

Chapter 151: Want to Negotiate Terms with Me? Are You Worthy? (1)

“If they can’t raise enough money, they can’t start production, meaning he’d breach the contract. The other investors would definitely raise claims for contemplation, and by then, not only would he lose his family fortune, who’s to say he won’t go to court?”

“I guess he’s been under a lot of pressure lately. From what I know, not only did he sell his stocks, now he’s selling the apartment and car. He probably wants to make up for the lost investment...”

So the situation’s a lot more serious than I imagined... Ji Yi’s mind wandered a little far away.

Li Da rambled on by himself for a while before he realized that Ji Yi hadn’t said anything for a long time. He thought the call was cut off, so he glanced at the phone screen first then said “hello?” when he realized the call was still connected. “Xiao Yi, are you still listening?”

“I’m here...” replied Ji Yi instinctively. Then she quickly gathered her thoughts together and said, “...I’m listening.”

Hearing her response, Lin Da let out a sigh of relief. “Well, actually it’s not like I want to talk about Chen Ge behind his back... I just think it hasn’t been easy for Chen Ge, so I brought it up. You don’t even know... when he saw me a few days ago, he was smoking cigarette after cigarette. He looked really worried, so I couldn’t help but try to persuade him to hand the series to someone else or ask his family for help. Then he could come to some kind of compromise and go back to managing the family business. Do you know what he said?”

“His original words were...” Lin Da adjusted his attitude, copied He Jichen’s tone of voice then said, “...Impossible. I’ve waited so long for this day, only to get so close. I can’t just give up!”

“I think by ‘close,’ he was referring to his dream of becoming a director. After all, he’s had some success in the directing world...”

Behind her back, he’d actually taken on so much pressure, and it was all because of her.

If that incident between her and Lin Zhengyi never happened, Lin Zhengyi would never have pulled his investment, and He Jichen would never be in this situation.

Ji Yi couldn’t describe her feelings, but her chest felt heavy—it was so heavy that it was hard for her to breathe. As she held her phone, she suddenly couldn’t stand listening to Lin Da chatter on any longer. She interrupted him: “Li Da, I have some things to do, so I have to go now.”

After she hung up, Ji Yi kept holding onto her phone as she stared at a nearby rock. She stared at it for quite some time with a blank mind. Finally, she blinked and withdrew her eyes to stare at her phone screen.

Because of her, He Jichen treated Lin Ya like that. Later, because of her, he then hit Lin Zhengyi... She really couldn’t understand. He said such horrible things, so why did he do all this? She knew full well that

since four years ago, they had nothing to do with each other. Yet Ji Yi clearly understood at this very moment, she couldn't leave He Jichen be.

What's more, his current predicament was all because of her.

At that thought, Ji Yi opened her call logs, found He Jichen's contact, and dialed the number.

"Sorry, the phone you are dialing has been turned off."

Ji Yi furrowed her brows and lowered her phone from her ear. She hesitated for a moment before eventually hailing a taxi back to the university gates.

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After the car stopped outside He Jichen's apartment, Ji Yi paid and got out of the car. Just when she was about to enter the apartment building, she saw He Jichen come out with someone trailing behind him.

It was the person Ji Yi didn't want to see the most... Qian Ge.

Why's Qian Ge here?

Ji Yi suddenly stopped walking, and a second later, she understood.

That's right... Qian Ge has liked He Jichen since she was young. Back then, I even helped Qian Ge and He Jichen meet in a grove at Sucheng Yizhong. Now, since He Jichen's gotten into this kind of trouble, Qian Ge's here to take care of him?

Ji Yi saw the two of them walk in her direction. She hurriedly snapped back to her senses and looked left and right. Taking advantage of the fact that the two of them hadn't seen her yet, she quickly hid behind a parked car.

"He Jichen, I've said so much already. Have you been listening?" Ji Yi heard Qian Ge say anxiously just as she took cover.

She was met with silence.

He Jichen must've sped up—Ji Yi heard the hurried stomps of Qian Ge's high heels which sounded like a light jog.

Deep down, Ji Yi was so curious, so she discreetly poked her head out a little. She saw Qian Ge pull on He Jichen's sleeve and block his path.

Before Qian Ge said anything, He Jichen furrowed his brows with a hint of impatience. "I have nothing to say to you. Please leave!"

Qian Ge acted like she didn't hear what He Jichen said as she tightened her grip on his sleeve. "He Jichen, Lin Zhengyi isn't stupid. It's hard to come by a script like the 'Three Thousand Lunatics.' He's a businessman, so being part of the project would bring him enormous returns. He didn't really want to pull his investment; he just wants some face by having Ji Yi personally apologize to him! He's doing this

just to give himself a way out, but you won't let him, so he was forced to pull his investment. Hence, that's why the situation turned out like this..."

Lin Zhengyi wants me to personally apologize to him? How come I didn't know about this?

Ji Yi's brows furrowed slightly and two seconds later, she realized what He Jichen meant over the phone after breakfast the day after it happened. He said: "He wishes! Make her personally go apologize to him? In his dreams! Tell him to go die!"

So that day, I guessed right! He Jichen was on and off the phone because of the incident between me and Lin Zhengyi...

If I went to apologize to him that would fix everything, so why didn't He Jichen let me go?

Before the doubt settled in Ji Yi's mind, Qian Ge said, "The board of directors has given you your final notice. If you can't get the funding in three days, not only will 'Three Thousand Lunatics' not happen, you'll lose YC company. He Jichen, I didn't come here today to argue with you. I really want to help you, but you have to promise me that 'Three Thousand Lunatics' won't be playing the supporting female character. Do this and I'll help you persuade Lin Zhengyi to invest again... invest twenty percent more than before, in fact!"

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He Jichen had barely spoken since Ji Yi arrived. When he heard that he suddenly sneered, "You want to negotiate terms with me? Are you worthy?"

Qian Ge was stunned by He Jichen's retort as she clearly looked unsettled. It took some time for her to speak up again, and she didn't sound as confident as she did before: "I'm not here to negotiate terms. I'm wholeheartedly here to help you..."

"Wholeheartedly?" A mild chill appeared in He Jichen's eyes. For the first time since the beginning, he glanced over at Qian Ge. He turned his head slightly and looked at her with cold eyes as his voice turned low, crude and bold: "Put your fake act away and don't think I don't know Lin Zhengyi pulled his investment all because of your meddling! And don't think I don't know the true objective behind why you racked your brain so hard over this!"

When Ji Yi heard this, she understood everything.

So the only reason Lin Zhengyi pulled his investment was because Qian Ge instigated things behind the scenes. The only reason Qian Ge did this was to put He Jichen in a difficult position, to force him to kick me out of "Three Thousand Lunatics"!

But if I left the casting crew, that'd clearly solve things, so why didn't He Jichen do that?

Ji Yi furrowed her brows and lowered her eyes.

After a while, she came up with a reason: Could it be that Yuguang Ge asked him for help?

Aside from this, Ji Yi really couldn't think of another reason to explain this.

At that thought, Ji Yi raised her head again and secretly looked over at He Jichen and Qian Ge.

Qian Ge probably didn't expect He Jichen would see through everything. Her face looked vaguely awkward as she took a few deep breaths before she spoke again. "He Jichen, how could you lump me in with Lin Zhengyi and think that I'm trying to make things difficult for you? You know I'm sincere and that since I was little, I've lik-

Ji Yi didn't need to think hard to know that Qian Ge was going to say the words "liked you."

But before Qian Ge could finish, He Jichen suddenly swung her hand away from his sleeve and took big strides past her.

He Jichen was quite heavy-handed, so Qian Ge was thrown back a few steps. She then forced herself to find her balance.

She wore a tall and thin pair of heels, so she accidentally sprained her ankle. She lowered her head and rubbed her ankle then angrily pulled out her phone and dialed a number.

After some time, Ji Yi saw Qian Ge's manager come rushing over.

Qian Ge's manager gave her a helping hand as they hobbled away together.

When Qian Ge disappeared, Ji Yi slowly got up from behind the car.

He Jichen wasn't at home anymore, so she didn't need to enter the building.

From his and Qian Ge's conversation, she could clearly tell how immense the pressure was on him.

Three days... In three days, if nothing was resolved, then everything he built all these years would go up in smoke!

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Ji Yi's mind rang continuously with He Jichen's words that Li Da shared with her over the phone: "Impossible. I've waited so long for this day, only to get so close. I can't just give up!"

Li Da said he thought He Jichen was referring to his dream of becoming a director.

To chase his dream, he gave up on his prestigious school, gave up on his grand future, and started from the bottom again at B-Film...

Even if He Jichen really did it for Yuguang Ge, she didn't want him to make such grave sacrifices behind the scenes!

Since everything started with her, it should end with her too!

Ji Yi stood quietly on the spot as her eyes fell to the watch on her wrist.

She silently stared at it for a moment then took it off and put it close to her ear. After listening to it for some time, she walked out of He Jichen's neighborhood.

Ji Yi didn't return to the university but went straight to a nearby electronics store and bought a recording pen. She transferred a recording to the recording pen and started to type a text asking for Lin Zhengyi's contact information.

After some time, Ji Yi got Lin Zhengyi's WeChat ID from Xu Yi.

Ji Yi didn't hesitate at all before adding Lin Zhengyi as a friend.

After about a minute, Lin Zhengyi accepted Ji Yi's friend request. She swiftly tapped a string of text on the phone and sent it out: "Hello, Chief Lin. It's Ji Yi. I have something I'd like to speak with you about. Could you please let me know when you're available?"

After some time, Ji Yi received Lin Zhengyi's reply: "Tonight, I have a dinner at Yue Yuan. If you need to see me, you'll find me there."

Ji Yi didn't reply. As she walked over to the sidewalk, she hailed a taxi and gave the driver the address for Yue Yuan.

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There was a minivan parked on the road opposite.

"Qian Jie 1, she's gone." The driver said as he turned away from where Ji Yi was just standing. He turned his head over to Qian Ge sitting behind him and asked, "Qian Jie, would you like to go back to the company?"

Qian Ge didn't reply but stared at where Ji Yi was just standing through the window.

Could it be that Ji Yi was in He Jichen's neighborhood to look for him just like me?

But if she went to look for He Jichen, why'd she buy a recording pen from the electronics store?

She held her phone and stood by the side of the road for such a long time before she left. Is she taking the pen somewhere?

The driver didn't receive any response from Qian Ge so he prompted her, "Qian Jie?"

After a few seconds, Qian Ge snapped back to her senses as her eyes continued to stare at the same spot. She replied flatly, "Not back to the company. Turn around and follow that taxi."

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Qian Ge's minivan followed Ji Yi's taxi for about half an hour before she came to a stop.

"Qian Jie, she stopped at Yue Yuan."

Yue Yuan? Why'd she come to such a classy opera theater? From what I remember, Ji Yi never had any interest in the theater...

Qian Ge didn't reply as her brows started to furrow. Seconds later, Qian Ge turned her head and looked over at her manager next to her. "Is anyone from the industry watching the opera tonight at Yue Yuan?"

“I’ll ask.” As the manager replied, she grabbed her phone. Less than thirty seconds later, she suddenly remembered something and told Qian Ge, “Look at this memory of mine. I almost forgot—didn’t Mr. Lin of Wan Xiang recently invest in a movie? He even asked you to make a guest appearance as a friend. Didn’t you make a trade for him to pull the investment for ‘Three Thousand Lunatics’? Yesterday, he called to tell you that he’d be having a party today at Yue Yuan for the series he invested in. He asked if you were coming, but since you wanted to go look for director He, you declined...”

Before the manager could finish, Qian Ge had a sudden realization. “Oh right. That did happen.”

So, Ji Yi came to Yue Yuan for Lin Zhengyi?

Qian Ge silently lowered her gaze for no more than three seconds before making up her mind. “Drive in. Tonight, we’re going to watch the opera at Yue Yuan too.”

“But, you have plans with Mr. Yan today at eight...”

“Cancel it.” Qian Ge didn’t wait for her manager to finish speaking and signaled for the driver to drive into Yue Yuan’s parking lot.

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Everybody needed an appointment to enter Yue Yuan.

Ji Yi was stopped by the usher just as she stepped inside Yue Yuan.

She grabbed her phone and sent Lin Zhengyi a message on WeChat.

The “Typing...” status on the screen told Ji Yi that Lin Zhengyi had already seen her message, but she waited for ten whole minutes to receive a reply from Lin Zhengyi. It read: “I’m sending someone to get you.”

Ji Yi knew Lin Zhengyi was deliberately making things difficult for her, but she had to remain calm, so she politely replied, “Thank you, Mr. Lin.”

After she sent the message, Ji Yi continued to wait at the doors of “Yue Yuan” for almost half an hour before a young man strolled leisurely in front of her and asked with some doubt, “Pardon me, are you Ji Yi?”

Ji Yi wore a smile as she said, “Yes, hello.”

“Mr. Lin asked me to escort you. Please come with me,” said the man as he escorted Ji Yi into Yue Yuan.

As she followed the man through the mahogany corridors, he turned left then right several times before coming to a stop. He pushed open a set of ancient-looking doors and made a gesture at Ji Yi as if to welcome her inside.

Ji Yi and the man walked into the room in single file.

There was no one directly on the other side of the door facing the big stage.

The brilliant actress on stage gently swung her body and moved her rosy lips, singing sweetly.

There were seven to eight people sitting in the room. They all couldn't look away from the stage as they gave the performance their full attention.

The man who escorted Ji Yi closed the doors as he indicated for Ji Yi to wait a moment. Then he quietly made his way to Lin Zhengyi's side, lowered his head and whispered something into his ear.

Lin Zhengyi was enthralled by the show as his head swayed with the music. After the man finished whispering, Lin Zhengyi turned his head and glanced over at Ji Yi. Lin Zhengyi then tilted his head to reply.

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The man gave a polite nod then returned to Ji Yi's side. He pointed in Lin Zhengyi's direction and said quietly, "Miss Ji Yi, Mr. Lin's asking you to go over."

Ji Yi quietly thanked him then paused for two seconds before heading over to Lin Zhengyi.

Just as Ji Yi was half a meter away from Lin Zhengyu, he sensed her presence and glanced up at her.

Before Ji Yi could cry "Mr. Lin," Lin Zhengyu pointed at the empty space next to him to signal her to take a seat. He then resumed looking at the big stage.

Everyone in the room was admiring the performance, so Ji Yi pushed the words on the tip of her tongue down, in fear of ruining everyone's mood. She glanced at the empty seat next to Lin Zhengyi twice before finally walking over and taking the seat.

The performance on the stage reached its climax.

Not only did Ji Yi's sudden appearance not ruin Lin Zhengyi's mood, she even heard him humming to the songs with enthusiasm.

Ji Yi didn't watch the show but sat silently and waited patiently in her seat.

About half an hour later, the performance finally finished.

That was when Ji Yi turned to look at Lin Zhengyi and said, "Mr. Lin, I..."

Lin Zhengyi pretended she didn't exist, ignoring her words completely. He called a waiter standing nearby and said, "Serve the food."

"Yes, Mr. Lin." After the waiter replied politely, he left the private room.

"Mr. Lin, I'm here to talk to you..." Seeing as no one was talking to Lin Zhengyi, Ji Yi used this opportunity to try to talk to him for the second time.

Just like before, Lin Zhengyi pretended not to hear her as he continued to speak to the others at the table, but this time, it was about her. "Let me introduce you all. Sitting beside me is Ji Yi, a university student at B-Film."

Lin Zhengyi probably brought a lot of women to these kinds of dinner parties. After he introduced her, a few of the people revealed knowing expressions on their faces.

Ji Yi knew they must've mistaken her as Lin Zhengyi's escort.

A feeling of repulsion came over her at the thought of having to talk to Lin Zhengyi later. It was a sticky situation right now, so she had to pretend she hadn't seen those looks. She had to keep a composed expression.

The waiter already started to serve dishes and drinks one after the other.

Neither of them spoke as Ji Yi watched Lin Zhengyi pour some wine. On her third attempt, she spoke in a quiet voice so only the two of them could hear. "Mr. Lin, if you have time, could we please talk?"

This time, Lin Zhengyi didn't interrupt her. He waited until she finished speaking before he raised a glass to everyone and spoke, yet everything he said had no relation to what she talked about. "Xiao Yi, these people are in charge of my newly invested drama 'Dust.' This is the producer, and this is the casting director. This is..."

Out of respect, Ji Yi smiled as Lin Zhengyi introduced each and every person, one at a time.

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After Lin Zhengyi finished introducing everyone, there were only two glasses left in front of him.

He brought one of them over to Ji Yi then whispered in a particularly cold voice, "Drink with each and every person in this room, then I'll listen to what you have to say!"

After a pause, Lin Zhengyi added, "This is the chance I'm giving you. It's up to you if you want to take it!"

After he said this, Lin Zhengyi raised his glass high and shot Ji Yi a beaming smile, "Come, Xiao Yi, raise your glass to everyone here!"

It wasn't like Ji Yi didn't realize that Lin Shengyi was treating her like one of the usual girls he brought to these occasions just to put her in an awkward position.

Long before she arrived, she already guessed that Lin Zhengyi wouldn't make things so easy for her.

Since she was in a coma for three years, she didn't know many of these powerful people.

The only reason she came to speak to Lin Zhengyi was because she had a recording of what Lin Zhengyi said to her that night. No matter how corrupt Lin Zhengyi was in private, he still needed to maintain his public image, so she brought the recording to make a trade with him.

She could just show her cards to Lin Zhengyi at the dinner table and pull out the recording pen, but that would undoubtedly make him lose face. Not only would it completely burn bridges, he would never reinvest in He Jichen's "Three Thousand Lunatics."

If she hadn't seen He Jichen in such a difficult position with her own eyes, she wouldn't have taken this path and she wouldn't have to put up with all this.

Ji Yi stared at the full glass of white wine in Lin Zhengyi's hand with a streak of determination in her eyes. The next second, she took the glass, got up, and walked over to the director sitting next to Lin Zhengyi. She raised her glass with a bright smile and said, "Director, here's to you."

After clinking glasses, Ji Yi nodded and downed the glass of wine.

The burning sensation slid down her throat all the way to her stomach, making Ji Yi feel extremely uncomfortable. She sat back down in her original seat to get herself together before Lin Zhengyi grabbed the bottle of wine and topped up her glass.

"Producer, here's to you."

"Mr. Luo, cheers."

"..."

Ji Yi drank to each person at the table, one glass after another. When it was over, Ji Yi felt like vomiting.

She couldn't count how many of Lin Zhengyi's glasses she downed, but she felt Lin Zhengyi deliberately edge a lot closer. He was so close that his hand started to vaguely grope her body through her clothes.

Ji Yi instinctively wanted to run away, but she thought about He Jichen and how much he gave up for his dreams, and how he was soon going to have nothing at all.

Compared to him, what she was enduring was nothing.

Ji Yi didn't know how she could take it, but she knew that before she fainted completely, she had to grit her teeth and bear it. She tried hard to smile and continued to down glass after glass.

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In the private room opposite, Qian Ge gracefully leaned back in her chair as she watched the videos her manager secretly recorded. Her lips couldn't help but curve into a smirk.

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He Jichen offended Lin Zhengyi on behalf of Ji Yi, but Ji Yi was just fine. In fact, Ji Yi was drinking with Lin Zhengyi and a group of other people. If He Jichen saw this...

Qian Ge was so excited at the thought that her fingers trembled.

Without any hesitation, she opened her messages and entered He Jichen's number.

She first selected a video recording and prepared to send it, when she suddenly stopped.

"Qian Ge, what's wrong?" asked the manager in confusion as she saw Qian Ge's hesitation.

When Qian Ge heard her voice, she looked up and gave her manager a look, then looked back down at her phone. After some time, she said with a soft mumble, "We've never gotten along. If the video was sent from me, what would his first thought be?"

Her voice was gentle, but the manager could clearly make out what she said and asked, "Qian Ge, what are you saying?"

It was as if Qian Ge hadn't heard what her manager said as she stayed quiet for some time. She then continued to talk to herself: "...He'll definitely think I set her up. Then he'd definitely make things hard for me... No! I can't send him this video!"

Qian Ge's tone suddenly turned fierce towards the end, so she ended up speaking louder. Her manager only caught the last few words at the end, so she asked in confusion, "Why can't you send it? Qian Jie, didn't you say Mr. He would definitely be mad if he saw her drinking with them like this? Didn't you say that if Mr. He stopped protecting her, she'd be a nobody?"

"I can't send it, but it's not like it won't be sent..." replied Qian Ge.

Can't send it yourself, so who's going to send it?

Qian Ge left her manager even more confused and lost. Just as she was about to ask Qian Ge what she meant, Qian Ge raised her head with a sudden thought. Then she asked a completely unrelated question, "Do you have a contact at YC Corp?"

"Yeah..." Although her manager didn't understand, she answered honestly and asked, "What's up?"

"Give her a call now and ask her to help share this video internally within their company. It doesn't matter how she does it; He Jichen just has to see it," instructed Qian Ge as she swiftly turned her head. "Whatever her price is, give it to her, but no matter what, you have to stress that she act like she accidentally came across the situation and recorded it on a whim."

"Yes, Qian Jie. Got it." As the manager said this, she pulled out her phone and started searching for a phone number.

Just before the manager made the call, Qian Ge added, "Also, remember to tell your acquaintance that there's a party here tonight for the TV series 'Dust,' and the only reason Ji Yi's here is because 'Three Thousand Lunatics' is over now, and she wants to get a part in 'Dust'..."

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Qian Ge paused for a moment to ensure she hadn't missed anything before she gave her manager a nod as if to tell her to proceed with the call.

With her signal, the manager immediately walked off to a quiet corner and tapped the button to make the call.

Maybe someone in the private room spent a huge sum to request another song, since music started playing again on the big stage.

Qian Ge, who never listened to Beijing opera, shut her eyes and tapped her fingertips every so often to the beat on the table, which let out a weak sound.

After some time, her manager returned. She saw Qian Ge resting with her eyes shut, so she said in a particularly soft voice, “Qian Jie 1 , it’s done.”

Qian Ge didn’t say anything but gave a slight nod to indicate she heard her.

From start to finish, she never opened her eyes, yet a smile appeared like she was in an excellent mood.

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When He Jichen’s phone rang, he, Han Zhifan, and two of Han Zhifan’s business partners were playing cards in room 1001 of the Golden Lounge.

As he drew his cards, he pulled out his phone from his pocket and glanced at the screen to find that it was his secretary calling.

After He Jichen threw his cards out, he swiped his phone screen and asked in a particularly cold voice, “What?”

“Mr. He, do you remember the supporting actress for ‘Three Thousand Lunatics’?”

Wasn’t the supporting actress for “Three Thousand Lunatics” Ji Yi? How could I forget the person I cast myself ?

He Jichen’s fingers slid the cards in front of him and he slowly replied, “Yeah, what’s wrong?”

“It’s like this, Mr. He. I saw a video of her in our company’s internal WeChat group...”

He Jichen glanced emotionlessly at the card Han Zhifan threw out and realized he was careless since he casually laid all his cards out.

“Our project ‘Three Thousand Lunatics’—didn’t it end because Lin Zhengyi pulled his investment? Yet, it looks like that actress is kind of close to Lin Zhengyi...”

From start to finish, He Jichen hadn’t really shown any reaction to the secretary’s report, but when he heard this, his brows started to tighten.

Ji Yi and Lin Zhengyi were kind of close? How could that be?

“... She’s even having dinner with Lin Zhengyi, and it seems like she’s at the dinner party with the production team for Lin Zhengyi’s newly invested series ‘Dust’...”

When He Jichen heard this, he looked up at Han Zhifan and shot him a look as if to say “Please wait.” Then he kicked his chair back, got up and walked out of the party room.

Coincidentally, he bumped into a waiter in the corridors who softly asked him if he was in need of assistance.

He Jichen shook his head, brushed past him and headed for the window at the end of the corridor.

He pushed the window open, inviting in the night’s breeze from the dead of winter, which helped to clear his mind.

He pulled out a cigarette from his pocket, put it between his lips, and lit up as he asked the secretary over the phone, "More specifically, tell me what's going on?"

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"Someone said she's clinging onto Lin Zhengyi..."

The secretary only said a few words, but He Jichen's brows furrowed as he interrupted menacingly, "Who's spouting nonsense and making sh*t up?"

The secretary remained quiet for a bit when he heard He Jichen's tone of voice. Then he said weakly, "Mr. He, no one's making up anything. There's video evidence. Someone in the company said that since Ji Yi saw Lin Zhengyi pull his investment for 'Three Thousand Lunatics', she followed Lin Zhengyi to join the production team of 'Dust'..."

The secretary probably sensed He Jichen's bleak mood since his voice got quieter. In the end, he completely lost his voice, and since he was afraid to bring trouble upon himself, he swiftly thought of something and hurriedly added, "Mr. He, if you don't believe me, give our company's WeChat group--"

Before the secretary could finish his sentence off with "a look," He Jichen hung up.

He bit the cigarette as his fingers swiftly opened WeChat. He ignored a string of unread messages, found the company's WeChat group and opened it.

The chat from company staff members came into view.

"I never imagined that the supporting actress for 'Three Thousand Lunatics' was actually that kind of person!"

"Yeah, when I saw her photo, I thought she was pretty innocent, but I never imagined that she would use such tactics to get to the top!"

"Look at the video—she drank herself into that kind of state. What's the difference between her and those hostesses in nightclubs?"

He Jichen furrowed his brows as his eyes revealed a sliver of annoyance. He held it together and didn't erupt in rage as he swiftly scrolled through the messages.

After scrolling for quite some time, He Jichen finally saw the video they mentioned.

It was posted by someone called "Meow meow meow," and there were about five to six videos altogether. He Jichen randomly clicked one open.

He Jichen grabbed the cigarette from his mouth and flicked the ashes into the trash can beside him. Then he turned back to this phone screen.

He hadn't taken a close look before he easily recognized the updo and the exposed curve of the woman with a slender long neck dressed in the red in the video. It was Ji Yi.

She sat around a table full of alcohol, and sitting on her right was Lin Zhengyi—the same man he violently beat up a while back.

In her hand was a glass of wine. She smiled wholeheartedly at the middle-aged man in front of her and drank to him.

The person who secretly filmed this was quite far away, so they couldn't record what they were saying and he didn't know what she said. However, from the video, he saw her clink glasses with the slightly chubby middle-aged man. Then she put the glass to her mouth, tossed her head back and downed the entire glass.

He Jichen's fingers clutching the cigarette suddenly paused and stopped by the corner of his mouth.

His expression instantly turned cold as he stared at the phone screen.

The video wasn't long. It ended quickly.

He Jichen paused for about two seconds before he chose another video and clicked it open.