

Chapter 471: Quit Dreaming About Ever Making it Some Day (1)

In front of her was He Jichen, who was leaning against the head of the bed. Her sudden lunge forward caused her to press down the body of an unguarded He Jichen.

Ji Yi's slender body was light, but she fell right on top of him with considerable force. He Jichen felt an intense pain on his chest as Ji Yi's head came crashing down. He instinctively shut his eyes and drew a sharp breath of air.

The impact was reciprocal as He Jichen worked out on a regular basis, so his chest was firm and hard like a rock. The resulting blow to Ji Yi's head almost made her burst into tears.

After about a minute, Ji Yi recovered from the pain and looked up as she reached her hand out to rub the throbbing spot on her head.

At the same time, He Jichen's pain gradually subsided, and he slowly opened his eyes to catch Ji Yi's gaze as she lifted her head. Their eyes happened to meet.

Ji Yi stopped rubbing her head. After about a minute, she had a delayed reaction, realizing that she was lying on top of He Jichen. Her entire body shook as she instinctively flipped over, trying to get off his body.

Because she was flustered, she forgot they were on a single bed, so her sudden flip sent her flying. Just as she felt herself falling to the ground, she realized that she was actually falling off the bed.

Sh*t! she cried on the inside as she quickly shut her eyes. However, the incoming impact she anticipated never came. Instead, a large arm was locked tightly around her waist.

Her survival instincts took over as she reached her arm out without hesitation and forcefully pulled herself up. All of sudden, she felt a warm, soft sensation upon her lips.

Ji Yi was stunned for about three seconds before she opened her eyes again.

He Jichen's striking facial features were practically glued to her eyes.

It was like the pressure points in her body had been hit as she was stunned like that for a long time. Eventually, she gently opened her pitch-dark pupils and clearly saw her lips tightly clasped onto He Jichen's lips.

Ji Yi didn't quite register what she was seeing as her mind went blank for some time before she regained consciousness.

My lips are stuck onto his lips... The warmth and softness were coming from his lips... His lips...

Ji Yi suddenly understood what these thoughts meant, and her eyes suddenly widened. Then she blurted, "Yah!" and withdrew her body, pulling their lips away.

He Jichen's body shook for a moment then there was nothing.

He looked like he was repressing something as there was a pained expression on his face.

After about half a minute, he snapped back from the accidental kiss that couldn't quite be considered a kiss at all.

With one motion of his arm, he lifted Ji Yi's upper body upright then withdrew his arm. He flipped over and got out of bed. Without saying a single word, he quickly entered the bathroom.

Soon enough, the sound of running water was heard from the bathroom.

He Jichen stood under the cold water for a long time before he could push down the urges brought on by Ji Yi.

When he got dressed and stepped out of the bathroom, Ji Yi was still standing in the same place she was in before he entered the bathroom.

Ji Yi turned her head when she heard the door opening and looked over at He Jichen. Her eyes lingered on He Jichen for less than a second before she averted her gaze.

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Ji Yi didn't wait for He Jichen to speak before she blurted out, "I'm going to shower."

After she said this, she brushed by He Jichen and rushed into the bathroom.

Ji Yi dawdled in the bathroom for a long time and didn't come out until she was certain she wouldn't awkwardly embarrass herself in front of He Jichen over the "kiss."

She didn't glance at the bed where He Jichen was lying, but she walked over to the other empty bed and said, "It's late. Get some sleep." Then she turned the lights off in the patient room, climbed into bed, and pulled the covers over her head.

Ji Yi laid silently in the darkness for a long long time – so long, in fact, that she only emerged from under the covers when He Jichen had fallen asleep.

Ji Yi stared up at the ceiling, breathing carefully for a while until the stifling discomfort in her chest subsided. Then she gently turned her head and looked over at He Jichen.

While asleep, his perfect facial features looked serene and hypnotizing. The pale yellow night light in the patient room illuminated his unusually gentle, perfect looks.

Her gaze repeatedly circled his face for a long time before it fell on his lips.

His lips were already beautiful, but under the light, they softened his appearance and captivated her even more. Ji Yi couldn't help but feel transfixed.

After who knew how long, He Jichen flipped over, probably because he was uncomfortable with his sleeping position. Now he had his back facing Ji Yi.

Ji Yi was stunned for a good while before she blinked gently. As she withdrew her gaze from the back of He Jichen's head, she tilted her head again to look up at the ceiling.

In the silent night, she felt some urges emerging to go over and kiss him, caused by when she stared at his lips earlier.

It was just as things were back in Shanghai – that night when she got drunk.

The only thing different was that tonight's urges were slightly stronger than when she was drunk.

After she came back to her senses from accidentally touching his lips, she felt the same creeping sense of regret from when she dodged him in a panic earlier.

She hadn't dared to let herself consider what she was actually regretful about until this very moment. She had to admit that her regret was because she couldn't bear to part from He Jichen after their completely accidental "kiss"...

Couldn't bear to part...

Ji Yi's fingertips trembled gently as she turned her head to look over at He Jichen.

She stared at his back for an awfully long time before she came to the realization as to why she couldn't bear to part from the kiss.

But it was just for a moment as she stopped that thought and erased it completely from her mind. She pretended nothing happened, and that she didn't understand anything.

If she could, Ji Yi really wanted to pretend to be confused, but most of the time, things happened beyond her control.

Ji Yi thought she could keep pretending for a long time, but she never imagined that in less than a week after that night in Shanghai, she would have to give up this game.

Because there was no way she could pretend to be confused over what happened to her; there was no way she could erase the realization from her heart.

That incident made her realize that she didn't simply have feelings for He Jichen, but she liked him. She had already fallen for him.

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It was the sixth day after Ji Yi accidentally "kissed" He Jichen.

He Jichen was discharged the second day after that accidental "kiss" happened. Chen Bai came to the hotel at ten in the morning to help He Jichen go up and down the stairs for almost an hour to finish the discharge procedures.

Ji Yi didn't really sleep the night before, so she gracefully turned down Chen Bai's suggestion to have lunch together and headed back home.

Back at home, Ji Yi stayed indoors as usual. When He Jichen was recovering at the hospital, she was by his side for ten whole days to take care of him. She felt like things between them were equivalent to a little pebble being thrown into a lake; neither of them created a big splash. After they parted, she didn't

contact He Jichen, nor did he contact her. It was like what happened wasn't even worth mentioning at all; it was something that was glossed over in their lives.

If it wasn't for what happened six days ago, Ji Yi wouldn't have known when she and He Jichen would meet next.

Following the popularity of "Three Thousand Lunatics," Princess Qing Yang's impression on the audience grew stronger. With the additional label of being YC's first signed female artist, many people now knew Ji Yi. At the same time, there were some not-quite-major-nor-minor jobs that presented themselves to Ji Yi one after the other.

YC had already lined up many jobs for Ji Yi. The manager responsible for Ji Yi was called Zhuang Yi, who wasn't too old but had worked in the industry for about ten years and managed a dozen A-list celebrities.

Zhuang Yi was smart and experienced. Among the many jobs offered to Ji Yi, Zhuang Yi carefully picked out just one endorsement in the end.

Ji Yi gained popularity, so she had to keep it up and maintain momentum. YC organized a job for Ji Yi to go on a major variety show on a satellite TV network that had been popular for almost ten years now.

The filming time for the episode was a little tight as there were just two days. On the first morning of the shooting, it wasn't even light out, yet Zhuang Yi had already driven to Ji Yi's front door.

The shoot was held at a movie and TV studio in the suburbs of South Beijing. By the time they arrived, it was seven in the morning.

On the journey there, Zhuang Yi gave Ji Yi breakfast, so as soon as she arrived at the broadcasting studio, she could go straight to make-up.

There was a rare kind of beauty to Ji Yi's facial features, so the make-up artist only had to apply a simple layer of make-up for her to reach perfection. However, Zhuang Yi stood behind Ji Yi throughout it all, reminding the make-up artist to pay attention to her work in front of the mirror.

Ji Yi was the earliest on set. While she was getting her make up done, other artists filming the show with her started to show up.

Long before Ji Yi got the job, she already saw the casting list for the show. There was a hot new artist, a famous Taiwanese singer from a few years ago, and a considerably popular actor from Hong Kong who never seemed to be able to break into the A-list category.

They were the four guests on the show.

The first to arrive was the hot new artist, then the actor from Hong Kong.

At eight o'clock, the Taiwanese singer still hadn't turned up.

It wasn't until Ji Yi finished doing her make-up, changing her clothes, and started doing her hair that the door to the make-up room was finally pushed open.

Ji Yi thought the Taiwanese singer had finally arrived, so she instinctively turned her head to glance at the door. Before her gaze fell on the person walking through the door, she first heard someone say, “Qian Jie, please sit.”

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Qian Jie?

Ji Yi furrowed her brows and paused for two seconds before her gaze traveled towards the door.

The first to enter her sight was Qian Ge’s assistant, who was carrying two big bags in her hands. Then Qian Ge’s personal make-up artist came into view, dragging a suitcase. Finally, Qian Ge entered in brightly colored clothes.

She wore stilettos which tapped particularly loudly as she walked around the make-up room.

The hot new artist and Qian Ge had worked together a few times, so they were quite familiar with one another. Upon seeing her appearance, the artist was the first to greet her, “Qian Jie.”

Qian Ge smiled brightly and replied, “Long time no see.” Then she averted her gaze to the actor from Hong Kong. Though the two of them had worked in the industry for many years, they only really ever acknowledged each other’s presence, so Qian Ge politely gave him a nod.

The actor from Hong Kong didn’t say anything but returned Qian Ge’s nod.

Finally, Qian Ge looked over at Ji Yi.

Neither of them spoke, but they silently glanced at one another. Qian Ge sat elegantly in front of the make-up chair that her assistant pulled out and started to sweetly describe the look she wanted to go with today to the make-up artist.

As Qian Ge spoke quietly, Ji Yi glanced over at Zhuang Yi standing behind her through the mirror.

Although they’d never really talked, Zhuang Yi knew what Ji Yi was thinking. They were both confused – the cast list clearly had the Taiwanese singer’s name on it, so why was Qian Ge here?

Zhuang Yi shook her head at Ji Yi, silently telling her that she wasn’t sure what happened either. Then she pointed at the door and stepped out.

After about ten minutes, Zhuang Yi returned to the make-up room. Ji Yi had just finished getting her make-up done. Zhuang Yi stood by the side for a while, waiting for the make-up artist to finish up. That was when she walked over to Ji Yi, lowered her head and whispered into Ji Yi’s ear, “I just went to ask someone responsible for the show. They said something happened to the Taiwanese singer, so she couldn’t make it at the last minute. They only contacted Qian Ge last night to save today’s shoot, so there wasn’t enough time to tell the rest of us.”

Though Ji Yi didn’t quite believe the excuse, the staff’s explanation was logical. What’s more, this show was a very important job for her. She couldn’t give it up just because the eyesore – Qian Ge – was present, so all she could do was remind herself to be careful.

They were originally planned to start shooting at ten, but Qian Ge arrived late. Her make-up was only finished at ten, and her place in the entertainment industry was immeasurable, so everyone was particularly nice to her on set. Nobody dared to rush her, so Ji Yi and the other two male artists waited for almost forty minutes before all four of them entered the studio.

After listening to the director's overview, filming officially started at eleven.

They already finished filming the opening dance for the show and revealed the host while the four guests were in make-up, so they started off shooting the four of them on stage.

The show director filmed them once from afar and up close, but since they were already behind schedule, they didn't give everyone a break after they appeared on stage. Instead, they went straight to the self-introduction segment.

The actor from Hong Kong started his career earliest out of all of them. Although he wasn't as famous as Qian Ge, he was considered her senior, so the host called his name first to give a self-introduction.

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The actor from Hong Kong started his career earliest out of all of them. Although he wasn't as famous as Qian Ge, he was considered her senior, so the host called his name first to give a self-introduction.

Next was Qian Ge, then the hot new artist who became really big last year, followed by Ji Yi last.

If the show wanted to attract attention, there needed to be interesting, explosive topics. With Ji Yi being the hottest news online, the female host smiled and tilted her head to ask Ji Yi a question after her self-introduction. "We all know that Ji Yi is the first female artist to be signed with YC. May I ask Ji Yi – how did you feel when YC decided to sign you?"

With that, the presenter brought the mic in front of Ji Yi.

Ji Yi wore the most befitting smile as she honestly described the feeling she had when He Jichen put the three contracts in front of her. "I was a little in disbelief like it was all a dream. I only realized the full implications of the signing several days later. It's the same feeling I have now – I can't believe I'm here on your show."

The female host was the essence of the show; she always knew how to manage time and interact with people. The next second, she reached her hand out after hearing Ji Yi's half-joking words and pretended to forcefully pinch Ji Yi's arm. "Now do you know you're not dreaming?"

The audience roared with laughter as they watched the two of them.

Even the two male actors and presenter on stage started to laugh. Everyone laughed except Qian Ge, whose smile was frozen in place.

Ji Yi was just a third-rate minor actress who hadn't even had a leading role and only recently gained some fame, yet the presenter chose to interact with her... But since it was a live shoot, Qian Ge could only grit her teeth and fiercely suppress her inner rage, preventing herself from marching out right there and then.

Because they were pressed for time, they needed to start the next segment of the show, so the male presenter butted in at the right time. "Alright then! Let's officially start off today's show..."

To prevent appearing rigid as the male presenter spoke, Ji Yi glanced over at him and happened to catch a glimpse of Qian Ge standing next to him. Though Qian Ge was wearing her signature smile, she had an obvious chill in her eyes. Ji Yi's fingers clenched her fingers, which further reminded her to be careful. This show was going to help promote her widely. She couldn't let Qian Ge ruin this for her at such a crucial time.

After the self-introductions were over, the rest of the show was like a game show.

The first game was "Live KTV."

They were split into two teams for the game: Ji Yi, the hot new artist, and the female presenter were on one team. Qian Ge, the actor from Hong Kong, and the male host were on the other team.

Everybody had a microphone in their hands as the music played. Whoever could name the song and be the first to sing all the lyrics got one point. The team with the least points received a punishment.

The hot new artist was famous all over China for a Xianxia drama and became an A-lister overnight.

Before his dramatic rise to fame, he entered showbiz as a singer who participated in many singing competitions and sang covers of popular songs, so everyone on set knew he was familiar with many songs.

In a few short moments after the game started, the hot new artist sang all three of the songs that were played. He earned Ji Yi's group three points.

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The fourth song was the song that made the male presenter famous. Just as the music started, he raised his hand.

Qian Ge's team finally got a point.

The fifth song was a song Ji Yi always really liked. She beat them all to raise her hand first.

The sixth song wasn't a famous song, so the six people on stage were a little bewildered. In the end, the female host cried "pass," and they played the seventh song.

When Ji Yi had nothing to do, she liked to listen to music. Although the female presenter got her fame from being a presenter, she also dabbled in TV dramas and music too. On top of it all, the hot new artist entered showbiz as a singer, so if Ji Yi couldn't remember the song, the hot new artist would get the song. If either of them was stuck, the female presenter took home the point. After a while, the team scores were ten to one.

Even though it was just a show and winning or losing didn't really matter, the comparison of scores looked bad. Everyone was in the same industry, so everybody wanted to keep the peace. When the

thirteenth song played, Ji Yi's team knew well to pretend they couldn't recognize the song and give Qian Ge's team a chance.

The actor from Hong Kong wasn't familiar with the music, but even he managed to sing the song when he heard it.

There were only two songs left. Nobody on Ji Yi's team sang again, so the male presenter sang another. The final song turned out to be a song everyone knew – it was the birthday song. From the very beginning of the game until now, Qian Ge was the only one who hadn't sung, so when nobody on Ji Yi's team raised their hands, the male presenter and actor from Hong Kong mutually knew to give the song to Qian Ge.

In actuality, Qian Ge knew deep down that the most important thing about this game show was the reactions and not the score. However, because she was facing Ji Yi, her accumulated rage grew fiercer as she watched Ji Yi's score increasing after the KTV section of the show began.

Now that everyone was giving her such a simple song, Qian Ge knew they had good intentions, but she saw this as mockery.

Yet she couldn't refuse it, so she raised the mic. Before she sang, she incidentally swept a glance at Ji Yi from the corner of her eye. Ji Yi sensed Qian Ge's gaze and didn't look back at her. Instead, she curved the corners of her lips into a smile and swayed elegantly to the tempo of the music.

The sight of Ji Yi's naturally relaxed-self fell into Qian Ge's eyes, annoying her to the extreme. When it was time for her to sing, she actually forgot and when she snapped back to her senses with some difficulty, she actually sang off-key for such a simple song like the birthday song.

Because they were recording, the director let Qian Ge sing the song again.

The moment Qian Ge sang off-key, she realized she was embarrassing herself. She quickly fixed her pitch and followed the music from the beginning.

This time, she sang without any problems, but Qian Ge felt completely embarrassed as quite a few audience members saw what happened earlier.

It was lunchtime after the "Live KTV" recording was over. At two in the afternoon, they were going to record "The Big Classroom Contest."

This time, one person played on behalf of the team and there were six half-meter tall desks on the stage with a seat for each person. Ji Yi was selected as the player, assigned to sit beside Qian Ge.

"The Big Classroom Contest" asked all sorts of questions. Luckily, Ji Yi was still in school and remembered many things. She got first place in this game without exerting any effort.

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Ji Yi, who was nicknamed the "bookworm," needed to get up to collect her prize. With the director's signal, she got up. Then under the eyes of the other three celebrities, the presenters, and the live

audience, Ji Yi turned around to walk over to the platform. When her right leg took a step, she felt something hard and round from under her heel.

The stage floor was already slippery, so since Ji Yi was wearing heels, she didn't have time to guess what was underneath her feet. The object was round, so her body rolled forward. With a "dong!" Ji Yi fell hard on the platform and laid sprawled on the stage under everyone's eyes.

The accident happened far too unexpectedly as nobody on set reacted.

Besides the celebratory music, there were no other sounds in the entire studio.

After about ten seconds, the female presenter was the first to snap back to reality. "Ji Yi, are you okay?"

The female celebrity didn't turn off her microphone as her voice traveled around each corner of the studio. Following this, the people on set started to realize what happened one after the other.

The three actors on stage and the two presenters were closest to Ji Yi. Everyone jumped down onto the stage and surrounded Ji Yi.

"Ji Yi, are you alright?"

"Are you injured somewhere?"

"Can you still stand up?"

Amidst everyone's caring words, Qian Ge's gaze wasn't focused on Ji Yi like everyone else, but she scanned the stage to see the scattered pearls around Ji Yi. She went over to her and pretended to care for her, but when no one was looking, she started to pick up the pearls.

Soon after, the director, Zhuang Yi, and other staff members rushed to the stage.

"What's the situation?" The second after the director asked this, they saw Ji Yi's right ankle was shockingly red and swollen. He suddenly cried, "Did you twist your ankle? Quickly take her to the hospital and check if she hurt any muscles or bones!"

Just as the director finished speaking, the actor from Hong Kong said, "I'll go."

As he said this, he bent over and hastily carried Ji Yi down the stage.

Zhuang Yi quickly rushed over.

Outside the studio, Zhuang Yi immediately reached for her car keys. After they found her car, she quickly rushed over to the front of the car and pulled the door open.

After the Hong Kong actor lifted Ji Yi into the car, Zhuang Yi shut the door and got in.

Ji Yi was in so much pain that she was pale white. She leaned back in the car seat, chattered her teeth, and couldn't say a thing.

Zhuang Yi repeated, "Hold on! Hold on! We'll reach the hospital real soon!" Then she stepped on the gas and left the studio.

They were in the suburbs, so even if Zhuang Yi drove fast, it would still take half an hour to reach the nearest hospital in the city.

The actor from Hong Kong stayed with her all the way. After the car stopped, he picked up Ji Yi again. With Zhuang Yi taking the lead, he signed Ji Yi into the emergency unit and brought her to a doctor.

The most painful the moment when Ji Yi tripped wasn't when her knee first touched the ground but when her ankle got twisted.

Earlier in the year, she twisted her ankle when she was in Lijiang, so she was familiar with this pain. However, this time, the pain felt infinitely sharper. It hurt so much that she was sprawled on the ground and couldn't breathe.

That kind of pain scared her. She was afraid that she had injured her bones or muscles.

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She had recently got some fame in the show business with some difficulty, but this incident would now make her lose all the company-assigned job and all potential jobs would be given to other artists.

But sometimes, the more you're afraid of something, the more likely it will happen.

The doctor first took an x-ray of Ji Yi. After about an hour, the doctor looked over the scans. With just one glance, the doctor told Ji Yi that she sprained her ankle and needed a cast.

While they were taking care of Ji Yi's injury, Zhuang Yi first saw the Hong Kong actor out of the hospital. When she returned, Ji Yi still hadn't come out from the doctor's office, so Zhuang Yi leaned against the wall opposite the door.

When she lifted her head, she saw Ji Yi through the window and realized she still hadn't told what happened to Ji Yi during the recording of the show to the company.

After Zhuang Yi pulled out her phone, she searched for He Jichen's number.

When he arranged for her to be Ji Yi's manager, he specifically stressed that she should report everything about Ji Yi directly to him.

After she made the call, it rang a few times before it got picked up.

Zhuang Yi instinctively straightened up and was just about to say "Mr. He" when she heard Chen Bai's voice over the phone: "Zhuang Yi, is this something urgent? Mr. He is in a meeting right now..."

Zhuang Yi swallowed her words and after a couple of seconds, she said, "It's Ji Yi. She was in an accident."

"Miss Ji?" Chen Bai raised his voice by half a decibel. "What happened to Miss Ji?"

"During the filming for the variety show, she fell from the platform and twisted her leg..." Zhuang Yi explained what happened in full detail to Chen Bai over the phone.

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Even though He Jichen picked up some work during the last week of his hospital stay, he still had a ton of work to do.

On the fourth day after he was discharged, he flew to America on a business trip.

He gave Chen Bai his phone for safekeeping during the trip.

He Jichen had a meeting all-night-long and it was half past five in the afternoon in America when Chen Bai got Zhuang Yi's call.

The conference didn't end until six forty-seven when it was completely bright outside.

He Jichen just closed his laptop when Chen Bai hurriedly rushed in.

Someone happened to walk up to He Jichen to talk to him, so he shared a few polite words with him. After their conversation, Chen Bai immediately whispered in He Jichen's ear: "Mr. He, I just got a call from Miss Ji's manager, Zhuang Yi..."

He Jichen abruptly stopped tidying his desk full of documents as a horrible feeling started to enter his heart. Yet he didn't say a word.

"Over the phone, Zhuang Yi said Miss Ji accidentally fell from the stage during her recording and twisted her ankle." With a pause, Chen Bai tried to remember what Zhuang Yi said before she hung up. "But today was strange. A Taiwanese actress was meant to be on set today, but for some reason, it turned out to be Qian Ge. The show explained that at the last minute, something urgent came up for the Taiwanese actress, so she couldn't make it." Then he added, "Also, Mr. He, the female celebrity Miss Ji recorded the show with today was Qian Ge."

He Jichen's brows were raised. He looked like he suddenly understood something. The next second, his voice sounded frigid: "Book a ticket. I want the earliest flight out."

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It was already half-past six in the evening when Zhuang Yi emerged from the hospital pushing Ji Yi in a wheelchair. It happened to be rush hour, so the main roads were jammed from the southern to the northern part of the city.

The car stopped and started for about forty minutes until the traffic became smoother. Zhuang Yi was just about to speed up when her phone rang.

The car had been silent until the phone suddenly rang, which caused Ji Yi to instinctively turn her head and look over at Zhuang Yi.

She noticed Zhuang Yi glancing over at the phone screen. Then she raised her head and she glanced at Ji Yi through the rearview mirror and found her Bluetooth earpiece. After she put it on, she swiped the screen and took the call. "Director Lin, hello."

The director Lin that Zhuang Yi spoke of was someone she met a few days ago at YC; he was in charge of YC artists.

Because Zhuang Yi had her earpiece in, Ji Yi couldn't hear what director Lin was saying, but she was afraid that director Lin called Zhuang Yi to discuss what happened during the recording.

Just as Ji Yi's suspicions formed in her mind, she heard Zhuang Yi's voice from the driver's seat: "She wasn't careful, so she tripped and sprained her ankle. Her condition is good and it's not especially serious..."

After some time, Zhuang Yi spoke again but with a less confident tone in her voice. "...Perhaps, probably, maybe, about a month."

Ji Yi figured that director Lin got mad over the phone – otherwise, Zhuang Yi wouldn't be repeatedly apologizing. "Yes yes yes, Mr. Lin. We're terribly sorry for what happened this time. It was also my fault..."

"Come to the office now?" Zhuang Yi spoke with a slightly higher voice then glanced at Ji Yi again through the rearview mirror. After a pause, she said, "Mr. Lin, today is probably inconvenient for us as the doctor said it would be best for Ji Yi not to move around because her leg is in a cast, so you see..."

She didn't know what Mr. Lin said over the phone, but he probably hung up since Zhuang Yi took off the earpiece. She stared at the road ahead and drove about a dozen meters then said, "Ji Yi, you have to come with me to the office tomorrow morning."

"Mhm," softly replied Ji Yi. She stared out at the endlessly retreating streets without another word.

After a while, she withdrew her gaze and looked over at Zhuang Yi as she drove and asked, "This time, did I cause you and the company a lot of trouble?"

"Huh?" Zhuang Yi turned her head and glanced at Ji Yi for a moment but quickly drew her gaze back to the road. "Nah... I've had bigger problems than this. What's more, nobody wanted something like this to happen..."

After a pause, Zhuang Yi added, "...But, Ji Yi, you have to be careful in the future."

"Got it," responded Ji Yi with her eyes lowered.

Even though Zhuang Yi sounded very polite, Ji Yi knew that no matter if it was director Lin or Zhuang Yi speaking, she was more or less unsatisfied with what happened today.

After Zhuang Yi took Ji Yi home, she left.

Ji Yi's parents still hadn't finished work yet, so Ji Yi maneuvered the wheelchair to her bedroom and climbed into bed with one foot on the floor.

After lying down for some time, her phone started to ring. She glanced at the screen to see that it was Zhuang Yi calling. After she picked up the call, Zhuang Yi reminded her, "I'll pick you up at nine tomorrow morning."

Seconds after they hung up, the phone rang again. Ji Yi assumed Zhuang Yi must've forgotten to mention something. This time without looking at the screen, Ji Yi asked, "Is there anything else?"

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After Ji Yi said that, she didn't get a reply for some time, so she felt like something wasn't right. For some reason, her eyelids flickered and the next second, she raised her phone to eye-level and saw the two words on the display: Qian Ge.

Why's she calling me?

Ji Yi still hadn't recovered from the shock of Qian Ge's sudden call when Qian Ge's voice rang out from the phone: "I heard you had quite a serious fall?"

Ji Yi's eyes instantly turned cold.

She didn't believe Qian Ge called because she genuinely cared. No matter what her real aim was for her call, Ji Yi didn't believe it was for anything good.

After what happened during the recording that afternoon, she was already in a terrible mood. She really wasn't in the right mindset to take on Qian Ge.

Ji Yi pretended she hadn't heard what Qian Ge said by staying silent. She prepared to hang up.

Before her fingers could touch the screen, it was like Qian Ge knew she was going to hang up on her as she spoke again: "Sprained your ankle and got a cast? They say you'll need at least a month to recover?"

Qian Ge let out a soft sigh as she continued to speak in a pitying voice: "Ah, that's a real shame... you missed out on such a good variety show, just like that. I heard the show found out you couldn't continue recording, so they started looking for other actresses!"

Ji Yi couldn't help but clutch her phone tightly.

It was like Qian Ge could sense Ji Yi's annoyance through the phone as the words from her mouth sounded even more smug: "It looks like you didn't just lose out on the variety show alone – I'm afraid you lost all those jobs YC tried so hard to get you, right?"

As she said this, Qian Ge let out a light chuckle and said with a mocking yet disdainful tone of voice, "I thought you'd be all high and mighty four years later, but you're no better than you were four years ago. Such great opportunities in front of you, yet you missed out. After all He Jichen's hard work, what a shame. Say, how could he have not figured it out; how could he support such a disappointing person? What did he say at the beginning? That wherever you were, you would be at the top? It's funny now that you think about it... an opportunity was handed to someone who couldn't even hold onto it. What future can there be for you?!"

"But then again, Ji Yi... don't you accept your fate now? You were never a match for me, Qian Ge. I don't really have a reason for calling you today. I just wanted to tell you..." Qian Ge paused for a moment then said with a sternness in her voice: "... As long I, Qian Ge, am still in the show business, you can quit dreaming about ever making it big someday!"

All of a sudden, the image of the round object beneath her foot when she went to collect her prize flashed across Ji Yi's mind.

For Qian Ge to say something like that... what happened today really wasn't an accident, but it was intentional!

Ji Yi's lips pursed as she spoke for the first time since picking up the phone: "You had something to do with what happened today, didn't you?"

Ji Yi didn't wait for Qian Ge to speak as she thought about that Taiwanese singer who couldn't make it at the last minute. "And that Taiwanese singer 1 – that was your idea, right?"

Over the phone, Qian Ge let out a light chuckle but didn't reply to Ji Yi's question. Instead, she changed the subject. "Since you missed out on this variety show, do you know who's going to replace you?"