChallenge dance.

Twitter 27 August 2018 J-Hope launching the #IDOLCHALLENGE. Filmed in Malta during Bon Voyage. (trans)

Twitter 29 August 2018 The 3J version of the #IDOLCHALLENGE.

Love Yourself concert VCR: J-Hope & Jungkook The cutest of the LY tour VCRs.

Twitter 12 September 2018 Maknae head kisses for Namjoon on his birthday.

Talk @ LY in Canada fancam by I Dare U JK, do you love me.

BTS and Jimmy Fallon Do the Fortnite Dance Challenge Dancey things are always going to be fun.

Puma Basket Made By BTS & You | Behind the Scenes A cute dancey/shenanigans video released as part of another Puma ad campaign. (Here’s the official ad, also dancey.)

Twitter 13 October 2018 A Jimin birthday video inside BTS’s private plane, because that is their life now.

Jungkook & Jimin at MMA 2018 fancam by adelio Whispering and manhandling in the audience at MMA.

Twitter 6 December A cute Yeontan update.

During the pre-recorded ‘Epiphany’ stage at KBS Gayo Daechukje fancam by Jin Kiss Let’s Go Cute stage antics off-camera while the pre-recorded performance was airing.

Finale stage (Kim Yonja’s ‘Amour Fati’) @ KBS Gayo Daechukje V fancam by Crescendo Minnie Mouse: the cutest backup dancer.

Finale stage @ KBS Gayo Daechukje Jin fancam by Jin Kiss Let’s Go While maknae line were being cute backup dancers, Jin was befriending an older comic performer.

Jin (and V) dancing to Lim Chang-Jung fancam by dandelion for jin An enthusiastic reaction to veteran singer Lim Chang-Jung’s stage at the 2019 Golden Disc Awards.

Love Yourself in Nagoya (Jin fancam) by Apple Tape “NAGOYAAAAA.” (This was a tradition for him this tour.)
Longer Bombs

Again ‘No More Dream’ 2017! @BTS DNA Comeback Show (g) (4 mins) A nostalgic behind for
the special ‘No More Dream’ stage in their Mnet comeback show for ‘DNA’.

Jin’s Surprise Birthday Party (g) (7 mins) A ‘surprise’ birthday camera with lovingly unique
candles prepared by Jimin.

V’s Surprise Birthday Party (g) (6.35 mins) Taehyung’s turn!

BTS with Special MC Jin @ 2017 KBS Gayo Daeohkjkje (g) (10.41 mins) Mostly about Jin’s
nerves and practice for his MC role, with the rest of BTS super invested as always.

‘Go Go’ Stage with ARMY~Perfect Voice~ (g) (5 mins) A cute behind for ‘Go Go’ at
MCountdown.

BTS Prom Party : Unit Stage Behind - (Ddaeng) (g) (10.38 mins) An incredibly satisfying behind
for the Prom Party Ddaeng stage, including production stuff in the studio and 95line being very
hyped about rap line’s practice time.

BTS Prom Party : Unit Stage Behind - Even If I Die, It’s You (g) (10 mins) Super-charming behind
for V & Jin’s performance of the theme song from V’s drama, Hwarang. Feat. the other members
sword fighting and horse riding as hwarang knights around them.

BTS Prom Party : Unit Stage Behind - Jimin & Jung Kook (g) (9.35 mins) Practising for the Black
or White stage. This one is especially adorable.
JK & JIN’s Exercise Time (g) (4 mins) Jungkook starts exercising backstage at a music show and Jin won’t let him stop.

JK’s Surprise Birthday Party (g) (7.33 mins) A birthday live feat. Jimin trying to make Jungkook get rid of his unfashionable bag by strategy and force, plus a cute Yeontan cameo.

Enjoy the BTS Exhibition ’24/7=Serendipity’ (g) (11 mins) The members exploring a 2018 official exhibition.

Concentrating on Drawing JK (g) (5 mins) For the Serendipity exhibition, Jungkook recreated the burned painting of Yoongi from the first Wings short film.

SUGA’s Surprise Birthday Party! (g) (4 mins) Min Suga: still embarrassed by affection.

BTS Episodes

Love Yourself 承 ‘Her’ Jacket Shooting Sketch (g) (4 mins) Jacket and concept photos shooting for Her.

BTS @ AMAs 2017 (g) (26 mins) Behind their American Music Awards performance. Suga is more nervous about performing than any time since their debut stage.
BTS @2017 MMA (g) (22 mins) The behind from the 2017 Melon Music Awards. This is the one where Suga received a producer award (for his work with soloist Suran on her song *Wine*) and BTS received the Song of the Year daesang for ‘Spring Day’.

Lee Hyun ‘Will There Be a Next Time’ Comeback Surprise Party (g) (3.35 mins) In which Jin and Jimin visit agency senior Lee Hyun at Music Bank for his comeback. Generally adorable. (At the time Lee Hyun was the only other artist at Big Hit, and had known all of BTS since they were trainees.)

Love Yourself 轉 ‘Tear’ Jacket Shooting Sketch (g) (6 mins) Jacket and concept photos shooting for *Tear*.

‘Euphoria : Theme of LOVE YOURSELF 起 Wonder’ Shooting (g) (5 mins) The behind for the most hopeful of the BTS Universe videos.

BTS @ Billboard Music Awards 2018 (g) (37 mins) The behind for their second BBMAs, in which they performed the first comeback stage for ‘Fake Love’. This Episode starts slow but gets really good.

Love Yourself 結 ‘Answer’ Jacket Shooting Sketch (g) (6 mins) The sets and outfits for the *Answer* jacket photos are incredible.

UN General Assembly Behind (g) (19 mins) Behind Namjoon’s speech to the United Nations, flanked by the group. They were so proud of him.

BTS @2018 Korean Popular Culture and Arts Awards (g) (15 mins) All the members of BTS received an Order of Cultural Merit at the government-organised Korean Popular Culture and Arts Awards in 2018. They were the youngest ever recipients.

BTS @2018 MMA (g) (33 mins) The behind from the 2018 Melon Music Awards, i.e. rehearsal and filming for the incredible 3J Idol intro and the Fake Love light-up boxes intro.

BTS @2018 MAMA in Hong Kong (g) (22 mins) I wasn't expecting tears at this one, and then it was a flood.

BTS @Grammy Awards 2019 (g) (32 mins) They were invited to the Grammys to present one of the awards. Highlight of the video is Jungkook tearing up during Dolly Parton’s performance (of ‘After the Gold Rush’).

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Love Yourself Variety & Reality Shows
LY Variety & Reality Shows

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Series

Run BTS! started airing every week in this era rather than trading off with BTS Gayo. There were a couple of hiatuses, but that still translates to a LOT of episodes. (Full list with episode summaries here.) Favourites:

- **Pet Friends:** [Episode 23](#) (25 mins) The one with puppies! (Well, dogs.) They go to a dog training school.
- **BTS vs Zombies:** [Episode 24](#) (33 mins) Chaos at a zombie safari game, including Yoongi and Jin trying to infiltrate the zombie horde at one point.
- **Being Stylists to Each Other:** [Episode 29](#) (34 mins) The one where they style another member in their own clothes. So so good.
- **Variety Shows of Memories:** [Episode 31](#) (31 mins) This is actually the second of a two-parter in which they do games from old variety shows, while wearing retro eighties fashion. The games can get a bit frustrating, but at one point in this episode they all go to sleep on beanbags and Jungkook falls off, so obviously it’s vital.
- **Please Take Care of Santa:** [Episode 32](#) (29 mins) A Christmas episode! In which nobody really understands the rules of the game and everyone is scared of Hoseok. Includes cute inflatable pigs, which they’re very focused on protecting even though that’s mostly irrelevant to the goal.
- **BTS X Manito:** [Episode 33](#) & [Episode 34](#) (25 & 30 mins) Games in the practice room – including a memorable jumping-into-the-frame-for-a-photo challenge – plus presents and secret missions. (‘Manito’ in this context means secret friend.)
- **Kimchi Battle:** [Episode 35](#) & [Episode 36](#) Making kimchi!
- **Spin BTS:** [Episode 38](#) (32 mins) One of the all-time greatest of the random games in the practice room episodes. Feat. Suga in a Chimmy suit, three-way tug-of-war, impersonation telepathy and the stepping-on-an-invisible-box challenge. (The episode title refers to a roulette wheel they spin to select punishments.)
- **Golden Bell:** [Episode 39](#) & [Episode 41](#) (23 & 34 mins) Team games in the practice room with MC Jin, including riddle solving and lip-reading challenges. I laughed a lot.
- **Sports Challenge:** [Episode 42](#) (25 mins) Outdoor-education-style indoor sports challenges! Includes a rope course.
- **Satisfaction of 5 Senses:** [Episode 43](#) & [Episode 44](#) (33 & 31 mins) Games to identify things by touch, hearing, smell, sight and taste. Includes members feeding each other and identifying one another blindfolded, and ends with the fulfilment of three accumulated penalties: the two members who have to climb a mountain together at dawn and the one who has to make them a packed breakfast.
- **BTS Workshop:** [Episode 46](#) (26 mins) Making pottery!
- **BTS Short Trip:** [Episode 53](#), [Episode 54](#), [Episode 55](#) & [Episode 56](#) This 4-episode arc is the finale for the 2017/2018 season, and it’s really really good – the members go away for an overnight trip, where they play badminton, do living room karaoke, cook dinner together etc and it’s just a really nice mood.
- **Sauna:** [Episode 61](#) & [Episode 62](#) (23 & 25 mins) Featuring punishment games, water-splashing and Namjoon and Seokjin explaining Gen Z internet abbreviations to the other
wide-eyed members.

**Bon Voyage Season 3: Malta** is the 6-member season – for personal reasons Taehyung came late and Yoongi had to leave early – but it might be my favourite season anyway. Just a really nice balance between scheduled activities and free wandering, and a lot of excellent moments between the members.

**2018 Festa Dinner Party** (55 mins) This wasn’t actually part of a series, but I’m counting it as this era’s Kkul FM, because it was a semi-scripted sit-down talk between themselves in the same style. It’s really good – both hilarious and touching – with especially good Suga content.

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**Guest Appearances**

**Under 19:** This was a survival show to form an idol group with members under the age of 19. J-Hope visited the show as a special coach in Episode 10, when one of the teams was working on a performance of ‘Fake Love’. It was *the cutest thing you have ever seen*, they were so overwhelmed and excited to meet him. (Idol era.)

- **Clip 1:** J-Hope Visited to Support Unit "Fake Love"!! (3.40) (YouTube)
- **Clip 2:** "Isn't that my part? You have to do well!" (3.36) (YouTube)
- **Clip 3:** Special Director J-Hope Behind (3.38) (VLive)
- *(This was* their performance. They won their round.)*

**Flinch w/ BTS** (5 mins) (DNA era) Flinch game on *The Late Late Show with James Corden*. Hoseok & Seokjin do not disappoint on the jumpiness front, and Jimin continues his habit of being
on hugging terms with 90% of all variety hosts immediately after meeting them.

**BTS Plays with Puppies While Answering Fan Questions** (4 mins) (Fake Love era) A Buzzfeed interview feat. puppies. (Has hard subs, so don’t turn on captions.)

**Sweets Party in Harajuku** (44 mins) (Fake Love era) A sit-down talk between themselves with prompt questions from cards; also with elaborate confectionery (the sweets party) and wearing their **Face Yourself** outfits. This isn’t as relaxed as the Dinner Party or Kkul FM – partly because they’re trying to use as much Japanese as they know – but it has a similar feel, with everyone saying funny and perceptive and heart-warming things about each other. (It’s kind of less long than it looks – they sprinkle entire music videos in amongst the actual content.)

**Please Take Care of My Refrigerator: Episode 152 + Episode 153** (both about an hour) (DNA era) This one isn’t super essential but I enjoyed it. The premise of the show is that celebrity guests’ fridges from home are brought onto the show, and chefs have to compete to make dishes for them using what’s in their fridge. The guests are **Jin** and **Jimin** plus Kim Jaeduk and Tony An of first gen groups SechSkies and H.O.T. – including some interesting snippets about the legendary fan wars between their fandoms back in the day. (Warning for zero women among the 8 chefs and the host.)

Chapter End Notes

Next part: **Love Yourself Livestreams & Logs**
LY Livestreams & Logs

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes.

Short Livestreams & Logs

**BTS in AMAs** (18 mins) At the 2017 American Music Awards.

**171119 J-Hope’s Log** (2 mins) Hoseok in his hotel room after the AMAs, bathed in warm golden lamp light, talking about feeling like they’re at the start of a new chapter.

**JM & JK Live!** (13 mins) A pre-concert live: in which Seokjin has been a terrible influence on Jungkook, and Jimin thinks a tasteful black and white portrait of Hoseok is so sexy it should be rated 18+.

**V Pick: J-Hope talking about his birthday** (4 mins) A cut of Hoseok talking about Seokjin calling him to tipsily wish him happy birthday. ([Full version](#)).

**V Pick: Jimin’s explanation about cleaning** (4 mins) A cut of Jimin explaining, in his best appealing fashion, what his cleaning habits are and why his roommate J-Hope scolds him. ([Full version](#)).

**180511 RM's Log** (7 mins) They didn’t tell the world about the disbandment talks until the end of 2018, when Jin brought it up during their MAMA in Hong Kong acceptance speech – but there were a handful of Logs in the first half of 2018 that seem to be talking around the decision they’d just made. RM in this one was the most direct.

**HOPE Day Countdown** (J-Hope's birthday Feb 2019) I’m specifically reccing 10 minutes in the middle of this: skip to 32 mins in (which is about 5 minutes to midnight, i.e. when his birthday happens) for Hoseok attempting to crowosource how old he is and how many candles he needs on his cake, and then the other members invading in a rush of love to wish him happy birthday, and taking over his bed. (The full live is an hour, and it’s nice but very slow and quiet, lots of him silently reading comments on the screen.) Also relevant: [Yoongi’s tweet](#) the next morning.

**V Pick: Happy Suga Day!** (4 and a half mins) A cut from a low-key live Suga did for his birthday (Mar 2019). Feat. cute incursions by Taehyung. Hoseok and senior Big Hit artist Lee Hyun. ([Full version](#) is linked at the bottom of the video.)
Longer Livestreams

**Love Yourself 承 ‘Her’ Behind** (48 mins) Namjoon talking through the tracks on *Her*, plus a bunch of cute visits (mostly from Jimin, once from Hobi). (Skip the first 2 mins, which are just him worrying about the network being unstable.)

**Eat Jin!** (23 mins) An old school Eat Jin, memorable for Seokjin commenting at one point: “250,000 people are watching me eat udon, it can’t get any more uncomfortable than this.” Also talking about their Japanese dome concerts and about being scared in the Wings Tour hot air balloons. The jokes about fishcake are references to his pet sugar glider Odeng. (Jimin had some opinions after this live.)

**RM Live!** (34 mins) Namjoon talking about his trip to Italy and Switzerland with his parents, BTS’s upcoming US trip for the AMAs and their first American talk shows, and books and films and music he’s been into lately. Also a famous Jimin moment.

**j-hope Mixtape <Hope World> Behind** (1 hr 9 mins) A live from the day *Hope World* was released – Hoseok talking about his feelings about the mixtape and about music, and then talking through the tracks.

**Love Yourself 轉 ‘Tear’ Behind** (59 mins) Namjoon talking through the tracks on *Tear*, and what he thinks each member’s best part was. Also cameos by Taehyung, Jungkook & Jin. This is one of my favourites of the album review lives.

**It’s been a while** (Jimin & Jin) (1hr 2m) Skip to 10 minutes in when Jin turns up (Jimin steals his
dinner to make him come over, but Jin’s in the shower so there’s a delay). This live is some kind of ridiculous shenanigans version of the ‘Oh no there’s only one bed’ trope, in which there is only one fork and Jimin wants to be fed like a baby bird. Also feat. a Hoseok cameo, Jin drinking Bacardi out of frame and pretending it’s Coke, Jin not letting Jimin get down on his own looks, and their dual separate plottings against Jungkook’s unfashionable camera bag.

Happy RM Day! (43 mins) (RM’s birthday in Sep 2018) Watch the first 20 minutes for all the members turning up and getting chocolate cake on Namjoon’s clothes.

BTS Live: JK (1 hr 9 mins) The first 20 minutes of this live are the important part: Jungkook talking kind of heartbreakingly about the thoughts and feelings he’s been working through since he injured his foot and couldn’t dance on the European leg of the Love Yourself tour.

RM MONO Behind (47 mins) (He starts at the 5 minute mark.) RM’s review of his mixtape/playlist mono. A quiet sort of live, like the playlist itself.

Your present has arrived~! (27 mins) Yeontan, the cutest dog in the world. A live for Taehyung talking about and playing with Tanie, plus a couple of Jimin cameos. Slow but very sweet. (There’s also a four and a half minute V Pick cut.)

I’m here! (48 mins) Jimin talking about his song Promise, and how it began as a dark and self-blaming song and became a comforting one. This is also a very comforting live.

Rkive (39 mins) A tour of Namjoon’s new studio, crashed with the derailing force of a freight train by a very bored Taehyung and Jimin.

Rkive 2 (24 mins) After the vmin invasion, Namjoon turned the live on again to answer fan questions and talk about where BTS is at in preparations for the new album (Map of the Soul: Persona) and in general. This one’s less chaotically cute but moves at a much better clip.

Chapter End Notes

Next part: Other Love Yourself Videos
Other LY Videos

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

G.C.F

G.C.F (Golden Closet Films) is a series of videos of the members filmed and produced by Jungkook, starting in 2017. He tried out different camera and editing techniques and music choices with each one. (The Golden Closet was what he called his bedroom in their dorm at the time, which he’d set up as a small studio.)

G.C.F in Tokyo (3.42) Every GCF feels romantic, thanks to the music and editing choices and the unadulterated affection with which the members look at Jungkook on the other side of the camera – but this first one, of Jimin on the holiday in Tokyo the two of them took together, set to a queer love song, is maybe the most boyfriend video you have ever seen in your life.

G.C.F in Osaka (4.05) All the members are in this one, but it’s mostly the maknae line edition (plus one of their managers). Giggly and silly on the streets of Osaka.

G.C.F in USA (3.13) If you ever doubted Jungkook loves his hyungs.

G.C.F in Saipan (2.43) Sun-soaked blue-sky honeymoon edition.

G.C.F in Newark VHS ver. (g) (16 mins) After reaching the peak of glossy dreamy beautiful people aesthetic in the Saipan GCF, Jungkook went to the other extreme for this one, and made a grainy retro behind-the-scenes rock doco.

G.C.F 3J @2018 MMA Practice (1.33) The most experimental of the GCFs – this is Jungkook using video footage as paint and canvas.
Other Videos


Serendipity Trailer Making (g) (8 mins) From Memories of 2017. With the scene-stealing calico cat.

DNA MV Making (g) (14 mins) From Memories of 2017. Much dancing.

BTStory (g) (3.32 mins) A BTS origins skit, from the DNA Comeback Show.

Behind @ Show Champion 3 October 2017 (g) (12 mins) Interesting behind-the-scenes stuff and some v good chatter.

Mic Drop MV Making (g) (12 mins) From Memories of 2017. An intense two days with cool explosions in.

Genius Lab Making (g) (7.35 mins) From Memories of 2017. A time-lapse video of Suga setting up his new studio.

ARMY 4th Membership Kit Photo Shooting 1 (3.30 mins) Behind for some of 2017’s fanclub-only membership kit photos. Includes a children’s-show rainbow of costumes.

2017 MAMA Behind (g) (18 mins) There wasn’t an Episode for the 2017 MAMAs, so they put the behind on Memories of 2017 instead. Highlight is the other members’ excitement over Hobi trying on clip-on earrings.
The Wings Tour The Final – Rehearsal Making (g) (14 mins) From Memories of 2017. The highlight of this video is baby Yeontan (so tiny!) and one of Jin’s sugar gliders showing up to the practice.

Summer Package Vol. 4: Saipan (g) (1 hr 39 mins) This is one of the best of the Summer Package making videos – everyone is happy to be there, and some of them kiss stingrays. You also see Jungkook filming G.C.F in Saipan.

J-14 Magazine: BTS Gets Real About Their New Album, 'Love Yourself: Tear' (7.26 mins) This interview did maybe the best job of any of their western interviews in this era of incorporating both English and subtitled Korean, with an edited-out translator to make things smooth. Everyone’s relaxed, and the questions and answers are half meaningful and half memey.

BTS at the United Nations (Official Video) (7.30 mins) Namjoon’s speech at the UN, including their introduction to the stage.

2019 Season’s Greetings (g) (1 hr 26 mins) A behind for the Season’s Greetings calendar photo shoot, including a lot of talk about the past. This one’s very good.

BTS Debut Stage Reaction (7 mins) Watching their debut stage on MCountdown. Lots of laughing at their younger selves and each other, and also some good insights about that time. (These are the performances they’re watching: We Are Bulletproof Pt.2, No More Dream.)

ARMYPEDIA: 'I Like It' (SUGA Cam) (3.54 mins) A special version of the unplugged performance for the ARMYPEDIA Talk Show, in which all the members serenade Yoongi while he tries to escape. Baffling and adorable.

Love Yourself in Seoul (DVD, still available from primary retailers) There’s a full concert video and several behind videos, but the best thing on this DVD is the concert commentary by the members. This includes a Red Bullet Tour blast-from-the-past segment, which leads to a lot of reflection on their past selves and will make you laugh and then almost definitely make you cry.

Love Yourself in Europe (DVD, still available from primary retailers) Full concert video for the second night in London, and separate behind videos for all their stops in Europe (London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris). They were midway through the LY tour, and the behinds include injuries and exhaustion (in particular this is when Jungkook hurt his foot and had to sit on a chair for every concert) and a lot of emotion. But also shenanigans.

Chapter End Notes

Last part: Love Yourself Photo Sets & Text Things
LY Photo Sets & Text Things

Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for notes

Photobooks

Season's Greetings 2018 (scans by jalmotaesseo) Shot in Okinawa.

5th ARMY ZIP (scans by jalmotaesseo) (Released as fanclub-only content.) Good shots in vaguely naval uniforms, plus some cute recreations of childhood photos.

2018 Summer Package: Saipan (scans by jalmotaesseo)

Love Your Tour Program Book (scans by 613℃) Linking this one mostly for the incredibly enormous flower crowns.

Season’s Greetings 2019 (scans by hope film)

Japanese Releases: Concept Photos

- Face Yourself Cute red+black outfits on a blue backdrop.
- Airplane Pt. 2 (Japanese ver.) Simple but very effective geometric coloured glass effects.

Magazines

CREA October 2017 (scans by lily_bts) Everyone handsome in warm jewel tones. (Switch to Latest tab if you’re on mobile.)

Non-no January 2018 (music autoplay) Warm and delicate shots. (These are the actual magazine cuts.)

Billboard February 2018 Beautiful, subtly vibrant shots taken at Korea House in Seoul.

Dispatch

- Love Yourself: Her Jacket Shooting (7 posts) Soft neon looks.
- DNA MV Filming (4 posts)
- American Music Awards (3 posts) In their dressing room and looking sleek on the red carpet. (There’s also a Starcast photo story.)
- Dicon Magazine Shoot (3 posts) Super-appealing shots in the clear cool air. (Dicon is Dispatch’s magazine.)
- Fake Love MV Filming (7 posts) Attractive shots from the two dance sequences.
- Billboard Music Awards 2018 (5 posts) Gorgeous posed backstage shots, wearing their performance clothes (soft leopard print and harnesses).
- 5th Debut Anniversary Party in LA (12 posts) This is the rooftop garden shoot they’re doing in G.C.F in USA. (Dispatch photo shoot behind mini vids: vmin | yoonkook | nam2seok | BTS)
- Idol MV Filming (8 posts) Jaw-droppingly stunning.
- Christmas 2018 Special (7 posts) Everyone looking aesthetic in red and white knitwear. Taehyung’s has little lambs on it. Yoongi’s has a lobster.
- White Day 2019 Special (3 posts) A faintly inexplicable photo shoot feat. BT21 and some salad.
Facebook Photo Sets

'The Wings Tour – The Final’ Stage Sketch A small collection of Wings Tour shots from the post-DNA leg of the tour.

j-hope 1st Mixtape: Daydream MV Sketch Colourful appealing shots from J-Hope’s Daydream MV filming. There’s also an album from his Airplane MV filming.

Festa 2018 Family Photos: Set 2 Ridiculous but appealing sportsgear pics. (Set 1 was suits and ties.)

Love Yourself: Tear Jacket Shooting: Version ‘O’ It’s hard to reconcile these gorgeous rich colour B-cuts with the fact that they went with black and white for the official photos. But at least we got both. Note that there are also albums for Version ‘U’ (the gauzy white) and Version ‘R’ (the double denim with the ‘just finished crying’ eye makeup).

'Singularity’ Comeback Trailer Sketch

'Epiphany' Comeback Trailer Sketch

Happy Chuseok 2018 Regal hanbok looks.

#todaysbangtan

- DNA promotions
- Award shows & end of Wings Tour
- Fake Love promotions
- Idol promotions & Love Yourself Tour

Japanese Twitter Photos

- MIC Drop/DNA/Crystal Snow (switch to Photos tab on mobile, for all these)
- Love Yourself Tour in Japan
- Japan Official Fanmeeting Vol. 4
Fansites

**June 2017**

**Airport 28 June** | Good patterns.
- Jimin by Mozzi Petal
- J-Hope by 218
- Jin & RM by Unsunned Snow
- V by Set Me on Fire

**September**

**Seo Taiji’s 25th Anniversary Concert** | Light and movement.
- Jimin by Off the Deep End
- Suga by Fist Bump
- Jin by JIN Spoonful

**Inkigayo Super Concert** | Bright and sporty-casual.
- J-Hope by 218
- V, Suga by LoveandTrue
- Jin by Improving Jin
- **Jimin** by prussian blue

**K-pop World Festival in Changwon** | Glittering.

- **V** by VIA
- **Jungkook** by More Than Ever
- **Suga** by Suga on the Beat
- **J-Hope** by 218
- **Jin** by Jin Kiss Let’s Go
- **Jimin** by Off the Deep End
- **RM** by HoneyJoonie94

**Myeongdong DNA Fansign** | The rainbow tiger jumper.

- **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling

**October**

**Hongdae DNA Fansign** | Pay-it-forward back hugs.

- **Jungkook & RM** by Mellifluous J
- **Jungkook & J-Hope** by THEHO’s
- **J-Hope** by 218

**December**

**Mnet Asian Music Awards** | Flashy DNA looks.

- **RM** by Physostegia
- **Jimin** by JamJam
- **Suga** by Major Scale

**Melon Music Awards** | The softest DNA-era stage looks.

- **V** by Nuna V
- **Jimin** by Off the Deep End
- **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling
- **Suga** by Fist Bump
- **Jin** by Sensation
- **RM** by Dear Real Me

**SBS Song Festival (Gayo Daejeon)** | Sparkly Mic Drop looks.

- **Jimin** by piecesofmind (switch to Latest tab on mobile)
- **Suga** by Fist Bump
- **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling
- **RM** by Physostegia
- **Jin** by Jin Kiss Let’s Go

**MBC Song Festival (Gayo Daejun)** | Joyful 94line pics (there was an ‘Idols born in the Year of the Dog’ stage moment, because it was New Year’s Eve).
January 2018

4th Muster | Adorable animal-onesie stage pics, taken over the two days of Muster.

- Jimin the baby dinosaur by Jimson Weed
- Jimin the baby shark by piecesofmind
- Suga by DayOff
- RM by Athenaa
- Jungkook by JKONTOP
- V by Night Breeze
- J-Hope by HopeSmiling

April

Japan Official Fanmeeting Vol. 4: Happy Ever After | Gorgeous stage outfits.

- BTS by Jintime
- Suga by Fist Bump
- RM by Athenaa (switch to Latest on mobile)
- J-Hope by 218
May

Airport 14 May | An extremely memorable J-Hope look.

- J-Hope by Jhopebox

Aladin Fake Love Fansign

- Jimin by Look at Min
- V by To My Darling
- Jin by Jin Kiss Let’s Go
- Suga by Suga on the Beat
- RM by HoneyJoonie94
- J-Hope by HopeSmiling
- BTS by VPDLand

June

Soundwave Fake Love Fansign | Wearing the more casual iteration of their MV clothes (pink and blue and acid-washed denim).

- J-Hope by 218
- Jimin by Little Blossom
- Jungkook by Hi, Spring
- Jin by Jinism

Lotte Family Concert | The silkiest, slinkiest stage looks.

- V by Taeholic
- RM by Stand by RM
- Jimin by Look at Min (switch to Latest on mobile)
- J-Hope by 218
- Jin by Sensation (switch to Latest on mobile)
- Suga by More Than Tomorrow

July

SBS Super Concert in Taipei | The amazing demin peek-a-boo outfits.

- Jin by Jin Kiss Let’s Go
- Jungkook by Step by Step
- Suga & Jungkook by a white day
- Suga by SUGACoffee
- V by Nuna V
- RM by RMonipedia
- J-Hope by Jhopebox
- Jimin by Jiminiful

September

Love Yourself in Newark | Extremely appealing casual stage looks.
October

Love Yourself in New York | Cute shenanigans.

- **RM, Jimin & J-Hope** by Fate
- **Jungkook & J-Hope** by eternal diamond

Love Yourself in Berlin | More cute shenanigans, in the Jimin’s-blue-hair era.

- **Jimin, Jungkook & RM** by Heart Throb
- **Jimin** by Fate
- **J-Hope** by eternal diamond

Love Yourself in Paris | Blue-hair Jimin at his cuddliest.

- **Jimin** by Fate
- **Jimin & V** by Nuna V
- **Jimin & RM** by Fate
- **V** by Miracle

November

MBC Genie Music Award | Soft and striking.

- **Jimin** by jiminiful
- **V & Jimin** by itsmefann
- **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling
- **Jin** by A Little Braver

December

Melon Music Awards | That stage.

- **J-Hope** by Adonis (switch to Latest on mobile for all)
- **Jimin** by Fate
- **Jungkook** by I Dare U (Bonus: Fake Love by Everything is OK)
- **RM** by Physostegia
- **Jin** by in common
- **Suga** by DTownsonic
- **V** by Visual Shock

Love Yourself in Taoyuan | Beautiful and happy-making stage shots.

- **Jimin** by piecesofmind
- **V** by Vmic
- **J-Hope** by Adonis
- **Suga** by More Than Tomorrow
• **Jimin & J-Hope** by ethereal

**MAMA in Japan** | A whirl of confetti.

• **V, Jimin & RM** by mingga (Bunny Heart also has a little **fancam** of this moment.)
• **V & Jimin** by Fate
• **Jin** by JamJam
• **J-Hope** by 218
• **V** by Nuna V

**MAMA in Hong Kong** | Sharp, flamboyant, tearful.

• **V & Jungkook** by Ruler
• **V** by Smoke in Eyes
• **Jin** by Genie for Wish
• **Jimin & J-Hope** by Fate
• **Jimin** by Fate
• **RM** by MonNiJunNi
• **Suga** by Major Scale

**SBS Song Festival (Gayo Daejeon)** | Shots from the gorgeous textured knitwear stage.

• **Jungkook** by Youth (switch to Latest for all, on mobile)
• **V** by Nuna V
• **Jimin** by Look at Min (Bonus by Fate)
• **J-Hope** by eternal diamond
• **Jin** by A Little Braver
• **RM** by HoneyJoonie94

**KBS Song Festival (Gayo Daechukje)** | Feat. Taehyung being flirty in a huge Minnie Mouse bow.

• **Jimin & V** by HNWT (switch to Latest on mobile)
• **Jin** by JinIntern
• **Jungkook** by I Dare U
• **RM** by Physostegia
• **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling

**January 2019**

**Golden Disk Awards** | Giant stone lion incoming.

• **BTS** by Nuna V
• **V** by TAETAEYES
• **V & Suga** by Nuna V
• **J-Hope** by HopeSmiling
• **Jin** by Genie for Wish
• **Suga** by Suga on the Beat
• **Jimin** by prussian blue
• **Jungkook** by The moonboy
Love Yourself in Nagoya | *Nevermind.*

- **Jin** by **piecesofmind**
- **V & Jin** by **WinterVerry**
- **RM** by **MoNiJunNi**

**Seoul Music Awards** | Hogwarts fashion and double-denim.

- **RM** by **MostWanted**
- **Jin** by **JamJam**
- **Jungkook** by **Step by Step**
- **Suga** by **A White day**
- **J-Hope** by **HopeSmiling**

Love Yourself in Singapore | Static electricity.

- **V** by **Taeholic** (switch to Latest for all, on mobile)
- **Jin** by **Jin Kiss Let'sGo**
- **Jin** & **RM** by **Look at Min**
- **Suga** by **More Than Tomorrow**
- **J-Hope** by **218**

**February**

Love Yourself in Fukuoka | Breathtaking even when memeing.

- **Jin** & **Jin** by **piecesofmind** (switch to Latest for all, on mobile)
- **V** by **WinterVerry** (Bonus by **VOW**)
- **RM** by **HoneJoonie94**

**March**

Love Yourself in Hong Kong | There were four nights of Hong Kong concerts, so BTS got really comfortable with the stage.

- **Jin** by **piecesofmind** (I was there for this night! It was rly good.) (Switch to Latest on mobile.)
- **V & Jin** by **piecesofmind**
- **V** by **Winter StrawVerry**
- **V & J-Hope** by **Vmic**
- **V & Jungkook** by **LAC**
- **V & RM** by **LAC**
- **Suga** by **Major Scale**
- **RM** by **MonNiJunNi**
- **J-Hope** by **218**

**April**

Love Yourself in Bangkok | Fluffy and haloed in light.
• **V by Vmij** (switch to Latest on mobile)
• **J-Hope** by hope milage

**Bonus:**

• **Charlie’s Angels** by Ajeong JM (punishment for the ‘Variety Shows of Memories’ *Run BTS!* episodes)
• **In which Jin is a scholar and a gentleman** by Genie for Wish (punishment for the ‘BTS X Manito’ *Run BTS!* episodes)

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**Text Things**

*Non-no Magazine* Jan 2018: *100 Answers from V* A sweetheart! Taehyung’s interview in this series is my favourite, but all the members’ answers are low-key charming and interesting.

*Anan Magazine* April 2018: *Interview with J-Hope, Jimin & V* A charming interview from sunshine line’s press run in Japan in early 2018, for *Face Yourself* promotions. Has a bunch of ‘no, you’ moments as they talk about what each of them is good at. (Also some very appealing photos.)

*Dicon Magazine: BTS Interview* This whole interview and the quotes scattered through it go full-throttle on the emotional myth-making, but there are a lot of genuinely meaningful answers, about hardship and dreams.

*BTS News: BTS’ 3 Days 2 Nights MT!!* (Released for Festa 2018.) The members talking about the trip to a villa they took with just the 7 of them. (They’ve talked on other occasions about this trip
Small But Certain Happiness List (Released for Festa 2018) A list by each of the members of ten small things they do that make them happy.

BTS Manual Guide (Released for Festa 2018) Cute user guides for each member, written by one of the others.

BTS Japan Official Fanclub Magazine Vol 5: Jimin’s Biography Jimin’s is the most recent in the annual My Biography series. They’re always good.

Starcast

Another year with BTS! Starting the Year 2018 with Their Season’s Greetings! A photo story behind for the 2018 calendar in Okinawa.

Our success just like a golden shower! The M/V shooting for MIC Drop by BTS, Steve Aoki and Designer! A behind for the Mic Drop MV. Very good photos.

“This is how Fake Love was born.” The start of new achievement from BTS A behind for the Fake Love MV.

Let’s go to Saipan with BTS! Pretty B-cuts and behind for the Summer Package in Saipan.

Twitter

Namjoon 9 September 2017 im sorry baby. (Namjoon and Taehyung were roommates at this point.)

Namjoon’s BT21-themed birthday tweets (9 posts) Starting from Jimin’s birthday in October 2017, Namjoon began doing cute little BT21 drawings on most of his birthday messages.

Seokjin 16 October 2017 Odengie.

Taehyung 18 October 2017 (2 posts) Handsome photos of handsome people (dogs) (also Jimin) by photographer Kim Taehyung. From the dog-training episode of Run BTS.

Jimin 8 November 2017 Jimin’s response to the first Golden Closet Film.

Jin 11 November 2017 Eomukie.

Jimin 13 December 2017 Jimin and Jungkook marvelling over being at Gocheok Sky Dome (for the Wings Tour: The Final concerts).

Yoongi & Namjoon 3 January 2018 (7 posts) In which Yoongi falls on his butt.

Taehyung 11 January 2018 A tiny video feat. Jimin showing off his Gucci birthday gift from Taehyung.

Jimin & Hoseok 2 February 2018 (4 posts) In which Hoseok is visiting his family and his roommate misses him. Ludicrously adorable. (The photo Jimin’s holding is the one he said was so sexy it should be rated 18+.)

Seokjin 22 February 2018 Seokjin giving his stylists a heart attack.
Jumin & Yoongi 9 March 2018 (2 posts) Min Dance Line.

Yoongi 1 April 2018 (3 posts) Sugar puns for April Fool’s.

Jimin 1 April 2018 SomeJimin-endorsed namjin shipping for April Fool’s …

J-Hope 24 April 2018 (3 posts) The undying Osa-car joke (tiny videos).

Jimin 13 May 2018 A very jikook polaroid.

Taehyung 7 June 2018 The boy with the pearl earrings.

Jimin 8 June 2018 In which Jimin loves Taehyung’s dog and discards Taehyung.

Namjoon 17 June 2018 (2 posts) Hobi is a squirrel. Namjoon is also a squirrel.

Namjoon 26 June 2018 Namjoon caught a crab.

Hoseok 3 July & 1 September 2018 (2 posts) A night-time picnic with Jungkook.

Taehyung 3 July 2018 Flower boy.

Namjoon 12 September 2018 When the heart is J-Hope.


Taehyung 21 September 2018 Vante in black and white.

Jungkook & Jimin 30 September 2018 (3 posts) That time Jimin and Jungkook were facetimeing in the same room.

Jungkook 14 October 2018 Happy Bee Day.

Taehyung 3 November 2018 Yeontan’s first visit to the ocean.

Seokjin 26 November 2018 (2 posts) Jin and Yoongi followed through on their Bon Voyage promise to go fishing together back home!

Hoseok 2 December 2018 They won so many awards in this season. This is the Melon Music Awards ones. (Here’s the selfie Yoongi was taking in the background.)

Jungkook 29 December 2018 Jungkook’s dad also draws!

Jimin 30 December 2018 Jimin is never going to stop referring to himself as Taehyung’s hyung.

Jimin 23 January 2019 (2 posts) The Malta cat from Bon Voyage.

Jimin & Jungkook 30-31 January 2019 (3 posts) Soulful lip syncs for Taehyung and Jimin’s soundcloud tracks ‘Scenery’ and ‘Promise’. (JK had to repost the Scenery one, which is why he mentions an original video.)

Seokjin 2 February 2019 Everyone loves Yeontan.

Seokjin 5 March 2019 FisherJin.

Namjoon 14 March 2019 (2 posts) A bike ride with fairy floss/cotton candy.

Jimin 17 March 2019 Very big eyes.

TXT, Jungkook & Lee Hyun 19 March 2019 Cute family photo with the Big Hit little brother group, TXT.

Journalism

By 2018, after their huge year with ‘DNA’ and ‘Mic Drop’, BTS had become a viable subject for mainstream English-language pop culture writing. Some of the pieces have been really good.


Billboard: BTS Speaks Out In Seoul by E. Alex Jung The article accompanying their Billboard cover shoot in early 2018. A good piece of interview writing, especially for Suga (“garrulous and thoughtful, seemingly primed for a socially conscious rap battle”).

Pitchfork: Love Yourself 轉 “Tear” Review by Sheldon Pearce An in-depth-ish and thoughtful album review, possibly their first in an English publication, and enjoyable for that regardless of how much you agree with the author’s thoughts.
**Rolling Stone:** *How BTS Are Breaking K-Pop’s Biggest Taboos* by Jae Ha Kim A really nice look at some of the moments when BTS have spoken out or supported issues that are politically fraught in Korea, including LGBTQ rights – the piece takes each instance seriously but without overstatement, it’s a good balance.

**Vulture:** *A Deeper Look at Why BTS Has Thrived in America* by Jakob Dorof A really good analysis, focusing in on the impact of HYYH era in particular.

**The Guardian:** *How BTS became the world's biggest boyband* by Taylor Glasby A rather gentle analysis of what makes BTS work, including some very good interview writing.

**Vice:** *BTS’ Live Show Is a Glowing, Self-Affirming Safe Haven* by Biju Belinky About the O2 Arena concert in London, the Love Yourself message and what BTS mean to their fans, including the author.

**Vulture:** *A Brief History of Korean Hip-hop* by T.K. Park and Youngdae Kim This piece has some limitations – several fans pointed out that it ignores the intersection of hip-hop cool with anti-Black racism in Korea – but it’s still really interesting, tracing k-hip-hop from the nineties to BTS.

**The Paris Review:** *The Poetic Consequences of K-Pop* by Emily Jungmin Yoon A delicate and wistful reflective piece about personal experience, the spaces for poetry between languages, and the popularity of BTS.

**Bonus:** Two heartwarming pieces about what happens now when a member of BTS shines a light on the work of other, little known artists.

**D Magazine:** *How BTS, the World’s Most Popular Boy Band, Bought a Dallas Artist’s Paintings* by Catherine Downes

**The Industry Observer:** *K-POP superstars BTS made an indie Australian duo famous overnight* by Lars Brandle
I can’t believe it’s done! I’ve learned a lot and found a lot of new stuff making this primer, and I’m incredibly fond of it. I know it’s kind of tucked away in a corner of the internet, but for the people who find it, I hope it’s an entertaining and useful resource.

I got into BTS in early 2015, and somehow I’m still here. So here’s to Map of the Soul era, I love it so far.

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!