

Chapter 411: Ah! So, She Was Moved (1)

He Jichen didn't say anything and picked up the teacup. He took a sip then looked down at the red tea for a little while before he set the cup down. He looked up and said, "Ji Yi."

When she heard this, Ji Yi raised her eyes and looked over at He Jichen.

Having taken a shower, he looked clean, his hair was smooth, and his handsome features looked like he had emerged from a painting.

Ji Yi stared blankly for a while then let out a soft "Mhm."

As though he was contemplating how to even start, He Jichen looked like he was in no hurry to speak. After about ten seconds, his beautiful lips started moving. "About what happened that night in Shanghai, I was wrong..."

Ji Yi knew He Jichen wanted to talk about what happened that night, but she never imagined that he'd go straight to the point like that. Her fingertips trembled for a moment, but knowing that he wasn't finished, she didn't say a word.

"Sorry," He Jichen spoke up again.

On the plane, she remembered every little thing that happened that night.

Even with a normal, mature man, the same thing would happen if they were faced with an excessively teasing woman.

So, he wasn't in the wrong...

Ji Yi lowered her head and kept quiet for some time before quietly saying, "You can't completely blame yourself for what happened that night. It was my fault."

"I was wrong too," said He Jichen.

The situation had already happened, so it didn't really matter who was right or wrong. Ji Yi didn't continue arguing about it with He Jichen and chose to stay quiet.

Suddenly, the two of them were engulfed in silence.

Inside, He Jichen went over what he wanted to say.

Ji Yi sat opposite He Jichen, staring at the steam from the teacups as she recollected everything that happened last night.

After about two minutes, He Jichen looked up at Ji Yi, who was mentally preparing herself. Just as she was about to say something, she saw He Jichen's lips move. "Ji Yi, I'm willing to take responsibility for what happened that night."

Ji Yi was stunned.

She knew he had a woman he liked. Even though she didn't know her name, she knew that he called her "Cola girl."

That night, when they strolled alongside West Lake, she saw just how strongly he felt about "Cola girl."

After they slept together four years ago, he said such hurtful things to her. Although she might not have known why, when she learned that he liked someone, she realized that his anger might've been due to betrayal to "Cola girl."

So, after the same thing happened four years later, she never imagined that he would say that he was willing to take responsibility.

Seeing as Ji Yi didn't react, He Jichen thought maybe she didn't hear what he said. "I'm willing to take responsibility," he repeated.

As his voice rang out, he looked unusually sincere. "If you're willing, Xiao Yi, I'm willing to take responsibility."

Responsibility... After hearing the word "responsibility" twice, Ji Yi's fingers trembled as she snapped back to her senses.

He really did say "responsibility"... He wants to take responsibility... For any man with a sense of responsibility, it's the most respectful thing to say after having sex with someone. However, Ji Yi wasn't sure what was wrong with her; with that one word, her heart skipped a beat for some reason.

He Jichen waited a long time, but seeing as she still didn't react, he spoke again. "Ji Yi?"

Chapter 412: Ah! So, She Was Moved (2)

When she heard He Jichen's voice, Ji Yi realized just how deeply his one line affected her. She hastily gulped and pushed down the surging emotions in her chest. As she forced herself to come back to her senses, she looked at He Jichen and said, "Although it wasn't your fault that night, I'm really grateful you said you'll take responsibility. But I'm sorry..."

Before Ji Yi could finish speaking, she felt like something was forcefully clutching her heart as a ravaging, raw pain started to creep into her chest.

Her fingers instinctively grasped the table, and she struggled to look and sound calm. She continued to say, "...He Jichen, I can't accept it."

Yes... I can't accept it, nor can I accept it...

This is obviously how I feel, but why does my heart hurt even more intensely after I said it?

It hurts even more than last night when I decided to end things with He Yuguang...

Ji Yi was in pain for so long that she didn't dare to breathe in fear of accidentally losing it in front of He Jichen. However, even though she worked really, really hard to restrain herself, her fingertips still started to tremble softly.

She assumed this unbearable pain would only hurt for a while before subsiding, but she never imagined that the pain would actually grow more intense. It coursed from her chest, into her blood and into every corner of her body.

How weird! Why am I so hurt? Last night, I was hurt because I cared about Yuguang Ge and liked him, but even now, I'm hurt...

As that thought flashed across Ji Yi's mind, her mind suddenly went blank.

She stayed frozen for about half a minute like her pressure points had been hit. Her long eyelashes blinked gently, and she came to a realization that was undeniable. Each and every word leaped into her mind: I might feel a little moved by him.

Three months ago, she clearly hated him to the bone, wanted nothing more than to never cross paths with him.

Since when did that all change?

Was it when I saw the anxiety in his eyes and knew he was worried for me when I hurt myself to frame Qian Ge?

Was it when I heard him say "Can you give me a hug?" after I was possessed and brought up egg-fried-rice for him, seeing that he hadn't eaten?

Was it that night when I finally understood him after Fatty told me everything about him over dinner by West Lake?

Was it the following morning when he put three contracts in front of me and asked if I was willing to trust him?

Just when did I start to have feelings for him?

Ji Yi tried hard to think of an answer, but she couldn't find one. However, she knew that no matter how unwilling she was, no matter how much she didn't want to face the music, she couldn't help but admit that she was emotionally moved by him.

No wonder she couldn't help but feel rattled after they became friends and her heart raced whenever their eyes met. No wonder she drank because she was upset by Xia Yuan's appearance and no wonder that, when she was a drunken mess, she did some incomprehensible things. She even kissed him...

Ah! So, I'm emotionally moved by him...

Even though she never felt like she was moved by him before, her actions seemed to have silently betrayed her true feelings inside.

Chapter 413: Ah! So, She Was Moved (3)

But, don't I like Yuguang Ge? How could I have feelings for He Jichen?

When a person truly likes someone, wouldn't they avoid liking anyone else?

How could He Jichen enter my heart if I already have Yuguang Ge?

Could it be that one of those feelings is an illusion?

Ji Yi instinctively pursed her lips and thought it over seriously in her mind.

If she didn't have He Yuguang in her life, her heart would ache. Without He Jichen, she would be in pain too.

This meant she cared about both men.

What's wrong with me? How can I have feelings for both men?

Ji Yi's heart felt incomparably flustered.

Sitting opposite her, He Jichen was instantly immersed in her reply: "I can't accept it."

Earlier that evening, when he couldn't control himself and slept with her, he already wanted to take responsibility then.

He knew deep down that maybe she didn't need him to take responsibility, especially since she hid from him when she woke up the following day. He knew this in his heart, yet he was still insistent on looking for her to tell her that he wanted to take responsibility.

But just as he expected, she rejected him...

He Jichen's gaze fell as he hid the darkness in his eyes. He waited until the anguish in his heart disappeared before saying, "Is it because of my older brother?"

He Jichen spoke so suddenly that he startled Ji Yi. Her fingertips trembled reflexively as she realized that her mind had wandered throughout their conversation.

There were some things he didn't dare ask, for fear that he wouldn't be able to face the answer.

But in that very moment, he couldn't not ask.

He Jichen didn't dare look up to meet Ji Yi's gaze as he was afraid that he wouldn't be able to suppress the anguish and sorrow. "Is it because you guys got fake married, or because..."

Before He Jichen could finish, he felt a stifling pain in his chest which made it difficult for him to breathe. "... many years passed and you still like him?"

If it was just because she and He Yuguang were fake married, he didn't need to take responsibility and the solution would be easy. He could tell her that the person she fake-married wasn't his older brother, but it was him. However, if she still liked his older brother... He Jichen stopped at that, as he didn't dare continue with that thought.

If he didn't notice that I was moved by him ten minutes ago, he'll definitely know by my reply.

But now, having realized that there were two men in her heart, Ji Yi didn't know how to answer him.

She liked Yuguang Ge, and her feelings were pure.

She was moved by He Jichen too, but she couldn't like him freely because she liked Yuguang Ge.

Judging by the way she was now, she wasn't worthy of liking Yuguang Ge, nor was she worthy of He Jichen's responsibility.

So, I have to uphold the decision I made last night... I can't hesitate anymore. Even if I'm in pain, all I can do is endure it. Who told me to let my love life get to such an absurd state!

I brought all this upon myself and I can't blame anyone!

At that thought, Ji Yi gulped hard and bluntly ignored He Jichen's question. With her calmest demeanor, she said, "He Jichen, let's pretend what happened last night never happened."

As Ji Yi said this, her hands involuntarily balled up into fists.

To prevent her voice from cracking and to soothe her aching heart, she dug her fingernails into her palms hard to mask her pain.

Chapter 414: Ah! So, She Was Moved (4)

"It was a complete misunderstanding. Just like four years ago, I got drunk."

"So, let's forget about last night and that night four years ago!"

Ji Yi felt her body go numb. She felt like she might as well die from the pain. I deserve this! Who told me to be half-hearted and care about someone else while liking another person?!

Pretend like it never happened. A complete misunderstanding... That night, He Jichen used all his love and affection on Ji Yi and with her in his arms, he slept the most peaceful sleep he'd had in the past few years. To him, it was a precious night, but to her, it was a mistake she hoped never happened.

What's more, she said it was just like four years ago... she got drunk... was anything different? Did she mistake me for He Yuguang again?

Ji Yi didn't reply to his earlier questions, but he didn't dare ask anymore.

She said to forget it. How could she forget every little thing between them that he started gathering in his heart since watching the silhouette of her back that first time, so many years ago?

As she said this, Ji Yi felt like she was speaking something she knew by heart. "What's more, you have a woman you like, so it's best to just pretend like last night didn't happen."

The woman I like is her... As that thought surfaced in his mind, He Jichen heard Ji Yi speak again. "If you're willing, we can continue to be friends, but if you think things will be awkward after what happened, let's keep our distance as a boss and his employee..."

Keep a distance... he worked so hard to be friends with her, but now everything had to go back to square one?

He wanted to tell her that he liked her... But at Ji Yi's last few words, he didn't dare to say anything.

He loved her, but he was afraid to tell her.

He was afraid that after his confession, it would mean farewell. He was afraid that she wouldn't even give him the chance to be friends... He was just that pathetic. In a world where he loved her, he was a coward, an incredible weakling.

Compared to not having her as his lover, he was more afraid of losing her altogether.

Meanwhile, music had been playing in the tea house all this time.

After the previous song ended, the tea house fell silent for about five seconds, and a new song started. At the same time, the two of them happened to immerse themselves in the familiar melody and lyrics.

The song playing in the tea house was the same song he sang on her birthday: "Within Your Radius."

As the song reached the lyrics: "It feels stifling, there's no meaning in forcing it. I'm not considered selfish, and I'm learning ever more that loving you is my business..." He Jichen snapped back to his senses.

That night when they had dinner at Lou Wailou, if he hadn't happened to stop Fatty, Fatty would've already told Ji Yi that she was the "Cola girl" that He Jichen created such an uproar to search for back then.

Fatty asked He Jichen why he didn't want his secret revealed, and He Jichen said he was afraid that by confessing to her, it might cause trouble for her.

On his journey down a path with Ji Yi, he really had learned more and more. In this very moment, he never thought about forcing her. He knew that it was only his business to love her, yet he still racked his brain for a long time before he said another thing he was holding back. "But that night, I didn't have protection. You might get pregnant, so do you really..."

He Jichen paused for a moment and after a short while, he finished his sentence. "...not need me to take responsibility?"

Ji Yi shook her head. "Don't worry. I won't get pregnant."

Just as He Jichen was about to say, "what if," Ji Yi spoke again. "I took the morning after pill."

Chapter 415: Ah! So, She Was Moved (5)

He Jichen instantly froze.

His mind was completely blank for half a minute before he realized what Ji Yi just said.

She took the morning after pill...

She took the morning after pill...

She took the morning after pill...

Those six simple words repeatedly echoed in his mind before he realized what they meant.

As there were too many risks related to the night they spent together, Ji Yi didn't want to face the same consequences as four years ago, so she took the pill right after they had sex... To her, that night really was a mistake, an accident...

He Jichen sat quietly in his chair, staring at the cold tea before him with a blank, unreadable expression on his face.

He could clearly see the radiant sky through the window, yet in that very moment, it felt like darkness was going to come crashing down on him.

In the tea house, there were no other sounds aside from the faint sound of singing.

After Ji Yi lost track of the number of times she heard the words "I would rather stay within your radius," she couldn't take it anymore. Her head bolted up, and without looking at He Jichen's face, she said, "I've said what I wanted to say. If you have nothing else to add, I'll be off then."

With his eyes lowered, He Jichen didn't move an inch and looked as though he hadn't heard anything she said.

Everything would've been alright if this particular song wasn't playing, but upon hearing this song, Ji Yi realized that she felt worse. She was afraid she was going to cry uncontrollably any moment, so she forced herself to hold it in for half a minute in her seat. Seeing as He Jichen wasn't going to say anything, she took this as his silent acceptance. She got up and left without turning around or saying goodbye. Ji Yi darted out of the tea house.

Chen Bai was sitting on a chair outside the tea house while playing on his phone. When he heard the sound of high heels coming from behind, he immediately turned his head. When he saw Ji Yi hurriedly coming out, he bolted up. "Miss Ji."

Ji Yi heard Chen Bai, but she didn't stop to reply. She didn't even glance at him and darted quickly towards the elevator. Without hesitation, she pressed the elevator button, stepped in, and headed downstairs.

The second after she left the Four Seasons Hotel, Ji Yi's vision was immediately blurred by her tears.

She hurriedly walked over to the side of the road and tried to hail a taxi.

It was only after she got into the car and told the driver her home address that she realized her voice sounded like she was crying.

She pretended as though she hadn't seen the odd look on the driver's face and tried hard to suppress the urge to cry. She raised her hands to wipe the tears from her eyes.

The Four Seasons Hotel was close to her home; the car reached the entrance about fifteen minutes later.

She paid the taxi fare and darted out of the car.

In one breath, she charged into her house, kicked off her shoes, pounced onto her bed and started to cry.

She cried and cried.

She felt like her heart was being brutally strangled by large hands; the pain was unbearable.

How could I have two people in my heart?

How could I be such a fickle woman?

I, like this, am unclean, imperfect, unbalanced. Just who could I ever be worthy of?

If Ji Yi hadn't reunited with He Yuguang, how great would that have been? Then the confused feelings she had from when she was younger would be long gone. If she hadn't met him again, then today, she could've agreed for He Jichen to take responsibility. Then she could go with what her heart wanted and like him, fall in love with him...

Chapter 416: Ah! So, She Was Moved (6)

Or... how great would it have been if she and He Jichen had never worked on the same set? That way, she would never have to hurt herself to get revenge on Qian Ge; she would never have seen the dread in his eyes; their relationship would never have improved; she would never have truly understood him; she would never have agreed to go back to how things were; moreover, she would never have developed feelings for him, and they would never have had drunken sex...

If only, and that's a big "if" ...

Ji Yi laid spread out on the bed, crying more and more violently. She cried till her entire body started to twitch and she couldn't breathe.

As she clutched her chest with her hand, she couldn't help but tightly grasp onto her clothes. The sheer force she used made her fingertips turn white.

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Four Seasons Hotel.

Slightly stunned, Chen Bai stared at Ji Yi's back as she left in a hurry. After he came back to his senses, the elevator had long reached the first floor.

Why did Miss Ji leave in such a hurry? Did she and Mr. He not manage to talk things through?

A terrible feeling came over Chen Bai as he stood quietly on the spot for some time before he turned around and headed into the tea room.

With Ji Yi gone, there was just He Jichen left in the room. Standing at the entrance, Chen Bai immediately saw He Jichen sitting by the window.

The man's head was down and half his face was hidden in the shadows, which made it difficult to see his expression. One of his hands was casually hung over a chair, while the other was on the table. His fingers gently held a teacup.

His posture looked serene and Chen Bai couldn't tell if he was sad or happy.



Chen Bai walked over to him and softly cried, "Mr. He."

He wasn't sure if He Jichen was deep in thought or not, but he didn't reply. His entire body was motionless.

Chen Bai realized that it had been about two or three minutes since he first appeared at the door, walked over to He Jichen, and spoke to him. In all that time, He Jichen was as still as a statue. Not only did his body not flinch in the slightest, but his eyelashes didn't even blink at all.

Chen Bai tried to call He Jichen again, but seeing as he didn't make a sound, Chen Bai took two steps back and silently stood beside him.

Time went by slowly, and the sunlight outside the windows became brighter. Seeing as it was almost midday and their reservation was coming to an end, the manager of the tea room walked over to them. "Mr. He, it's about time. May I ask if we can let other customers in now?"

He Jichen remained just as silent as when Chen Bai first saw him; he didn't react to the manager's question, just like how he didn't react to Chen Bai's prompting earlier.

"Mr. He..." repeated the manager after he noticed that He Jichen didn't say anything. This time, before the manager could finish, Chen Bai knew He Jichen wasn't going to reply to him, so he walked up to the manager and patted his shoulder. Chen Bai pointed out the door, signaling for them to talk.

Chen Bai renegotiated the price with the manager, and after the manager left, Chen Bai didn't go back into the tea room. Instead, he leaned back against the door frame, pulled out his phone and started playing on it.

The beaming sun slowly transitioned into the red setting sun, then little by little, it fell to the west. Along the way, Chen Bai's phone ran out of battery, and the manager of the tea room came over twice. Even after night had fallen and neon lights lit up the streets outside the windows, He Jichen maintained his initial, motionless posture.

The lights in the tea room with ancient Chinese furnishings quietly enveloped He Jichen and surrounded his body with a ring of light.

Chapter 417: Ah! So, She Was Moved (7)

Although He Jichen clearly kept the same silent and emotionless demeanor, for some inexplicable reason, Chen Bai felt a faint sense of anguish emitting little by little from He Jichen's body and intertwining with the ring of light around him.

In that second, a thought suddenly drifted into Chen Bai's mind that perfectly described He Jichen at this moment in time: Quietness is the most silent form of crying.

This man may look quiet and peaceful like he's fine, but deep down inside, tears are falling.

I fear that silent sadness is the most distressing.

Outside the window, the dark of the night gradually deepened.

Having forgotten to put on his watch as he rushed out the door that morning, Chen Bai wasn't sure what time it was with his phone switched off. All he knew was that when the whole city fell silent, an unusually ear-piercing notification was heard from He Jichen's vicinity.

From the time Ji Yi left in the early afternoon till now, He Jichen's phone rang more than once, but he never reacted. But when this other phone rang, his fingers around the teacup suddenly trembled and the cold tea spilled over the back of his hand.

He left the mess alone and with his other hand around the chair, he reached into his pocket and pulled out an old phone.

Chen Bai furrowed his brows and couldn't help but feel curious.

What's with Mr. He lately? Instead of using his new phone, he takes out that outdated phone every night and messes around with it...

While Chen Bai was lost in his own thoughts, a bleak look came across He Jichen's face. He stared at the screen for a long while then pulled his gaze away and stared out the window. Then his brows tightened like he was caught in some kind of inner struggle. Eventually, a look of agony crept onto his face.

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Ji Yi didn't know just how long she'd been crying; all she knew was that she cried until she was exhausted. She didn't even have the strength to flip around.

She figured that she might as well lay there stiffly, staring up at the ceiling blankly.

She didn't know how much time had passed, but the color on the ceiling turned darker until Ji Yi could see nothing at all.

Like before, she didn't react and simply laid there in a daze until she couldn't take it anymore. She climbed out of bed to use the bathroom.

She had laid in bed all day without doing a thing, yet she came to discover that her entire body was exhausted; she had no strength left.

As she came out from the bathroom, she didn't go back to bed. Instead, she stared out at the pitch-black sky out the window for a while then slowly let out an "oh" in her mind. She thought: Ah, so it's already dark.

With her parents abroad and being home alone, Ji Yi was hungry from having not eaten all day. After she headed downstairs to the kitchen to find something to fill her up, Ji Yi glanced over at the wall clock on her way out the living room. It was already ten in the evening.

She returned to the bedroom, walked over to a chair and took a seat. After staring out at the dark sky out the window for a long time, she withdrew her gaze and stared at the phone that was tossed to one side. A while later, she reached out to pick it up.

After she left He Jichen earlier that afternoon, she cried all that she could cry and felt all the agony possible. Now, she should do what she had to do.

Ji Yi unlocked the phone, opened WeChat and found He Yuguang's name. After she clicked into their chat, she stared at the screen in a daze for a while then pursed her lips as though she'd made up her mind about something. She raised her fingertips and started to type away.

Chapter 418: Ah! So, She Was Moved (8)

"Yuguang Ge, I'm sorry. Something has been wrong with my phone the past two days. It should be fixed now."

She didn't want him to know what happened between her and He Jichen because she was afraid the news would be upsetting and hard to take.

After all, they were married and he treated her so well. She couldn't help but care for his dignity.

Ji Yi thought up an excuse for not keeping in contact the past two days then her fingers continued to type away on the keyboard non-stop.

"I've already returned to Beijing. When are you coming? I'm not busy these days, so whenever you're free..."

As Ji Yi typed this, she started to feel a dull pain in her heart. She even had to stop what she was doing because of the pain in her fingers. After some time, she gritted her teeth and endured the pain as she typed the last few words: "...let's meet up."

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After she silently left Shanghai two days ago, He Jichen called and texted her so many times. He even asked Cheng Weiwan and other people on the production crew to contact her. He thought she was hiding from only him and not others... yet she didn't reply to anyone.

If he hadn't turned up at her hotel entrance and waited for her, he probably still wouldn't have any news about her.

And yet, she replied to He Yuguang.

Just as he was desperately and helplessly searching for her, he put his final hopes on He Yuguang, hoping that he could find out where she was, considering that he was the person she liked and cared about.

Heaven knew just how conflicted his heart felt when he picked up He Yuguang's phone to text her. He was afraid she'd reply to He Yuguang and see the difference between him and He Yuguang. He was also afraid that she wouldn't reply and was worried for her safety.

Deep in Ji Yi's heart, He Yuguang must be really, really important. She found an excuse to explain why she lost contact with him the past two days and agreed to meet him in Beijing.

But what about me?

In comparison to his conversation with her earlier that afternoon, he learned just how big the difference was between him and He Yuguang in her world.

He was crazy over her in the past. He felt betrayed and hysterically hurt her along with himself. He matured for her and changed, just to stay by her side as a friend. After trying hard for so long, he was never able to reach her side. Did that mean they truly weren't meant to be together?

He didn't believe in destiny, but at this very moment, he started to believe it a little.

He really wanted to be with her. If fate meant for Ji Yi to only like He Yuguang, didn't that mean he could...

A colossal thought unexpectedly came into He Jichen's mind.

How could I stoop to such a crazy thought?

He only started to act as his older brother to get close to her... Now, he actually wanted to use He Yuguang's identity to be with her forever.

Do I like her and want to spend my life with her that much?

But it really was a great way.

Even though it was a little hard to take, it would allow him to have her; he could possess her. He could tell her what was on his mind, even if this meant she'd never know that the person who truly loved her was He Jichen, not He Yuguang.

At that thought, He Jichen looked back and stared at the black screen for a moment. Then he unlocked the screen and replied: "I'll be in Beijing in the next two days."

Chapter 419: Ah! So, She Was Moved (9)

After the message was sent, He Jichen thought about it and added: "How about we meet in the evening in two day's time?"

Perhaps he took too long to reply to her since Ji Yi's reply appeared on his screen almost an entire ten minutes later. "Alright, Yuguang Ge. See you the day after tomorrow."

At this moment, it wasn't a good time for He Jichen to talk to Ji Yi like he normally would or use He Yuguang's identity to chat casually. His fingers quickly tapped the screen twice and he hastily ended their conversation. "Manman, I have some work to do and it's late. Get some rest. See you the day after tomorrow. Good night."

"Good night."

Ji Yi's reply came soon after. He Jichen cradled the phone as he stared out the window.

He still liked her, ardently and clumsily. He liked her so much that he'd give her everything even if he had nothing.

He liked her so much that he was willing to accept her love and spend the rest of his life with her using the identity of the man she liked. He was willing to silently watch as he, who loved her the most, slowly died.

Silent heartbreak exuded from his body and filled the air.

His eyes were filled with sadness, hurt and even helplessness.

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Ji Yi thought He Yuguang would meet up with her at a classy restaurant for dinner like usual, but to her surprise, he sent her a message at five in the afternoon that day. "I'm sending a driver to pick you up at eight. Remember to eat at home before you come out."

Ji Yi wasn't annoyed, but she figured that He Yuguang probably had too many dinners and couldn't make the time. He could probably only have supper with her, so she didn't think too much of it and replied with a single word, "Okay."

Ji Yi was ready by seven fifty in the evening. Twirling around in front of the tall mirror in her bedroom, she checked to confirm that there weren't any problems with her outfit then picked up her bag and headed downstairs.

She crouched down in front of the shoe cabinet and chose two pairs of shoes that matched her dress. After thinking it over, she chose a pair with shorter heels.

19:57: Ji Yi left the house.

The car that He Jichen booked had been waiting downstairs for a long time now.

In the afternoon, He Yuguang texted Ji Yi with the car's license plate. She took the elevator and reached the first floor where she stepped out of the building and saw the car waiting to pick her up.

The driver must've seen a photo of her because he immediately got out of the car when he recognized her. Then the driver helped open her door.

Ji Yi realized that He Yuguang still hadn't told her where they were going to meet, but come to think about it... the driver probably knew. She didn't say anything but sat quietly in the car as she let the driver speed through the streets of Beijing.

About half an hour later, Ji Yi incidentally caught a glance of the landscape out the window and realized they had left downtown. Her brows couldn't help but furrow gently.

Where's He Yuguang meeting me? Why are we all the way in the Western Hills?

"Where are we going?"

When the driver heard Ji Yi, he shot her a smile through the rearview mirror. "Miss Ji, you'll find out soon enough."

Ji Yi figured that He Yuguang must've told the driver in advance not to tell her. She assumed he wouldn't say anything even if she asked again, so she shut her mouth.

The car continued to drive for about ten minutes. It drove up and stopped halfway up a mountain.

The driver got out and helped Ji Yi pull open the car door. "We're here, Miss Ji."

Chapter 420: Ah! So, She Was Moved (10)

“Thanks,” said Ji Yi as she got out of the car.

After she found her feet, the driver pointed over at the bend nearby. “Miss Ji, Mr. He asked if you could please wait over there for a moment.”

Why did He Yuguang ask me to meet half-way up a mountain in the middle of nowhere at night?

Ji Yi was suspicious at heart, but she still shot the driver a smile. “Got it, thanks.”

“Then, Miss Ji, please take a seat. I’ll head down now and wait for you,” said the driver.

“Alright.” Ji Yi nodded.

The driver courteously bowed at Ji Yi then turned to get into the car after saying goodbye.

When the car started, the car lights lit up the area half-way up the mountain.

The summery mountain landscape was beautiful with luscious trees and rich wildflowers in bloom.

Soon enough, the car made a turn not too far up ahead, then followed the path down the mountain.

The entire area instantly fell pitch-black. It was relatively quiet on the mountain, and subtle sounds now seemed unusually loud. The car had driven off for quite some time now, yet Ji Yi could still hear the faint sound of the car.

Ji Yi stood still in the same spot where she got off the car for a short while before she reached for her phone and used the light to guide her to the bench.

About two minutes later, the sound of the car completely disappeared and the atmosphere instantly fell quiet.

The night breeze blew gently as the tree leaves rustled. Wave upon wave of an intense floral scent made its way into Ji Yi’s nostrils.

Ji Yi was the only one in the area. It was pitch-black all around her and aside from the endless sounds of insects, she couldn’t hear anything else. Seeing as Yuguang still hadn’t appeared, Ji Yi’s heart grew apprehensive, so she grabbed her phone and prepared to send him a message to ask for his whereabouts. Just as she opened WeChat, she saw a light in the corner of her eye not too far away.

Ji Yi instinctively looked up and saw a blurry ball of fire glowing from the foot of the mountain.

Before she could figure out what those balls of fire were, she saw several more balls of fire coming into her field of sight.

Those balls of fire glowed a golden-yellow yet orangey light, which looked shockingly beautiful in the pitch-black sky.

Ji Yi stared for a good while before she called herself stupid and realized they were sky lanterns.

As the first sky lantern came into view and rose higher and higher, Ji Yi started to notice numerous sky lanterns at the foot of the mountain drifting up to the sky.

With her own eyes, she soon saw the entire sky filled with sky lanterns.

It was a magnificent sight to behold; so beautiful and stunning that it took Ji Yi's breath away.

She raised her head and stared at the rising sky lanterns for some time before she took out her phone to take a photo.

She chose all different angles and took about five or six photos when her phone rang. A message jumped onto the screen from "He Yuguang": "Manman, do you like it?"

Ji Yi was tempted to take another photo, but then she suddenly stopped.

Yuguang Ge's asking if I like it?

By this, does that mean he's the one who filled the sky with sky lanterns?

Did he ask the driver to mysteriously take me there just to give me this stunning sight?