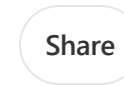
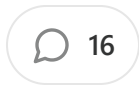
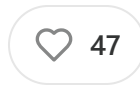


Jung Kook Putting a Chunk of Chocolate in Jin's Ramen is Peak BTS

“BTS: Burn the Stage”: a second look at Episode 6

JAE-HA KIM

APR 15, 2026





One of the most bittersweet things I've experienced as an adult is that time goes by much too quickly. I blinked, and I went from being a college student to a middle-aged married woman with a child. I am now much older than my parents were when they left everything and everyone — but us — behind in South Korea to start a new life in the United States.

In many ways, what I have accomplished with my life is the culmination of their hopes and dreams. **Before my father passed away**, he was able to see me earn a master's degree, win journalism awards, and write a book that sold more than half a million copies (and another that was a New York Times Bestseller). He also was able to walk me down the aisle when I got married.

If you're reading this on a content-scraping plagiarism site (e.g. europesays(dot)com), please understand that they stole my copyrighted work. They have no legal right to present my writing as their own. —Jae-Ha Kim

The men in BTS are still relatively young. But I get the impression that they are not oblivious to the passage of time, especially now that all but one of them is in their 30s. They know the half life of a musician's career isn't forever. Far from it. And while a part of me feels sad that they had to grow up so quickly in the music business, the other part is grateful that they appear to be making plans for the future, even as they are enjoying what they have today.

Rewatching this sixth episode of "Burn the Stage" made me verklempt. In the eight years since then and now, they've grown so much as artists and, just as importantly, as men who've fulfilled their country's mandatory military duty. It's honestly pointless at

this juncture to list all the records they've broken. Suffice it to say, whether you love them or not, BTS is the most famous group to come out of Korea and are a brand name that represents excellence.

So here, as eight-years younger Bangtan discuss their roles in the group, we are flies on the wall quietly watching them. Which of the things that they wished for then have come true? What elements are still being worked on as they navigate their future? And what were their expectations then of who they would be in 2026?

V says that he used to be envious of RM, J-Hope and Suga, because they were singing the songs that they wrote. When he got to perform "4 O'Clock" — a song he collaborated on with RM — he felt a true sense of accomplishment. The song works well with V's deep, throaty voice. But just as important as the quality of the song, I appreciated that V visualized something he wanted and made it happen.

One of the recurring themes in the past few episodes has been Jimin questioning how good of a singer he is. Honestly, it surprised me, because he comes across so sure of himself in their stage productions. But then I remembered something that RM had said elsewhere — that of all the members, Jimin's stage persona is the most different from who he is in real life.

Meanwhile, RM is grappling with the duality of being a regular guy and a superstar. He knows that K-Pop idols — heck, celebrities in general — are supposed to have a mysterious aura that separates themselves from the public. But that makes him

uncomfortable. He refers to himself as stupid for not being able to do this, but honesty and transparency is of utmost importance to him.

“People keep telling me that in the end, giving people room for controversy and interpretation is what makes a star,” RM says. “Many people have told me so. If I were clever and smarter, I’d do that. But I can’t be someone I’m not.”

He acknowledges that with all the wonderful aspects of his life with BTS, he misses the simple things that men his age do, like going out to meet friends for drinks or taking a walk by himself without being chased.

“I didn’t have enough time to live that life,” he says.

I interviewed RM when they were breaking through in the U.S. He told me then that he often took walks by the Han River in Seoul. Most celebrities don’t share their private haunts, because they don’t want to be hounded while they’re out and about. Heck, even my friends don’t like it when I write about their favorite restaurants, because they don’t want their local mom ‘n’ pop eatery to be ruined by tourists and looky-loos.

Before publishing my article, I asked him if he felt comfortable acknowledging this, because surely fans would go there seeking him out. He assured me it was fine to run in print. [I wonder if he’d say the same thing today.]

This told me something important about RM: He trusted that his fans would not ruin a place that meant so much to him. But that if they did — and he could no longer go there due to personal safety — he would be OK knowing that people were enjoying the beautiful scenery because of his recommendation.

My favorite moment in this episode was near the end, during their trip to Hong Kong. J-hope and Jin are excitedly talking about how delicious the food is there. Backstage, Jin is touched when Jungkook makes him the ramen he had requested. Jin is delighted that there's a big mushroom with his noodles, until he realizes that it's a chocolate ball that Jungkook put in as a joke. They cut to Jin eating ... but was it the chocolate ramen? You tell me! (It reminded me of Rachel's beef trifle in an episode of "Friends.")

The most-talked about segment, though, surrounded RM and his injury. With two songs left to go, RM clearly is having difficulty walking and asks staff members for help. BTS could finish the show without him, but he says he's fine.

Was I surprised by his decision? No. I think he would have had to have been unconscious to not finish the concert. Professionalism aside, he knows that this era of their lives won't last forever. And when he transitions to life outside of BTS — whenever that is — it will be on his terms, with zero regrets.

BTS (방탄소년단) WORLD TOUR 'LOVE YOURSELF' SPOT

HYBE LABELS



Watch on

Airdates: The **eight-episode series** premiered on March 28. The finale aired on May 9, 2018, on YouTube Red. Read more of my reviews of “BTS: Burn the Stage” **here**.

© 2026 JAE-HA KIM | All Rights Reserved

K-DRAMA INDEX

JAE-HA KIM • APR 1