

Chapter 681: You're the Joy of my Adolescence, the Adolescent Who I Liked (21)

It was like Ji Yi's soul had left her body as she couldn't hear anything around her.

That was when Zhuang Yi sensed something was wrong and apologized to the director. Zhuang Yi hurriedly ran over to the set and reached out to touch Ji Yi's arm. "Xiao Yi, you're on set! How could you be daydreaming?"

That was when Ji Yi blinked and looked at Zhuang Yi with red eyes.

Sensing that Ji Yi was acting strange, a hint of worry surfaced Zhuang Yi's face. She hurriedly whispered in her ear, "What's wrong?"

Ji Yi shook her head and looked down.

When she raised her eyes again, the redness had completely disappeared. She didn't reply to Zhuang Yi but glanced over at the director.

The director had been paying attention to Ji Yi's condition all along, so seeing her look over at him, he hurriedly said, "You're okay, right?"

Ji Yi shook her head and forced an apologetic smile at him.

The director wasn't mad, but he ordered the makeup artist to touch up her makeup. They would shoot again later.

Ji Yi figured she could use this short break to regain her composure. However, when it came time to shoot for the second time, her mind wandered to He Jichen again before she could even ask the male lead: "Can we really not go back to how things were before?" Even after trying so hard to calm down, she was distracted again and her hands balled into fists. She wanted to calm down, but after balling her hands up so hard, her palms hurt so badly that they lost all feeling. She still felt unbelievably confused until, in the end, her mind went completely blank. Not to mention the lines she memorized long ago, but she couldn't even remember the line "Can we really not go back to how things were before?"

Seeing as the director hadn't yet asked Ji Yi what was wrong, she turned to the male lead, who was waiting for her to say her line. She bowed and apologized, "Sorry."

Then she ran over to the director.

Stopping in front of the director, Ji Yi put on an earnest front and said, "Director, I'm really sorry. I can't seem to get into character today because I have some personal issues to deal with. Do you think we can..."

Before she could finish, the director understood what she wanted.

Since she started filming "Jiuchong Palace," Ji Yi hadn't made any mistakes. This was the first time, so the director wasn't mad at her for delaying the production process or wasting time. In contrast, he nodded at Ji Yi with forgiveness and said, "Alright. We'll shoot other scenes first until you've recovered."

After a short pause, the director remembered that there were just two days till the end of production and added, "As quickly as possible. We can't delay shooting for too long."

Ji Yi apologized again to the director then said, "Thank you." To avoid interrupting everyone during their shoot, she and Zhuang Yi left the set.

Back at the hotel, Ji Yi didn't let Zhuang Yi stay with her and immediately locked herself up in the hotel room.

Ji Yi laid in bed, staring up at the ceiling. She clearly sensed her rupturing pain and sadness from the deepest part of her heart, hitting her wave after wave.

It hurt. It really did hurt...

That helpless feeling of clearly not wanting him to leave. It really hurt...

The dull feeling in her chest didn't subside in time, but instead, it became heavier and heavier.

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Ji Yi didn't know just how long she endured this pain for; all she knew was that when she slowly came back to her senses, her room was already pitch black.

She reached for her phone and glanced at the time.

It was nine in the evening.

After she came back from the studio, she actually laid in bed for almost six hours.

At this time, the hotel restaurant was closed. She hadn't had dinner and she had work the next day. If any problems came up because of her hunger, that would delay production.

With that thought, Ji Yi reached out, turned on the lights, then climbed out of bed. She found her purse and left the hotel.

After entering the hotel supermarket, Ji Yi picked out two buns. When she went to pay, she happened to pass by the alcohol section. She hesitated for a moment then crouched down and picked up a tasty beer she tried before. In the heat of the moment, she went back and grabbed a dozen bottles.

Back at the hotel room, Ji Yi tore into the buns. Without tasting a thing, she ate until she was full. Then she opened a bottle of beer. As she sat on the wooden floors in front of the tall windows, she stared out at the night sky, drinking on her own.

The room was very quiet. Aside from the sound of her chugging beer, nothing else could be heard.

The still atmosphere made Ji Yi feel quite stifled. She reached around for her phone on the ground, tapped a music app, and randomly picked a song.

While listening to music, Ji Yi drank one bottle after another.

She figured she could sleep well if she got drunk, but who knew that the more she drank, the sadder she would feel?

Eventually, tears crashed down from her eyes as she drank.

She wasn't sure how many songs played from her playlist when all of a sudden, a familiar melody started to play.

Ji Yi stopped drinking then heard He Jichen's voice coming out from her phone.

"It honestly feels like a good thing that doesn't have to be promised. I thought I could let you do what you want. Besides, I have nowhere to go."

This was the audio clip Tang Huahua recorded and sent to her a few days ago. Tang Huahua was organizing her phone when she incidentally came across the clip she recorded on Ji Yi's birthday last year.

After Tang Huahua sent it to her, she saved it to her phone.

Ji Yi had been feeling so down about him lately and was afraid she'd lose herself, so she hadn't dared to listen to it. She never imagined that this song would come up today after she randomly put on a playlist.

"I would rather stay within your radius. At least I can feel your happiness and sadness..."

When Ji Yi heard this, her momentarily-halted tears started to pour out again.

He Jichen, do you know? Right now, I identify so strongly with the lyrics of this song. I want to keep you within my radius. It doesn't matter if you don't love me, and it's fine if we never speak again as long as I can see you every now and then from afar. But you're leaving Beijing now, so I can't even hope for that...

"You can choose to love me or not; I am still yours no matter what. Because I love you, so it has nothing to do with you..."

Ji Yi couldn't listen anymore. She quickly swiped on her phone and stopped the music.

She gripped her phone tightly as her body couldn't help but tremble. She started to sob quietly.

Stunned for two seconds, she realized a sound was coming from her phone. She looked over at it and realized that while she was clutching onto her phone, her fingers accidentally made a call...

With that thought, Ji Yi glanced at the screen.

She just saw the three words "He Jichen" and had no time to react before his crisp voice came out from the phone: "Xiao Yi?"

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The familiar voice made Ji Yi's heart suddenly shudder, causing her phone to almost fall to the floor.

She stared at the flashing phone screen like an illusion had appeared. All of a sudden, she forgot to speak.

He Jichen waited a while, but seeing as Ji Yi still hadn't made a sound, he repeated, "Xiao Yi?"

Ji Yi shuddered from He Jichen's voice then she instinctively blurted out, "At..."

She made the call without knowing, so she hadn't planned what she was going to say to him. She replied with just one word then stopped.

"What's wrong?" probed He Jichen again, seeing as Ji Yi didn't say anything. After waiting just a few short seconds, his voice came out from the phone again. "Why aren't you saying anything?"

"No..." This time, Ji Yi didn't pause for too long. She quickly said something but stopped again after just one syllable.

Perhaps it was because she'd been crying far too heavily that her nose couldn't help but quietly sniff.

Even though it was very soft, He Jichen caught on. He didn't wait for her to continue speaking and quickly said, "Did something happen?"

His voice sounded pleasant and elegant, but there was a hidden worry that Ji Yi was far too familiar with. Ji Yi felt her tears suddenly falling again.

Though they were a phone call apart, she still hurriedly lifted her hand to wipe her tears, but as she did so, more and more tears fell. Soon enough, her palm was drenched.

"Xiao Yi?" He Jichen's voice worriedly cried her name again.

Ji Yi heard those two words and cried even more loudly. She couldn't hold it in as the sound of a sob suddenly escaped.

She was afraid to cry aloud, so in a split-second, she quickly covered her mouth and swiftly ended the call.

She buried her face in her palms and cried with her shoulders shuddering for quite some time. After the weight on her mind subsided, she reached out and grabbed a bottle of beer.

Just as she removed the lid and took a gulp, a knock came at her hotel room door.

Ji Yi glanced at the time on the hotel clock. It was almost eleven in the evening. Is Zhuang Yi looking for me?

With that thought, another knock came at the door.

Ji Yi hurriedly put the beer down, got up and ran to the door.

Before she opened the door, she didn't forget to run into the bathroom and splash water over her face to wash off the tear stains.

She randomly pulled out two pieces of tissue and wiped her face and hands while walking over to the door. Just as she pulled the door open without seeing who was on the other side of the door, another

knock came. However, it was just two knocks. The person knocking at the door probably didn't notice that the door was open. The person stopped knocking then a voice was heard. "Xiao Yi."

The blood in Ji Yi's body suddenly stopped running.

She sluggishly raised her head for a few seconds then stared at the person outside.

He Jichen, who she just hung up on, was now standing right in front of her.

He didn't seem to realize that she was in a trance as he took a step towards her. "What the hell is wrong?"

After he asked, he smelled the scent of alcohol and furrowed his brows. Then he said, "Have you been drinking?"

As he said this, he raised his head and looked into her eyes, scanning her up and down.

The strands of hair by her temple were wet. She must've washed her face before opening the door.

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Her face looked rather pale and the rims of her eyes were red, revealing that she'd been crying.

She was crying and drinking... He Jichen's brows furrowed tightly as his voice sounded a lot quieter and slower: "Are you upset? Did something happen?"

When she heard this, Ji Yi snapped out of her trance.

She stared at him but didn't say a word and remembered how he once spoke to her with the same soft and patient tone of voice. Not long after she joined YC, he got into an argument with director Lin and the other people at the company over her fall during the variety show recording. She was in a terrible mood and hadn't eaten anything, so he ordered food for her...

She was afraid that if she ever got sad again, there wouldn't be someone like him who could defend her and cheer her up like that ever again...

With that thought, Ji Yi felt her eyes aching.

She didn't want to cry in front of him, so in a split-second, she raised her lips. Without directly replying, she asked her own question: "Why did you come over?"

"I had business to deal with, so I came over to the studio," replied He Jichen vaguely. He didn't let her know that the only reason he went to Hengdian was because Zhuang Yi called him and told him what happened during Ji Yi's shoot in the afternoon. She even told him that for some reason, she was distracted today and hadn't come out from her room after asking the director for the day off. He was worried, so he asked Chen Bai to book him a plane ticket and he flew over.

After Ji Yi replied, He Jichen quickly changed the subject. "What about you? What the hell happened?"

"I'm fine. I'm just not in a great mood." She realized He Jichen was still standing outside the door and quickly moved aside. "Come in and sit."

He Jichen didn't say anything but stared at her as though he didn't believe her.

Ji Yi thought about it for a moment then explained with certainty, "I feel sad every week for a few days for some reason."

He Jichen seemed to believe her and relaxed his tightened brows. He then walked into the room.

With the door shut, Ji Yi signaled for He Jichen to sit anywhere. Then she sat back on the floor in front of the tall windows where she was daydreaming earlier.

There were several empty bottles of beer scattered everywhere and there were still some unopened beers in the bag on her right...

He Jichen couldn't help but furrow his brows again as he watched. "Why did you drink so many?"

"I haven't drank this much in so long..." Ji Yi handed He Jichen the beer she just opened. "...Do you want some?"

He Jichen hesitated for a while but took it.

Ji Yi grabbed another bottle of beer, raised it to He Jichen, then put it to the side of her lips and started to gulp.

He Jichen wanted to stop Ji Yi, so he moved his lips but didn't say anything. All he did was stare at her unwaveringly as she drank.

After drinking half the bottle of beer, Ji Yi raised her hand and wiped her mouth. Then she noticed He Jichen hadn't drunk from the bottle in his hands and couldn't help but ask, "Why aren't you drinking?"

He Jichen put the beer bottle to his lips and took just a sip.

Just as he stopped, Ji Yi raised her bottle at him again. All He Jichen could do was raise his bottle and drink with her.

Ji Yi lowered the bottle from her lips and glared at He Jichen. After he stopped gulping his beer, Ji Yi couldn't help but ask, "I heard you... are going to leave Beijing?"

He Jichen remained silent for a while then gently nodded and replied, "Mhm."

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His casual reply cut Ji Yi like a knife, tearing into her heart.

She didn't dare keep looking at He Jichen. A second after his voice fell, she averted her gaze out the window.

After some time, she cried, "I also heard that..."

She didn't manage to finish what she was saying when a warm, piercing pain crept into her eyes. Her throat became stifled as she tried her hardest to swallow. When she was sure her voice was back to normal, she continued to say: "...You might not come back this time?"

He Jichen brought the beer to his lips. After drinking half the bottle, he finally replied to Ji Yi. This time, he didn't nod but gently replied, "Mhm."

He wouldn't be making a grand return. Perhaps it'd be like four years ago when he secretly came to Beijing on his own and watched over her from afar, but he wouldn't let anyone know...

Ji Yi's throat felt unbelievably stifled. She was afraid to cry, so she started to chug the beer.

The bottle of beer only left her lips when it was completely finished. Then she stared up at the ceiling and held her gaze for a while. She waited for the ache in her eyes to fade away before she slowly lowered her head and deliberately tried to sound relaxed. "Are you going back to take over the company?"

Lately, he'd been busy setting out her future path that he hadn't been thinking about his own future. He was more or less going back to Sucheng and was going to make other plans, but he hadn't really thought about it...

As He Jichen was deep in thought, he didn't reply. Ji Yi took that as silent affirmation and said, "He Enterprises is great. Compared to YC, you'll probably be a little busier, but there'll be less pressure. After all, you'll be on the right track for everything. Most importantly, you can earn more money, which is pretty great..."

Actually, it wasn't great at all. She didn't want him to leave Beijing or YC at all...

...even if she was now signed to a different company. However, after she finished speaking, she raised her lips slightly. She turned to look at He Jichen and spoke as though she was trying to convince herself by emphasizing it again, "...It's really great."

He Jichen gazed deeply at Ji Yi for a while but didn't say anything. All he did was raise his bottle to his lips as he withdrew his gaze.

Ji Yi watched him drink and grabbed another bottle from the bedside. After she removed the lid, she started to drink with him.

Before He Jichen arrived, Ji Yi already drank quite a bit. In that very moment, she was feeling a little tipsy. She was really afraid that after she sobered up, she'd suddenly start crying uncontrollably if she continued talking about He Jichen's future without her.

So Ji Yi waited until after she swallowed the beer in her mouth then changed the subject. "During my afternoon shoot, one of the lines I had to deliver was 'Can we really not go back to how things were?' That made me think back to what happened on my birthday..."

Even though Ji Yi didn't describe it in detail, He Jichen knew she was talking about the time he told her "Can we go back to how things were before?".

He knew she hadn't finished speaking, so he didn't interrupt her.

Ji Yi took another gulp then continued, "...Then I thought back to what happened in senior high."

As she said that, Ji Yi looked over towards He Jichen again. "Oh yeah... He Jichen, did you know?"

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"Even though the first time I met you was at your house in our third year of junior high, I actually knew about you the first day I arrived at Sucheng."

He Jichen looked at Ji Yi with a little disbelief.

Slightly tipsy, Ji Yi didn't give He Jichen a chance to speak as she continued by saying, "My grandma mentioned you. Granny told me that the neighbors were a rich family with two identical twins; the older son was polite and respectful, but the younger one was a devil. If I ever saw the one with the red string around his wrist, I had to stay as far away from him as possible..."

Ji Yi couldn't help but smile at the thought of how she used to sneak peeks and hide far away from He Jichen before they became close. "...I used to really listen to granny, so I immediately blacklisted you..."

Absolutely clueless about this, He Jichen was left a little speechless as he furrowed his brows. "Granny was really scatter-brained. One time she forgot her keys, so she couldn't get into the house. I had to risk my life by jumping into granny's window and helping her open the door."

He Jichen immediately caught onto the three words "risk my life." Ji Yi couldn't help but laugh again as she took another gulp of beer. For the most part, she really had drunk too much. Her vision was hazy and her expression became soft. "...But, He Jichen, Yuguang Ge was the one who told me your name, not granny."

At the mention of his name, Ji Yi suddenly looked like she remembered something important then blinked gently. Without waiting for He Jichen to speak, she continued by saying, "At the time, when I heard your name, I thought it sounded better than Yuguang Ge's name because..."

Ji Yi stopped abruptly and pushed the answer back down and tilted her head. "...He Jichen, do you know why?" she asked.

He also thought her name was unusually pleasing to the ear the first time he heard it because her name had the same "Ji" from his own name.

Even after deep thought, He Jichen really couldn't figure out why Ji Yi thought his name sounded nice, so he shook his head at her. Then he asked with an earnest look on his face: "Why?"

"Because..." Ji Yi stopped for a second, curved her lips into a smile and said, "...Ji."

He Jichen's fingers around his beer bottle trembled for a moment. He thought he heard wrong, so he didn't dare make a sound or flinch.

"The 'Ji' in Ji Yi and the 'Ji' in He Jichen. Don't you think that's a coincidence? Our names both have 'Ji' in them. Because of this, I thought your name sounded especially nice..."

Before Ji Yi could finish her final word, He Jichen suddenly said, "What a coincidence."

Ji Yi suddenly froze as she didn't quite understand what He Jichen meant by those three words.



He Jichen knew Ji Yi didn't understand him, so he looked her right in the eyes and continued to explain with a flat voice, "Me too. Because of the character 'Ji,' I thought your name sounded particularly nice."

Ji Yi's lips gaped slightly as though she was gently stimulated by something. She felt an intense feeling filling up her chest as she stared right at He Jichen. After a while, her lips curved into a smile then she replied, "That's a real coincidence."

He Jichen nodded but didn't say anything. All he did was stare deeply back at Ji Yi.

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Ji Yi's breathing slowly faltered under He Jichen's gaze as she gradually withdrew the smile on her lips.

The atmosphere in the room became a little odd. He Jichen fluttered his eyelids gently, put the beer bottle to his lips and took a big gulp. All of a sudden, it looked like he remembered something. "Actually, the same for me too. The first time I found out about you wasn't that time you were at my house."

Wasn't the time I was at his house... Ji Yi stared at He Jichen's eyes with a flash of curiosity.

He put on the same expression Ji Yi had when she told the story of the first time she heard about him. Like before, he didn't wait for her to ask and continued by saying, "It was over a year before then, on the school's outdoor track. You walked out of the restroom with two girls and happened to pass by me. I heard you say something and glanced back at you. That was the moment I found out about you..."

Then I remembered you and fell deeply in love with you.

Over a year earlier... At the time, she hadn't been in Sucheng for too long... But, how could she not remember seeing him as she walked by the track?

Ji Yi thought about it deeply for a while then realized that she forgot something important. "What did I say to make you glance back at me?" she asked hurriedly.

He Jichen didn't reply Ji Yi but looked down and laughed.

Ji Yi looked at the expression on He Jichen's face and grew even more curious. "What did I actually say?"

He Jichen still didn't say anything but reached into his pocket to grab his phone.

Ji Yi stared at He Jichen who was typing on his phone. Just as she was going to rush him, she heard her phone go off – "ding dong." She picked up her phone that she'd so casually tossed aside and immediately saw He Jichen's text that read: "a condom each."

Ji Yi's eyes suddenly widened.

When did I say this?

Confusion flashed across Ji Yi's head as another message popped up on her phone screen. It was He Jichen again. "Let me ask you guys – if one night, you went out on your own and were stopped by two thugs who wanted to rape you, what would you do?"

After reading that message, Ji Yi vaguely started to remember that it really did happen.

Her face flushed in an instant.

Conversations between girls were wilder than wild, so she felt a little embarrassed that a guy heard such a thing. Ji Yi couldn't help but try to explain her younger self in a hushed voice, "At the time, I just said it randomly."

"Mhm." He Jichen knew she was embarrassed, so he didn't linger on the topic for too long and changed the subject. "Later, I even saw you once or twice, but I only found out your name that time you were at my house."

"But after that, I think we weren't really close. We saw each other at school, yet we never said hello," said Ji Yi as she couldn't help but continue for him.

"Yeah, we weren't really close until the second year of senior high. I think that's when we started to talk," said He Jichen.

"Yeah, it was that time with Sun Zhang. That's when we became friends."

He Jichen shook his head. "I don't think we started talking after what happened with Sun Zhang..."

Even though it happened several years ago, He Jichen could still clearly remember what was said and where, after the first time they met. "...That day was founder's day and my birthday. Fatty was messing around and brought you over to KTV..."

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As he said that, Ji Yi instantly remembered the incident.

He Jichen was still reminiscing. "...At the time, I really didn't know about it. As soon as I walked into the room and saw you, I was confused. Before I could ask what this was all about, you splashed beer all over my face."

"At the time, I was afraid I wouldn't make it back to my performance, so I was a little impatient. That day was your birthday. I shouldn't have done that to you..." At the mention of the beer splashing incident, Ji Yi lowered her eyes apologetically.

"It all happened because of me after all, so you had every right to be mad at me." As he said this, He Jichen looked like he was deep in thought as he suddenly paused for a moment before continuing. "But since you just mentioned Sun Zhang, you made me remember this one thing that happened. The incident with Sun Zhang at the track wasn't the first time we clashed. Before that, I punched him once at the internet cafe."

"Internet cafe?" Completely in the dark, Ji Yi put down the beer she was drinking in confusion and looked at He Jichen.

He Jichen softly replied, "Mhm..." like he was thinking back to what happened. He was in deep thought for a moment then said, "...I think he was at a computer at the time, sitting next to you. When he left, he deliberately tripped and leaned against your body. I happened to see it, so I asked Fatty to bring him up to the second floor and kicked him a few times..."

Ji Yi didn't remember that incident, but after hearing He Jichen's story, she remembered something that she hadn't understood back when she was in school.

Fatty and the gang always surrounded her every time she went to the internet cafe.

At first she didn't notice, but she eventually realized that the gang always stayed with her as she started to recognize a few faces over time. Back then, she assumed it was a coincidence. However, He Jichen just told her that Sun Zhang leaned onto her body and as a result, got beaten up by Fatty and the others...

With that thought, Ji Yi asked, "So back then, did you arrange for Fatty and the others to surround me every time I went to the internet cafe?"

Because they were bringing up the past and He Jichen was deep in thought, he hesitated for a few seconds after hearing what Ji Yi asked. Then he replied, "Yeah."

Hearing this answer, the suspicion in Ji Yi's heart grew more concrete as she continued to ask, "You made them surround me just to stop Sun Zhang from harassing me?"

This arrangement wasn't just targeted at Sun Zhang alone, but at anyone who messed with her. However, seeing as she guessed one part right, He Jichen nodded right away and replied, "Mhm."

So before we even knew each other well, he was already protecting me secretly?

This was clearly something warm and positive, but after Ji Yi found out, she felt even sadder and sorrowful in her heart.

If this was a little earlier, before she developed feelings for Yuguang Ge and before she knew what she now knew, would she be as sad?

Ji Yi didn't say anything else and chugged her beer like her life depended on it.

Because of her conversation with He Jichen, image upon image of their past played like a movie on Ji Yi's mind.

The image of them winning a doll at the funfair; the image of him skipping class with her and going to the internet cafe to play games; the image of him threatening Fatty to help her clean up...

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The image of when they fought once because of Qian Ge; the image of when he ran over to give her an umbrella in the heavy rain even when they were on bad terms...

During class, she got a stomach ache because she ate something cold. Before the teacher could say anything, he crouched down in front of her and piggybacked her to the nurse's office...

The more she thought about it, the more Ji Yi was moved. In the end, she felt so emotional that she couldn't hold it down anymore. She couldn't resist the urge and cried out, "He Jichen..."

Sitting beside her while also reminiscing, He Jichen heard her voice. He slowly his head around and looked at her. "What's wrong?"

The floor lamp in front of the tall window shone a pale yellow light, accentuating his perfect features.

Ji Yi wasn't sure if it was because she was drunk or if it was because of He Jichen, but she suddenly felt a little dizzy. "Did you know? If I had to use a phrase to describe you, do you know what I'd use?"

He Jichen didn't say anything and watched as Ji Yi's gaze suddenly turned serious and focused.

Ji Yi looked back at He Jichen, softly gulped, then continued to speak.

Every word spoken with her gentle voice sounded unusually sweet in the silent room. "You were the joy of my adolescence."

To her, he was just the joy of her adolescence... A sense of loneliness entered He Jichen's heart. Before the dreary feeling crept into his eyes, he turned his head and looked out the window.

You were the joy of my adolescence and the person I liked.

This was once the most beautiful confession she read on Weibo.

It was just a shame he didn't understand it...

Ji Yi silently stared at He Jichen.

It wasn't clear how long the silence lasted in the room. The alcohol had completely taken over Ji Yi, but before her mind became even hazier, He Jichen suddenly broke the silence in the room. "Xiao Yi, then if I had to describe you with one phrase, do you know what I would use?"

Ji Yi didn't say anything but stared unwaveringly at He Jichen's profile.

As he stared out the window, He Jichen's eyelids fluttered lightly then moved his lips. "My name has your surname in it."

My name has your surname in it... Such a beautiful line. It sounded so similar to what people said during proposals – "With my name, I'll give you your surname."

Why did I only find out about these words today? Why did I only just learn how he's been secretly protecting me before we even got close...?

Ji Yi's eyes started to ache and it felt like something was lodged in her throat. After a lot of effort, she was able to speak again. "He Jichen, no matter where you go, I hope you're happy."

He Jichen's fingers trembled gently for a moment and an indescribable pain churned in the depths of his heart.

It was time to say goodbye...

Like before, he stared out the window and said with a soft voice, "You too. No matter what happens in the future, I hope you get what you want and let go of what you can't have."

Tears started to well up in Ji Yi's eyes. She naturally shut her eyes and downed the full bottle of beer in her hand.

When she put the bottle down, she spoke again. "He Jichen."

When he heard her voice, He Jichen tore his gaze from the window, turned his head and looked at Ji Yi.

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He Jichen's handsome face suddenly barged into her field of vision, causing Ji Yi's heart to quiver slightly. She wasn't particularly clear-headed, and at that moment, she felt extremely dazed. She couldn't differentiate between reality and her dreams as she stared and stared at He Jichen. Under the influence of alcohol, she abruptly drew closer to He Jichen's face and kissed his lips.

He Jichen froze like he turned to stone.

This image paused for a moment with Ji Yi watching He Jichen's unblinking eyes blink gently before slowly closing as her lips softly rubbed against his.

She felt wave after wave of electric jolts soaring through her body.

Her drunken, hazy mind lost all reason as she was led by the deepest part of her heart like a puppet. She kissed his lips a little harder and even stretched her tongue out in between his lips.

He Jichen shivered all over and abruptly snapped to his senses. He instinctively wanted to reach out and push her off him, but because they were sitting in front of the tall windows, she was leaning too close to him. For a split-second, He Jichen lost his balance. Ji Yi's entire body suddenly lunged into his embrace and she pressed him against the wooden floorboards.

Their lips were still stuck together, but her hand was now touching his waist.

Her soft fingertips left a series of provocative and intense caresses through his thin shirt.

He Jichen's entire body suddenly tightened up and his breath started to grow unsteady.

He had been drinking some beer too. Although he wasn't drunk, he didn't have enough self-control as he clearly felt his own hand landing on her back.

He obviously wanted to push her away, but his fingers didn't listen to him and locked onto her back. He pressed up against her body till they were inseparably close.

Her hand followed his lead and instinctively wrapped around his shoulder, hugging him tightly.

Their intimacy softened He Jichen's heart and allowed his consciousness to completely crumble. The moment her tongue brushed across his teeth, he suddenly bit her tongue gently, taking the initiative to passionately deepen their kiss.

His kiss was forceful, revealing his dominance and power. It seemed like it wasn't enough as he kissed and kissed until his body abruptly flipped her over and pressed her down to the floor. With his lips glued to hers, his hand reached for her clothes.

He didn't remove her clothes but wandered up her skirt and impatiently intruded upon her world.

They both shuddered as he kissed her more deeply and she clumsily kissed him back.

Their kiss grew intense – so intense that her mind went blank. He Jichen felt like everything was a dream. They both gave in to their sense of longing from the deepest parts of their hearts. With their most basic instincts, they released their hidden, buried love.

The night sky outside the hotel window grew darker, yet the temperature of the room got warmer. The atmosphere became even more intense.

The once-quiet room now gradually started to echo with gradual heaving, soft moans, and the sound of groaning which could make anyone's face flush and heart race.

The sounds didn't cease for a long, long time.

He Jichen heaved as he buried his head into Ji Yi's neck and pressed into her body.