

Chapter 271: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (1)

“You remember the most beautiful girl in school from the foreign languages department, right? She was every guy’s dream girl in school. There could’ve been as many as three circles of guys lined up around the track who wanted to get with her. Yet she never fell for anyone’s attempts. It wasn’t until fourth year when you had to go to Beijing that she found out, ran over to the male dorms, and stopped to confess to you...”

“At the time, you had returned from playing ball with a group of us. In front of so many people, she didn’t flinch at all. She said so much; she even planned out how your future would be together. It sounded quite nice, and you both looked like a nice match. Truth be told, at the time, I was a little interested in her. You know... This fair lady deserved a proper man. But at the time, I felt like the two of you were quite the match, so I really liked the idea of you two together. Thinking back on it, many people had the same thought. But that day, even after she said so much, you simply replied sorry.”

“The most beautiful girl in school asked why you rejected her. What did you say back then?”

Han Zhifan tilted his head and carefully thought about it for some time before saying, “...After so many years, I still clearly remember what you said – that a person was probably only single because there was someone who was impossible to be with or someone who would never look back.”

At the time, he thought He Jichen was just spouting nonsense to get rid of the girl.

That day, He Jichen went back to the dorm and stayed there quietly for a long time. He didn’t say anything until the next day.

Up until now, he figured He Jichen was in a bad mood then because someone confessed to him, but he now realized that He Jichen was in a bad mood because those words stabbed his heart.

At that thought, Han Zhifan added, “...What about her? The supporting actress who left you all alone for so many years. Deep down inside, was she that someone who was impossible to be with or was she that someone who would never look back?”

He Jichen stared at the liquid through the crystal clear glass with a dull expression on his face for a long time. Then he looked up at Han Zhifan and said, “Someone who’s impossible to be with.”

As He Jichen said this, he looked down with infinite sorrow in his eyes. When he spoke again, his voice was soft with a hidden, immense sorrow. “But in any case, there’s a possibility. As long as it’s her, I would turn back with no hesitation, but she’s never given me the slightest chance...”

After a pause, He Jichen said, “...and she’s never thought about giving me a chance.”

The atmosphere in the room instantly turned a little somber.

The two of them stayed silently like that for a long time until they’d almost finished drinking their glasses. Then Han Zhifan cleared his throat and changed the subject to something more interesting: “Oh,

right! Today, the woman who helped take care of the supporting actress's wound and your wound... is she the on-call doctor for the production cast and crew?"

"No, that was the screenwriter, Cheng Weiwan."

"Cheng Weiwan is the writer of "Three Thousand Lunatics"? She's so young! That can't be right... wasn't she a writer? How does she know about medicine?"

"Oh, her dad is Cheng Weiguo."

Cheng Weiguo? Han Zhifan's fingers suddenly gripped the tall glass hard. His voice sounded a little excited. "Cheng Weiguo? You're telling me that her dad is the world-famous doctor, Cheng Weiguo?"

He Jichen nodded gently and swiftly replied with one word, "Yeah."

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As He Jichen finished what he said, Han Zhifan suddenly slammed his tall glass onto the coffee table.

He Jichen furrowed his brows and turned to look over at Han Zhifan in confusion. "What's wrong?"

Han Zhifan didn't say anything, but his gaze upon the tall glass grew intense.

Cheng Weiguo... Even if he turned to ashes, he'd still be able to recognize those three words.

He would never forget the dirty, lowly thing that the well-dressed man did!

So the woman he noticed today who made him feel so peaceful was Cheng Weiguo's daughter?

He heard Cheng Weiguo only had that one daughter who he loved so dearly.

He Jichen creased his brows a little harder. "What the hell's wrong?"

Han Zhifan snapped back to his senses and realized that he was lost for a moment and hurriedly pushed down the feelings in his eyes. He looked up at He Jichen and shot him his usual warm smile. "Nothing, I was just shocked. I never imagined that such a hidden gem would be on your production team!"

He Jichen believed Han Zhifan, so he didn't pursue it any further.

Seeing as He Jichen looked normal and didn't pick up on anything, Han Zhifan felt more at ease. Then he looked down to hide the boiling emotions in his eyes.

Cheng Weiguo, Cheng Weiwan, Cheng Weiwan, Cheng Weiguo...

He repeated those two names in his mind over and over again until he eventually gritted his teeth with hatred and ferocity.

In this lifetime, he would never forgive Cheng Weiguo. He had been waiting for an opportunity to give Cheng Weiguo a fate worse than death... With Cheng Weiwan's appearance, this might just be that opportunity for him.

At that thought, Han Zhifan lost interest in lounging around in He Jichen's room. "It's getting late, so I'm heading back to my room to get some rest."

He Jichen nodded slightly. He didn't try to make Han Zhifan stay, but he remembered something the moment that he got up and cried to Han Zhifan, "Ah yeah!"

"Mm?" Han Zhifan stopped everything he was doing and stared at He Jichen.

He Jichen raised his head and downed the red wine then glanced over at Han Zhifan and said in a dull voice, "I have to stay on set and can't step away, so there's something I wanted to ask of you."

"What is it? Just say it and it's done."

"Go back to Beijing and help me find out which hospital Ji Yi had her abortion done at three years ago..." Back in Ji Yi's room, he heard Qian Ge mention how Ji Yi almost lost her life during her abortion years ago. If it really happened how Qian Ge described it, why would she risk so much to avoid having his child? Could there possibly be some kind of hidden reason he didn't know about?

At that thought, He Jichen added, "Remember, I want the most comprehensive rundown of what happened."

"Alright," promised Han Zhifan. Seeing as He Jichen had no other orders, he said goodbye and left.

The door gently opened and shut, suddenly causing the room to fall incredibly silent. Now there was only He Jichen left in the room.

He sat on the sofa for quite some time before the alarm on his phone rang. He finally got up and walked out of the bedroom.

Because of the wound on his hand, He Jichen went to the restroom to quickly freshen up before he laid back in bed.

A hard object under his body felt a little uncomfortable. He furrowed his brows and pulled out the hard object. It was He Yuguang's phone.

Chapter 273: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (3)

Ever since Chinese New Year when he used He Yuguang's identity and stayed a whole night and day in Lijiang, "He Yuguang" and Ji Yi had grown quite close. "He Yuguang" and Ji Yi practically messaged each other every day.

The phone had been left on the bed only because they exchanged messages on WeChat till late the night before. Before going to sleep, he just tossed it to one side.

When he unlocked the screen, he noticed there were notifications for several unread WeChat messages. He Jichen casually opened WeChat and saw that those messages were from Ji Yi, but he didn't open to read them as another notification popped up. His phone was running out of battery.

As he sat up against the headboard, He Jichen found the charging cable and plugged in the phone. With one hand raising a cigarette to his mouth, he tapped Ji Yi's name and read her message. "Yuguang Ge, last night, I was too sleepy, so I fell asleep. So sorry."

Last night, she hadn't replied to his last message. He waited for so long, but when his phone remained silent for so long, he knew in his heart that she probably fell asleep. He sent her a message to say "goodnight" and he fell asleep too.

He figured that once she woke up the next day, she'd send him a reply when she saw his message.

He Jichen quickly tapped on the phone screen. After he sent the words "It's fine," he reached for his lighter and lit up his cigarette.

He didn't smoke it but held the cigarette between his fingers and leaned against the headboard. As he inhaled the tobacco, he waited patiently.

After about a minute, the phone vibrated in his hand.

Ji Yi replied: "Yuguang Ge, it's so late. Why are you still awake?"

He Jichen flicked the ashes of his cigarette into the ashtray by the bedside table then held his cigarette between his fingers. He started to type away on the phone screen. "Just about to go to bed."

After he sent that text, He Jichen realized it was almost twelve yet Ji Yi was still up, so he tapped on the screen again. "What about you? Why are you still up?"

"I can't sleep." Ji Yi probably had her phone in her hand since she replied to his message so quickly.

Can't sleep ?

He Jichen stared at those two words and started to furrow his brows. "What's wrong, Manman?"

Ji Yi: "Nothing."

Nothing is stopping her from sleeping? Clearly, there's something... It can't be her wound preventing her from sleeping, right?

At that thought, He Jichen sat up on the bed and stretched his legs out before his mind flashed back to how he lectured her in her room earlier. Then he froze completely.

For a while, he held his stance as though he was about to get out of bed before he finally pulled his legs back into bed again. He stared at the night sky out the window for a while then tapped the phone a few times. "Is it because of the wound on your waist?"

"Yuguang Ge, how did you know?" It was just as He Jichen thought – Ji Yi replied with a question.

Before he sent out that last message, he already thought of a good excuse explaining how he knew. He typed it and was just about to send it when he received another message from Ji Yi. "He... He Jichen told you, didn't he?"

He Jichen, who just typed the words "Jichen told me," quickly deleted the message and changed it to "Mhm." He sent it out.

Ji Yi didn't reply on her end.

He Jichen figured she thought "He Yuguang" knew the full details of how she planned for herself to get injured, so she probably didn't know how to respond.

After some thought, he typed another sentence on the screen. "Don't do stupid things like that again for those people. It's not worth it."

After about five minutes, Ji Yi finally responded, "I know it's not worth it, but Yuguang Ge, in this world, I can only rely on myself. I can only rely on these stupid ways to protect myself."

Chapter 274: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (4)

"I didn't really want to do it, but Yuguang Ge, did you know? Since the first day I joined the cast and crew, I've practically been hungry every day. I'm sick of eating instant noodles. When I wanted to go to the restroom, it was always occupied. I didn't dare delay filming, so all I could do was hold it in. Once, I held it in until the end, and my stomach was in so much pain. Then I didn't dare to drink water so I wouldn't have to go to the toilet too often to avoid any mishaps, but I started to get dehydrated and get nosebleeds..."

As He Jichen read the long passages of text, the image of seeing those instant noodles and bloody tissues in her room flashed across his mind. It felt like waves of pain had come over him as if something clutched his heart and squeezed it.

Ji Yi seemed like she still had more to say because the screen still read: "typing..."

He Jichen hadn't snapped back from his immense pain when a long passage of text popped onto the screen. "I'm not some kind of naive girl, and I can't let someone bully me and not do anything about it. I just wanted to make my days go by easier, so when I got the chance, I decided to go for it."

"Yuguang Ge, I never thought about using tricks to make it to the top and I never imagined fighting with other people. I just wanted to protect myself, because if I don't protect myself, nobody in the world is there to protect me."

He Jichen always thought he understood Ji Yi well enough, so when she sent those words, he realized for the first time just how much sadness and loneliness were hidden deep inside the woman he loved.

An indescribable pain penetrated his body as his fingers started to shake gently.

On the other side, there was no sign of Ji Yi after she finished typing those words.

Perhaps she was deep in thought or perhaps she was waiting for his reply.

It wasn't clear just how much time passed – probably a minute or ten minutes even. He Jichen hadn't thought about how to reply to Ji Yi when his phone suddenly lit up. Ji Yi sent him another message. Compared to the long messages she sent before, this one was particularly short: "If I could live a simple life, why would I rack my brain trying to think of schemes?"

The blood drained from He Jichen's face as his eyes quickly ran through the words, and his tightly pursed lips turned white.

He had to admit that when he learned she hurt herself, he was enraged.

He couldn't understand why she would do such a thing. Was there anything that was more important than her own safety?

But now, he was just filled with heartache.

It was just as she said – if she could live a simple life, why would she rack her brain scheming?

Just how desperate and hopeless could she have been to use herself as bait?

She was the same woman he kept in his heart after catching a quick glimpse of her back in the schoolyard at Sucheng Yizhong. She was the woman he secretly vowed to protect for life, so how could his woman be suffering so much now?

He Jichen's heart felt like it had been brutally torn apart; his blood flowed endlessly and the pain was neverending.

He once thought that the pain he felt after having sex with her that night four years ago was enough to make him not want to live through the night...

But today he realized that there was a pain far greater – realizing that she was in pain.

Chapter 275: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (5)

It felt like a pair of invisible hands were tightly choking his neck, making it hard for him to breathe.

He was the only one in the room; it was so quiet that he could hear his own heart beating. It was slow but heavy, and with every beat, he could clearly feel a bone-piercing pain.

It was so painful that it made his teeth chatter; it drenched his whole body in cold sweats, and it turned the deepest part of his heart cold.

He instinctively raised his hand, put the cigarette to his mouth, and finally took a hard drag for the first time in a while.

Before he met her, he tried to contrast He Yuguang's excellence by smoking, drinking, fighting... there was nothing he couldn't do.

After he met her and learned she didn't like the smell of cigarettes, he forced himself to quit smoking.

He was heavily addicted to cigarettes, so everytime he was in a bad mood, his addiction flared up. When that happened, he lit a cigarette just to relieve himself for a moment, but he didn't let himself smoke it unless he was particularly devastated.

He knew how to smoke, but after taking just one toke, he forgot to exhale and actually coughed.

He clutched his chest and bent over as he started to cough violently. As he coughed, he emitted a layer of mist from his eyes.

He Jichen wasn't sure when he stopped coughing, but when he came to, his cigarette had burnt down to his fingers and was about to burn his skin.

He put out the cigarette in the ashtray and slowly straightened up to look for his phone.

After Ji Yi saw that he hadn't replied for a while, she sent him another message. "Yuguang Ge, are you asleep?"

About three minutes later, she sent another message: "Goodnight Yuguang Ge, it's late, so I'm going to bed too."

He Jichen stared at the screen for some time but didn't send a reply. He put down his phone and lit another cigarette as he stared deeply at the night outside the window. It was like he was caught up in some kind of confusion and distress as he took one drag after another.

He wasn't sure just how many cigarettes he had, but he knew that in the end, his mouth tasted completely bitter. Yet he still hadn't reached a decision.

He got out of bed, grabbed a bottle of water and drank over half the bottle before he walked over to the tall windows. He stood there silently for some time but eventually headed back to the bed and picked up He Yuguang's phone. He opened WeChat and clicked on Ji Yi's name.

He read her long series of messages and was really tempted to comfort her.

But as soon as he thought about what he wanted to tell her and how he had to use He Yuguang's identity to say it, he hesitated and felt torn.

He Jichen tapped the keyboard only twice before he came to a stop.

Just like when they were young, she only revealed her true feelings to He Yuguang. If something bad happened at school, if she got into an argument with classmates, or if someone made her unhappy, she would never tell him. Instead, she went back home and only told He Yuguang.

So there were some words of comfort he wanted to tell her, but he couldn't bring himself to tell her.

He Jichen silently pursed his lips as his fingers moved again. With the "tap tap tap" of the keyboard, He Jichen clearly felt the devastation and helplessness deep in his heart.

After everything, he wished for her to be happy.

Even if he suffered for her happiness.

He Jichen stopped what he was doing and carefully read what he typed before he eventually tapped "send."

Chapter 276: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (6)

"You were never alone, you still have me."

He originally wanted to add the two words “Manman,” but after he finished typing, he hesitated for a moment before he ended things there.

He wanted to treat it as something He Jichen would say.

His original draft was: You were never alone, you still have me, Cola girl.

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Last night, Ji Yi couldn't sleep because of He Jichen. She just couldn't get to sleep as she laid in bed, tossing and turning. Then her phone lit up, and she received a message from “He Yuguang.”

Perhaps she was confused, or perhaps it was because she liked sharing things with He Yuguang when she was young, but after she found out that He Yuguang knew about everything that happened on set, she reverted back to how she was before. She typed word after word, spilling all the little things on her mind.

Sharing was a way for her to vent. Even if she typed a lot of words and didn't get a reply, she felt a lot better. Eventually, waiting for his reply led her to shut her eyes and fall asleep.

The next day, Ji Yi was woken up by a knock at the door.

She groggily went over to the door to see the floor runner standing outside. They told her that her scenes had been pushed back to seven days later and the cast and crew had arranged for other scenes to be shot first.

After the floor runner left, Ji Yi was confused as to why the floor runner was personally sent over to tell her... When she returned to her bed, she picked up her phone and checked the time, only to realize that her phone had automatically turned off because it ran out of battery.

After she plugged it in to charge, she checked the time on the hotel clock. It was already eight in the morning.

After going to the bathroom to freshen up, Ji Yi went to the restaurant on the second floor.

She wouldn't have gone to the restaurant had yesterday's events not happened because it would've been a wasted trip – she'd never have been able to eat.

But today was different. Qian Ge lost so badly yesterday that she would be tempted to get revenge. However, after being exposed by He Jichen, she definitely wouldn't try anything again.

Just as Ji Yi thought, as soon as she walked into the restaurant, everything went smoothly.

To her astonishment, the waiting staff did a one-eighty degree on her and changed their attitude completely.

While she was eating, after she reached the bottom of her glass of milk, a waiter came up to ask whether she needed a top up.

After dinner, Ji Yi got up, a young man walked over to her and politely asked, “Miss, were you satisfied with your meal?”



When did the cast and crew buy out the restaurant and how was this level of hospitality possible? Ji Yi was stunned for a moment before she smiled, nodded, and replied, "It was great."

"Excellent." The man smiled and with both hands, he presented her with a business card from his pocket. "Miss, I'm the restaurant manager. If you have any requests in the future, you can contact me."

He clearly wasn't the manager of the restaurant... Ji Yi was stunned again.

The man probably guessed that she was puzzled, so he smiled and explained, "Last night, the manager of the restaurant was changed at the last minute, so I will be in charge of meals for the cast and crew from now on."

"Oh," replied Ji Yi as she snapped back to her senses and took the business card. "Sorry to trouble you from here on then."

Chapter 277: You Were Never Alone, You Still Have Me (7)

Ji Yi took the elevator up to her floor. As she passed room 2020, she realized the door was open and she could hear the intermittent cries of someone inside.

Ji Yi was curious, so she took a peep through the open door and saw a woman crouched on the ground. There were two or three women around her consoling her as she packed up her suitcase.

"Kexin, don't cry. After you leave here, you can still find somewhere else to work. It's not like you're unemployed forever."

Kexin... isn't she the make-up artist? She's leaving the production team for "Three Thousand Lunatics"? From their conversation, it sounds like this make-up artist called Kexin doesn't want to leave...

Ji Yi furrowed her brows in astonishment as she slowed down.

"You can't blame anyone for this. Who told you to promise Tang Jie to do those things?"

"Yeah, you have to be careful in the future. Don't go doing shady things for a little bit of money. Who knows when karma will find you."

"What's more, they fired you in private, so it won't affect your future too much. Don't cry..."

After Ji Yi heard the last part as she walked past the door, her footsteps came to a sudden stop.

Tang Jie is Qian Ge's assistant, and Kexin was responsible for applying her makeup every day. Yesterday on set, the wardrobe assistant ousted Kexin to clear herself and told them she was the one who put the laxatives into my water... And today, she's fired from the team.

As that thought flashed across Ji Yi's mind, she suddenly remembered how that man at the restaurant gave her his business card and told her about management changing at the last minute... What was odd was that the wardrobe assistant ousted the restaurant manager yesterday too – she said that he arranged for someone to mess with her lunch box.

So, maybe this isn't a coincidence?

If it's not a coincidence, then...

Ji Yi pursed her lips and vaguely guessed what happened.

She continued to stand there for some time before hurriedly walking away when she heard footsteps of people coming out of the room. Then she rushed over to her own room.

At her door, she pulled out the room key and was about to open the door. She hesitated for a moment but pulled her key back and walked back over to the elevator.

Ji Yi took the elevator to the first floor where she headed straight for the front desk of the hotel.

A young woman shot a smile at her and asked, "Miss, how may I help you?"

Ji Yi smiled back and said, "I'd like some information. All the guests of this hotel are from our production team, right?"

"Yes," said the lady at the front desk.

"Then, are there some people checking out and are there new personnel checking in today?"

"How did you know?" asked the lady at the front desk with a shocked expression on her face.

"I just heard it from someone," lied Ji Yi.

After a pause, Ji Yi cut right to the point: "Can you tell me who's checking out today?"

"Please wait." When the lady at the front desk said this, she looked down at the computer and started searching. After about a minute, she read out a few names.

Ji Yi knew some of the names, and there were others she hadn't heard of. However, she easily recognized a similarity amongst all those names... the make-up artist called Kexin, and the previous restaurant manager... They were all names that the wardrobe assistant ousted yesterday.

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So, it was really just as she thought. Everyone who was ousted by the wardrobe assistant cooperating with Qian Ge was all fired from the team overnight?

Only an important member of the production team with a lot of power could've fired people on such a large scale, and on "Three Thousand Lunatics," that was... He Jichen.

So, this was all his doing?

That made sense since her scenes were pushed back, whereas other actors had their scenes pushed forward. Besides him, the director, there was no one else who had the power to do that.

"Miss? Miss?" After the lady at the front desk finished reading the names, she couldn't help but call Ji Yi because she hadn't reacted for some time.

When Ji Yi snapped back to reality, she stared at the lady at the front desk for a while before she realized what happened. Then she swiftly replied to the lady at the front desk: "Thank you and sorry to trouble you."

"It's nothing," said the lady at the front desk.

Ji Yi replied with a smile but didn't say anything as she walked away from the front desk and headed back upstairs.

Ji Yi, who had no scenes to shoot, wanted to use the opportunity to get some rest and recuperate from being so exhausted. However, since she incidentally learned about what happened, Ji Yi's mind was rattled again, just like how she felt after Cheng Weiwan left the night before.

With her anxious heart, Ji Yi managed to make it to the afternoon when she finally shook that feeling away and went downstairs for lunch.

Perhaps she was too full from lunch since she felt a little sleepy as she headed back to her room. Ji Yi, who laid there for an entire afternoon, finally managed to sleep.

She was really tired because she ended up sleeping till late in the day. When she finally woke up, it looked like it was late in the evening, judging by the color outside the window.

Ji Yi went to wash her face first then headed downstairs to the restaurant.

She didn't have much of an appetite, so she only grabbed some salad and fruit before finding a seat by the window.

Before she could start eating, Ji Yi saw He Jichen and the other leaders of the production team walk into the restaurant.

Her gaze was instantly fixed on He Jichen who was so engaged in conversation with the assistant director that he didn't notice her sitting in the corner.

This string of people probably just wanted to get a quick meal since they didn't dine in the private room. Instead, they sat at the biggest table in the restaurant.

The casting director said a few quick words to the restaurant manager, and soon after, a waiter carried out dishes of food one after the other.

He Jichen and the assistant director continued their conversation as they ate.

He Jichen's seat happened to face Ji Yi, so she could see his injured hand.

The wound on his right hand probably hadn't healed yet since he was using his left hand to eat; it was probably inconvenient for him to hold chopsticks with his wounded right hand. It looked like he wasn't used to it since he seemed to have trouble picking up the food. Perhaps he thought it wasn't worth the bother so he didn't eat a lot and put his chopsticks down.

The group of people looked like they had more to discuss later, so they ate quickly and left the restaurant.

That was when Ji Yi finally withdrew her gaze from He Jichen's table and started to eat her own food absent-mindedly.

Ji Yi took just a few bites before she put her fork down and watched as the sky outside turned dark. Then she turned her head and called the waiter. "Excuse me, can I please get a portion of egg fried rice?"

The waiter nodded, but before he could leave, Ji Yi added, "...to take away."

After about ten minutes, the waiter came out with a bag of egg fried rice to-go and placed it on Ji Yi's table.

Ji Yi thanked the waiter. After the waiter left, she stared at the bag for some time before gently biting her bottom lip. Then she got up and picked up the bag.

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After walking out of the restaurant, Ji Yi walked over to the elevator and hesitantly stared at the floor numbers for a moment before eventually pressing the button for the top floor.

As the red elevator numbers jumped higher and higher, Ji Yi's heart grew more nervous. She couldn't help but clutch onto her bag more tightly.

When she reached the top floor, the door opened with a "Ding——" Ji Yi took a deep breath then walked out.

Ji Yi followed the long corridor, took two turns and finally saw He Jichen's room number.

Ji Yi stopped walking and stared firmly at the door to He Jichen's room for a long time, but in the end, she didn't have the courage to knock.

She started to pace around the door, and the third time she passed by He Jichen's door, she suddenly took a deep breath. She took one big step towards the door, looked up, and reached for the doorbell.

Her fingers hadn't touched the doorbell yet when she felt her confidence slipping.

Would it seem too out of the blue to come to his room, carrying egg fried rice?

Ji Yi withdrew her fingers and hesitated for a moment in front of the door. In the end, she chose to give up, but just as she was about to leave, someone from the other side of He Jichen's door suddenly pulled it open.

Her entire body shivered in fright as she took two abrupt steps back.

The person at the door probably didn't expect to see someone standing outside the door, so when he saw Ji Yi, he let out a "Huh?" He got it together and stared at Ji Yi with a stunned expression then said in disbelief, "Miss Ji?!"

Ji Yi forced her racing heart to calm down as she looked up at him.

She knew him. It was He Jichen's assistant, Chen Bai.

“Miss Ji, why are you here?” Chen Bai spoke again with an evidently more stable tone of voice which didn’t sound as shocked as before.

“I...” Ji Yi, who didn’t have a well-thought-out reason to see He Jichen, blurted just one word and awkwardly stood there.

“You’re here for Mr. He?” Chen Bai didn’t think too much of it, but seeing as Ji Yi stopped talking, he casually continued for her. Without waiting for Ji Yi to reply, he moved aside to let her in and made a hand gesture to welcome her in. “Miss Ji, please come in.”

Having been caught in the act, even if she wanted to run away, she couldn’t now... Ji Yi could only put on a brave face and followed Chen Bai into the room.

He Jichen’s room was frighteningly big. After walking about ten meters, Ji Yi finally saw He Jichen sitting on the sofa in front of the tall windows.

His head was lowered as he used his left hand to unwrap the bandage from his right hand.

He probably hadn’t heard her conversation with Chen Bai, so he didn’t look up even when he sensed Chen Bai coming back. He continued unwrapping his bandage as he asked dully, “Is there something else?”

“No, but Miss Ji is here,” replied Chen Bai.

He Jichen suddenly stopped what he was doing and slowly looked up from his injured right hand for a moment.

His lips twitched evidently. The very second he caught sight of Ji Yi, the expression on his face shifted quickly before reverting back to his usual cold grimace.

He didn’t say anything but averted his gaze from Ji Yi to Chen Bai’s face.

Chen Bai sensed He Jichen’s glare and immediately knew what he meant. Then he quickly exclaimed, “Mr. He, I still have business to attend to, so I’ll be leaving first.”

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After seeing He Jichen’s silent nod, Chen Bai then turned to Ji Yi. “Miss Ji, goodbye.”

“Goodbye,” replied Ji Yi so softly that it was difficult to catch.

Chen Bai didn’t mind and he smiled kindly at Ji Yi. He walked around Ji Yi and quickly exited He Jichen’s suite.

As the door shut gently not too far behind her, Ji Yi’s fingers, holding the bag of takeout, shivered instinctively.

It was unclear what was on He Jichen’s mind, but after Chen Bai left, his eyes fell on her face. Yet he still didn’t say anything.

Ji Yi's heart felt nervous as she hadn't thought about what she was going to say. Now that He Jichen was looking her like that, she became completely flustered and instinctively looked down at her feet.

Without the secretary, Chen Bai, in the room, it instantly seemed a lot quieter and the atmosphere froze over.

Aside from the sound from the air conditioner, there were no other sounds in the entire room.

Even though Ji Yi didn't look at He Jichen, she could still sense his transfixed gaze upon her. Her nervous breathing started to grow unsteady, and just when she couldn't take it anymore, He Jichen, who had remained quiet throughout, suddenly cleared his throat.

When Ji Yi heard this, she instinctively looked up and caught He Jichen pointing at the sofa at the side. "Sit."

Ji Yi quietly let out an "oh" and continued to stand where she was for two seconds before she walked over to the sofa. She found a seat some distance away from He Jichen and sat down. Then she added, "Thank you."

He Jichen didn't reply to her word of thanks but raised his chin slightly at the unopened bottle of water on the coffee table. "There's some water over there."

Ji Yi knew that he meant for her to drink some water, so she gave him a nod and let out a soft, "Mhm."

He Jichen probably thought she came to say something really important. With a neutral tone of voice, he continued by saying, "Please wait for a moment."

Ji Yi let out another "Mhm."

He Jichen didn't say anything as he looked down and continued to unwrap the bandage from his right hand.

Ji Yi sat on the sofa obediently and racked her brain over what she would say if He Jichen asked why she was there to see him.

The room fell silent once again.

After about five minutes, Ji Yi furrowed her brows in annoyance as she still couldn't think of a good excuse. She figured she'd be better off giving up, so she instinctively turned her head to glance over at He Jichen.

He had removed his bandage. When the wound was first wrapped up, it must've been bleeding because the long bandage was all red.

The wound in his hand had two deep cuts where flesh was exposed. The sight of it was quite shocking to see.

A new set of bandages, tweezers, cotton balls, alcohol and a few mysterious small white bottles were placed on the table by his left hand. Ji Yi figured those white bottles were probably ointment.

From what Ji Yi saw, it looked like He Jichen was getting ready to change his bandages on his own.

After he threw the old bandages into the bin by his side, he picked up the tweezers with his left hand to grab a cotton ball.

Just like when he was clumsily trying to pick up food with his left hand, he was now trying hard to pick up the cotton ball. He was used to using his right hand, so when he tried to dab the cotton ball into the alcohol, he mistakenly dropped it into the bottle.