

He was afraid I'd have to put up with Qian Ge so before he left, he gave Zhuang Yi specific orders?

After Zhuang Yi said this, Han Zhifan examined Ji Yi and said in a worried voice, "Xiao Yi, she didn't do anything to you, right?"

After hearing Han Zhifan's voice, Ji Yi hurriedly snapped back to reality and shook her head at the three people standing in front of her. "Nah."

After a pause, Ji Yi didn't waste any time standing there and said, "Let's go."

As they walked out of Kaiyuan Building, Ji Yi first said goodbye to Han Zhifan then turned to Zhuang Yi while watching Han Zhifan driving away. "You can head home first."

With me at home, what's she going to do?

Zhuang Yi was stunned for a moment then said, "What about you?"

"Me?" Ji Yi didn't reply to Zhuang Yi but turned and looked at Chen Bai. "Are you free later?"

Chen Bai nodded his head. "Yeah."

"Let's have dinner."

"Sure."

Seeing as Chen Bai agreed, Ji Yi turned to look at Zhuang Yi.

After personally witnessing their conversation, Zhuang Yi saw that Chen Bai would be staying with Ji Yi and didn't say much else. She said her goodbyes to Ji Yi and Chen Bai then walked over to the minivan.

After Zhuang Yi got into the van, Chen Bai pointed at a spot nearby. "Let's go, my car's parked over there."

"Mhm," responded Ji Yi as she followed Chen Bai.

After getting into the car, Chen Bai started it up and asked, "Miss Ji, what would you like to eat?"

"Anything's fine." After Ji Yi replied, she remembered the hot pot restaurant opposite the school and said, "How about hot pot?"

"Of course, that's fine..." After Chen Bai's reply, he listed a few names of famous hot pot restaurants in Beijing for Ji Yi to choose from. After the fourth hot pot restaurant listed, Ji Yi said, "Go to B-Film."

After a second's pause, Ji Yi added, "That hot pot restaurant isn't bad."

"Alright." Chen Bai didn't object. After he agreed, Chen Bai stepped on the gas and drove the familiar route to B-Film.

Apart from new chairs and tables, nothing else had changed in the hot pot restaurant.

As soon as she stepped in, Ji Yi saw the wishing bell and stopped in her tracks. Sensing that Ji Yi wasn't keeping up, Chen Bai looked back in confusion and called for her, causing her to snap out of it. Ji Yi shot Chen Bai a smile then followed him and the waiter as they were led to a private booth.

Because Ji Yi had eaten there before, Chen Bai let her pick the dishes.

After the order was placed, the waiter asked what they wanted to drink. Ji Yi raised her head and looked over at Chen Bai. "Drink with me?"

Chen Bai looked hesitant.

Then Ji Yi added, "Just a little. Don't worry, we won't drink a lot."

Chen Bai nodded in agreement then said to the waiter, "Beers."

The hot pot base arrived quickly. Not long after, all the dishes Ji Yi ordered filled up the table.

When Chen Bai dunked the meat into the pot, Ji Yi picked up a beer bottle and poured two glasses of beer to the brim.

After Ji Yi drank half a glass, she picked up her chopsticks and ate two slices of meat that Chen Bai picked up for her. As the smoke rose from the bubbling pot, she said, "Did you know? That day I came back to school around last year's Chinese new year, he and I happened to bump into each other right here and had dinner together."

Chen Bai knew Ji Yi was just speaking her mind and all he needed to do was listen, so he didn't say anything. All he did was add more food into the pot non-stop.

Chapter 722: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (32)

"At the time, I really hated him. When I stepped in this place and saw him, the first thought I had was that if I knew I was going to bump into him, I wouldn't have come to the dinner party with my classmates."

"That day, he wasn't in a great mood. Everyone was chatting aside from him. He just stared out the window."

"The hot pot was all ready and everyone was calling him over to eat, but he didn't react and just smoked one cigarette after another near the window."

"It was winter and the hot pot was boiling, so there was condensation on the window. Later, he started writing words on the window."

After she said this, Ji Yi turned to look over at the window like she'd gone back to that day and recited the words he wrote one word at a time. "He wrote 'the person I love isn't my lover...'"

"Chen Bai, did you know? After reading it that day, that's when I was filled with curiosity."

"That's when I wondered how this person who had such a sharp-tongue, rotten temper, and brash and arrogant personality could have such a soft side?"

“That night, he didn’t eat a thing. After we were all full, someone said they wanted to play a game. For the first time, he wanted to take part.”

“The game was simple. You just had to write a note. Someone wrote one for me. Nobody knew who it was from but I did. He wrote it...”

Ji Yi didn’t continue but pulled out her purse from her handbag. She searched around for a while and pulled a piece of paper then handed it to Chen Bai.

Chen Bai hurriedly put down his chopsticks and opened the note to see He Jichen’s handwriting.

“Ji Yi, I’m sorry.”

“He apologized to me for the Lin Zhengyi incident. Even though I ignored him that day and on set, Chen Bai, did you know? I already forgave him when I read this note that night.”

“But I just didn’t want to admit it. I clearly hated him, but I never thought about why I kept that note in my purse and carried it with me everywhere.”

Ji Yi raised her beer glass, clinked Chen Bai’s glass then downed the whole thing and said, “Then he left. I only realized recently that he didn’t actually leave then – he was the one who showed up downstairs, in front of the wishing bell...”

Ji Yi didn’t tell him how they kissed under the wishing bell nor did she mention what He Jichen said under his breath. Instead, she chose to stop her story there.

The room fell silent.

Besides the bubbling sound from the pot, there was no other noise that could be heard.

Chen Bai knew Ji Yi was sad and that there was no use in saying anything to comfort her, so he continued to pick up food and put it onto her plate. “Eat some more. Don’t think too much.”

Ji Yi didn’t touch the food Chen Bai picked up for her. Instead, she picked up the glass of beer and downed it.

After she put the glass down, she inhaled and felt an aching feeling in her eyes as she spoke to Chen Bai sitting opposite her. “Chen Bai, even though I did well in front of Qian Ge and didn’t embarrass myself, did you know? My heart really aches...”

“...Qian Ge was right. I ruined him.”

In the end, tears streamed down from the corners of Ji Yi’s eyes. “...If it weren’t for me, he wouldn’t have become like this today.”

Chapter 723: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (33)

“Chen Bai, I dragged him down. He Jichen’s misery all started because of me...”

Ji Yi wiped her tears as she grabbed her beer bottle and downed it.

After she finished drinking all the beer, Ji Yi slammed the bottle down heavily on the table. Then she mumbled, "...How great would it have been if I didn't wake up? If I hadn't woken up, he wouldn't be attacked like this now..."

"Miss Ji, you got it wrong," interrupted Chen Bai, who had been listening all along. "From how you see things, you might think He Jichen's misery all started with you, but you don't know... Mr. He was happiest when he was doing things for you."

"Because Mr. He once said that by doing things for you, he felt like he was really, really close to you."

"Back when Qian Ge threatened Mr. He with the video, Mr. He decided how to handle it. I asked him why he wanted to do this, and Mr. He said he promised you a bright future, so that's what he was doing to do. He didn't want to get in your way, so he had no other choice but to get out of the way uncompromisingly!"

Ji Yi's tears fell furiously until a sob escaped her lips.

"I even asked Mr. He if he now regrets doing that to Qian Ge back then?"

"Mr. He said he didn't regret it because he's never regretted anything he did for you."

"Mr. He even said that if he had the chance, he would do it again because he couldn't sit back and do nothing while knowing that you were sabotaged!"

Ji Yi finally couldn't hold it back anymore and sprawled out on the table crying.

Chen Bai let her cry until her cries got softer. That was when he reached out and touched her shoulder.

Ji Yi raised her head and looked over at Chen Bai, who handed her a tissue.

"Thanks," she said.

Right after she wiped her eyes, they got wet again.

She might as well not have wiped them. Clutching the tissue, she lifted her head and looked over at Chen Bai. "You've been with him for a long time. You must know a lot about him. Can you tell me about him...?"

Ji Yi was afraid Chen Bai was going to refuse, so she added, "...say whatever you want – it's fine as long as it's about him."

Because I really, really, really miss him.

Chen Bai paused for a while and replied to Ji Yi with just one word: "Alright."

Ji Yi didn't utter a word as she cupped her chin with both hands and looked at Chen Bai seriously, like a child paying full attention.

"The first time I met Mr. He was at boarding school..."

"We just finished our military training a few days earlier when someone sent Mr. He a love letter. Also, there were girls crowded at the entrance of the canteen, trying to confess to Mr. He."

"I distinctly remember that there was a girl who ran over to the field on Valentine's day and arranged a bunch of candles into the words: 'He Jichen, I love you.'"

"When Mr. He first started up YC, it was really tough. He often had to work late into the night."

"You probably never imagined that Mr. He's way of relieving stress is by watching Spongebob Squarepants."

"Let me tell you... Mr. He's afraid of cats."

"Also, Mr. He likes peaches, but he hates washing peaches the most."

"..."

Chen Bai spoke a lot about He Jichen.

The two of them only stopped talking when the hot pot restaurant closed. They paid the bill and left.

Ji Yi didn't let Chen Bai take her home, so he drove her back to the school.

Ji Yi walked into the school and stopped as she approached her dorm.

She stood there for a while then turned around. She walked out of the school and hailed a cab for He Jichen's apartment.

She stood outside his apartment the day she found out he was going to leave.

That night, the lights in his study were on, but tonight, his apartment was pitch black.

He was gone. He was really gone. It had been two months since he left, but it felt like a dream...

Ji Yi raised her head and stared up at He Jichen's apartment for a long time. Then she walked into the building, took the elevator up, and stopped at He Jichen's floor.

Chapter 724: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (34)

As she stepped out of the elevator, Ji Yi felt like the hallway seemed even more empty compared to before. Maybe it was because she knew He Jichen wasn't home...

She stared at the door to He Jichen's apartment for a while then finally walked over.

Since He Jichen no longer lived there, there was no cleaning lady to clean things up, so there was a thin layer of dust on the door.

Ji Yi knew He Jichen's passcode but wasn't sure if he changed it before he left. Regardless, she gave it a try anyway and to her surprise, it worked. "Kacha!" The door actually opened.

She pushed the door open and was welcomed with the subtle smell of a long absence. Ji Yi instinctively raised her hand to cover her nose and walked into the apartment.

She casually flipped on the light switch at the entrance. Without changing into slippers, she walked right into the apartment.

Ji Yi walked over to the tall window at first then opened it.

The evening wind blew in and dispersed the uncomfortable smell in the room.

That was when Ji Yi started to gaze around the room.

Even though nobody had been there for two months, it was still relatively clean.

The long hand on the European style grandfather clock ticked like before.

There was a copper flower vase at the center of the dining table, but there were no longer any beautiful, fresh flowers there.

The fridge was open and the electricity was cut off. It was completely empty with nothing inside. The water dispenser was also emptied out by someone in advance.

Ji Yi stood in the living room for a long time before she headed upstairs.

The door to He Jichen's room was open. His favorite bedsheets were laid out on the bed and there was still half a glass of water left on the bedside table. Half his clothes were still in the wardrobe and his grooming products were still in the bathroom.

If there wasn't a layer of dust on the dressing table, Ji Yi would've really thought He Jichen still lived there.

As Ji Yi stepped out of the bedroom, Ji Yi walked to the end of the second-floor sunroom. As nobody had taken care of the green plants, all but two pots of devil's ivy had died.

Ji Yi stood in the sunroom for a long time before she stepped out. She was the only one left in the room, but she stared at the empty living room downstairs and saw a faint image of He Jichen sitting on the sofa, reading files.

She was caught in a daydream for some time. All of a sudden, scene after scene of the two of them in his apartment jumped into her mind; she had to off fight memory after memory.

She stood there for a long time before she snapped back to reality then strode into the study, which was nearby.

It looked just like it did the first time she entered; the bookshelf was filled with books and files.

The computer on the desk was still there, but the laptop was gone. He Jichen must've taken it with him.

Ji Yi's fingers brushed across the bookshelf, the desk, the computer, then finally stopped on the office chair. Then she suddenly remembered how her hair got caught on his button there, and they almost kissed...

Ji Yi's eyes fell as a dreary look entered her eyes.

She strode over to the sofa and stared at the seat He Jichen liked to sit in. Then she strode over to the balcony.

She barely took two steps when she felt something hard beneath her feet.

She lowered her head and looked over. She saw a red pouch. It was really old and it looked like it had been carried for a really long time.

Chapter 725: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (35)

Ji Yi didn't think too much of it and just bent over to pick the pouch up. She didn't know what was inside but it felt kind of heavy.

Ji Yi couldn't help but feel the object a little from outside the pouch. It felt just as hard as it did when she stepped on it.

She stared at it curiously for a few seconds then cautiously opened the pouch and poured the object into her palm.

It was a clear piece of jade which had a glowy, water-like quality.

The jade was in the shape of a moon, and it had an intricate carving of an energetic dragon.

The only imperfection on the jade was the small chip at the bottom...

With just one glance, Ji Yi's entire body felt like all her pressure points were pressed as she stood still in her tracks.

She was very familiar with this piece of jade... Last year during Chinese new year, Yuguang Ge rushed over to Lijiang to check on her sprained ankle. After he left, he forgot this piece of jade in her hotel room... But this was clearly Yuguang Ge's, so why was it in He Jichen's apartment?

Could Yuguang Ge have dropped by after He Jichen left?

Did Yuguang Ge accidentally leave it here without realizing ?

However, He Jichen left Beijing and the He Family must've known that Yuguang Ge dropped by He Jichen's apartment. Could Yuguang Ge have helped him retrieve something?

Speaking of which... Maybe Yuguang Ge knows where He Jichen is?!

As a series of questions barged into Ji Yi's mind, she realized that all this time, she'd been so focused on thinking about He Jichen's location that she forgot to ask about He Yuguang.

With that thought, Ji Yi pulled out her phone and searched for He Yuguang, who she hadn't contacted for a year. She clicked his WeChat contact and sent him a message.

Her message was lost like a stone thrown into a vast sea. There was no response.

Ji Yi waited for about half an hour then selected He Yuguang's number and gave him a call.

After the call went through, a service message came on: "Sorry, the person you called has turned their phone off."

Turned off?

Could Yuguang Ge's phone be out of battery?

Ji Yi sent He Yuguang another WeChat message then carefully put the jade back into the pouch and left He Jichen's apartment.

When she returned to the dorms, Bo He and Tang Huahua were already asleep.

Ji Yi carefully stepped into the bathroom. After she freshened up, she hurriedly climbed into bed.

She wasn't sleepy, so she opened WeChat and noticed that He Yuguang hadn't replied to her message yet.

Ji Yi tossed and turned for who knew how long before she finally fell asleep.

When she woke up the next day, it was already ten in the morning. The first thing she did when she opened her eyes was to grab her phone and check to see if He Yuguang replied to her message.

Their WeChat convo was silent. He hadn't sent her a single message.

Ji Yi clicked into her call logs, found He Yuguang's number, and called again to find out his phone was still off.

He Yuguang can't possibly still be asleep, right?

Ji Yi vaguely felt like something wasn't right but she wasn't entirely sure what it was. She was in a daze on the bed for a while before she climbed down and walked into the bathroom.

He Yuguang's phone was still turned off in the afternoon...

Something wasn't right. He Yuguang was usually really busy with work. There was no way he would leave his phone turned off for so long. He couldn't have stopped using that phone number, right?

The strange feeling she had in the morning crept into Ji Yi's mind once again.

Chapter 726: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (36)

After dinner, Ji Yi called He Yuguang again but to her complete confusion, it was still turned off.

Even if He Yuguang changed his number, his WeChat account should still be active, right...

Though they hadn't spoken for almost a year, she still knew him pretty well. He would never go a day without his phone.

In the evening at their dorm room, Tang Huahua asked Ji Yi to play some games, but since she was distracted by things on her mind, she lost three whole rounds. Completely flustered, Ji Yi was no longer in the mood to play and told Tang Huahua she wasn't going to play anymore. She tossed her phone aside and walked out of the dorm.

When she came back, it was already bedtime.

As Ji Yi reached for her phone while laying in bed, her fingers touched the pouch she put under her pillow last night.

Her fingers trembled then she stared up at the ceiling for a while.

It was no plan to just continue waiting for Yuguang Ge's reply.

After all, He Jichen ended up like this today only because of her...

With that thought, Ji Yi quickly reached for her phone and booked a flight to Sucheng for early the next morning.

Maybe it was because she was finally taking action and personally taking a trip to Sucheng, but Ji Yi slept easier that night compared to the night before.

Before it was even six in the morning, her phone rang and woke her up.

Her flight was for half past eight. She didn't want to be late so she bolted out of bed and quickly packed her suitcase. Then she grabbed her phone to call a cab as she walked out of the dorm room.

At eight on the dot, Ji Yi was on the plane to Sucheng.

At half past eight, the plane took off.

Two hours later, the plane safely landed at Sucheng's international airport.

As Ji Yi came out of the airport, she lined up for a taxi then gave the driver the He family's home address.

So many years had passed. Coming back to Sucheng, she realized that the city had changed significantly. The roads were wider and the buildings were taller. However, there were loads of areas she could still recognize from past memories, so she didn't feel too much of a stranger. After passing by some places, she was still able to accurately name some streets.

The airport was pretty far from the He family's estate, so it took a whole hour to reach the place Ji Yi spent many years of her adolescence in.

She noticed many years had passed as Sucheng's grandest residential area now looked a little old.

Ji Yi stood at the gates and stared up at the familiar block of flats as if time had suddenly turned back to the time she studied there. It deeply moved her for a moment before she strode into the residential area.

Although it had been many years since she visited, Ji Yi could shut her eyes and still be able to find the front door to the He family's estate.

Before she reached their door, Ji Yi walked past her grandma's door first.

After her grandma passed away, her parents sold the apartment because they had no relatives in Sucheng. Now, the memory of her grandma was no longer there as another family moved in and the apartment was refurbished. However, Ji Yi still stared at the second floor for quite some time before walking over to the He family's front door.

The He family's home had also been completely renovated.

The front gates were changed. The fence was no longer wooden, but the large plot of sunflowers in the courtyard was still there. The swings she loved when she was younger were still there and the grape vines were thicker and denser since the year she left Sucheng.

Through the fence, Ji Yi stared at the courtyard for a long time before she reached out to press the doorbell.

Chapter 727: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (37)

Soon enough, the door opened and out stepped a young woman who rushed over with hurried steps.

From the way she was dressed, the young woman looked like the housekeeper hired by the He Family.

She was probably hired recently because Ji Yi didn't recognize her.

"Hello, who are you looking for?" The He family courtyard was big, so the housekeeper sounded slightly at a loss of breath from running over there in a hurry.

"I'm looking for..." Ji Yi wasn't sure if Mr. He and Mrs. He still remembered her but then she remembered she was talking to He Yuguang just last year, so she paused for a moment. Just to be safe, she replied, "...He Yuguang."

When the housekeeper heard who Ji Yi was looking for, she looked evidently stunned. "You're looking for the eldest?"

Ji Yi nodded without hesitation. "Yeah."

The housekeeper didn't say anything but looked at Ji Yi with a strange look in her eyes.

Ji Yi wasn't sure if she was just being overly paranoid, but it seemed like the housekeeper was hiding something. She furrowed her brows slightly and seeing as the housekeeper didn't look like she was going to say anything, she added, "Yuguang Ge, are you not home?"

After hearing what Ji Yi said, the housekeeper snapped out of her daze. She ignored Ji Yi's question and asked one of her own: "Excuse me, are you his friend?"

"Yes..." said Ji Yi as she pointed to next door. "...That used to be my grandma's house. I've known Yuguang Ge since I was young."

Ji Yi was afraid the housekeeper didn't understand her, so she pulled out the pouch from her pocket. "I came to see Yuguang Ge to give him this and to ask him about something..."

Before Ji Yi could finish, the housekeeper saw the jade in the pouch and looked like she suddenly understood something. She then said, "Miss, you came to see the young master, right?"

The young master? He Jichen?

Ji Yi paused and started to furrow her brows.

"It's been a long time since the young master came back home. We don't know where he is either..."

Before the housekeeper could finish speaking, Ji Yi hurriedly interrupted her by saying, "No, no, you've got it wrong. I'm not looking for He Jichen. I'm here for Yuguang Ge."

The housekeeper shook her head with a smile and tried a different angle: "Miss, let me ask you. Are you looking for the owner of the jade?"

Ji Yi nodded.

"Then I'm right. The owner of the jade is the young master..."

The owner of the jade is the young master... Ji Yi was bewildered by what the housekeeper said.

"Madam gave this jade to the young master. The masters are identical twins, so you might have mixed them up and thought the jade belonged to the older..."

The housekeeper said a lot, so when she saw Ji Yi's expression change, she thought Ji Yi was embarrassed, so she hurriedly tried to comfort Ji Yi. "...But, Miss, I heard madam say that people often get the two of them mixed up..."

Ji Yi stopped listening to what the housekeeper said. Though Ji Yi had no idea what the housekeeper was saying, Ji Yi knew she was talking non-stop. After the housekeeper said "The owner of the jade is the young master," her mind took some time to digest those words before she mumbled, "What did you just say?"

The housekeeper thought Ji Yi didn't understand what she meant, so she explained, "I said, the brothers are identical twins and are often..."

Chapter 728: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (38)

Ji Yi appeared to not have heard what the housekeeper said and continued to ask, "You said, this jade belongs to He Jichen?"

Before the housekeeper could finish, she realized Ji Yi got it wrong and hurriedly said, "Yeah, that jade belongs to the young master. Everyone in the He family knows this..."

This jade belongs to He Jichen...

If this jade belongs to He Jichen, then the person who visited me every month in the hospital for three years while I was in a coma was actually... him?

If this jade belongs to He Jichen, why would He Yuguang have this jade on him when he rushed over to Lijiang overnight because of my sprained ankle?

Ji Yi felt herself slipping into a giant maze of doubts as her chaotic mind couldn't comprehend this.

She spent a lot of energy forcing her mind to understand it. "Is this one of a kind?"

"Of course, only one. It's an antique. On madam's birthday, she mentioned that the jade was once worn by the emperor of the Qing dynasty!"

The housekeeper was clearly showing off proudly.

Why would Ji Yi care that it was once worn by an emperor? Her mind was filled with the thought of the jade belonging to He Jichen. Then who was the man at the Lijiang hotel back then?

“What’s more, this jade was a gift to the young master from madam herself on his first birthday. She said it was like a protective charm...”

The housekeeper continued to go on, but as she went on, she heard Ji Yi muttering to herself: “What’s going on? Just what the hell is going on?”

The more Ji Yi muttered, the more agitated her tone of voice became.

The housekeeper sounded worried and nervous. “Miss, what’s wrong?”

Ji Yi was deep in thought but didn’t reply to the housekeeper. She continued to mutter, “Who the hell was it? In the end, who was it? Who was it that day?”

“Miss, Miss!” The housekeeper raised her voice.

She cried several times, but Ji Yi was transfixed and continued to ignore her. Then the housekeeper quickly shut the door behind her and walked over to Ji Yi, tapping her shoulder to try to wake her up.

Just as the housekeeper’s hand landed on Ji Yi’s shoulder, a car drove in and stopped next to the two of them.

The car door opened and an elegant middle-aged woman stepped out. She didn’t take a good look at Ji Yi, but she swept a look over at the housekeeper and said, “Xiao Hong, did you prepare the items for the anniversary of Yuguang’s death?”

The housekeeper heard someone calling her, so she immediately turned her head and cried, “Madam.” Then she obediently replied, “They’re all ready.”

The housekeeper’s hand startled Ji Yi. The next second, the words “anniversary of Yuguang’s death” sank in.

The anniversary of Yuguang’s death... Yuguang... anniversary... death...

Those five words drifted repeatedly in Ji Yi’s mind for a while then she slowly turned her head and looked over at the person who spoke.

“Madam, are you going to see master now? If you are, I’ll go grab them for you now...” added the housekeeper to Mrs. He.

The moment after she said this, Ji Yi happened to turn her head to look over at Mrs. He.

Mrs. He was about to nod at the housekeeper when her eyes suddenly met Ji Yi’s eyes. Then she suddenly stopped and turned to look over at Ji Yi.

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Chapter 729: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (39)

They hadn't seen each other in five years. Ji Yi had changed dramatically from a youthful woman to a mature woman. Although Ji Yi looked familiar, Mrs. He wasn't immediately certain who she was.

In the past five years, Mrs. He hadn't changed, so she looked practically no different from when Ji Yi last saw her when she left Sucheng.

Ji Yi recognized Mrs. He. When Ji Yi spoke, she didn't sound cold like she hadn't seen Mrs. He for a long time. Instead, she said, "Auntie He, you just said..."

The rest of Ji Yi's sentence was a little hard for her to say, so she struggled to continue speaking from there.

As soon as she spoke, Mrs. He immediately recognized who she was and a hint of surprise clearly flashed across her eyes. "Xiao Yi?"

After Mrs. He's voice fell, she walked over to Ji Yi right away and scanned her up and down. Then she pulled her arm and happily cried, "I thought it was you but I didn't dare assume. In the blink of an eye, you grew up so much and you look so much prettier..."

As Mrs. He spoke, she checked Ji Yi from head to toe. "And you grew so tall..."

With that, Mrs. He realized Ji Yi was standing at the door, so she turned around and blamed the housekeeper standing beside them. "Xiao Yi's here – why didn't you invite her inside? Why are you chatting at the door?!"

"Xiao Yi, I haven't been a good host. Please don't take it to heart. Come, let's go inside." Having told off the housekeeper, Mrs. He turned her head and smiled at Ji Yi with her eyes. Seeing as Ji Yi hadn't moved from her spot, she nudged Ji Yi's arm to walk away from the courtyard. "Xiao Yi, why did you suddenly come to Sucheng? How are your parents? Now that I think about it, it's been many years since I last saw your mum..."

Ji Yi drifted off on a mental journey as Mrs. He stopped walking towards Ji Yi after just a few steps.

Mrs. He stopped speaking in bewilderment then turned to look at Ji Yi.

She wanted to ask Ji Yi: "What's wrong," but the words hadn't reached her throat when Ji Yi quietly repeated the four words: "Anniversary of Yuguang's death?"

Mrs. He, who was delighted to see Ji Yi at first, instantly turned blank.

Ji Yi knew exactly what those four words meant, but seeing as Mrs. He didn't say anything, she asked again, "What did you mean by that?"

With that, Ji Yi's eyes turned red and the words "Anniversary of Yuguang's death?" escaped from her mouth again.

"Auntie He, did you misspeak earlier?"

A tear fell from the corners of Ji Yi's eyes. "How could there be an anniversary? Isn't Yuguang Ge alive and well?"

"Xiao Yi, let's go in first. Let's talk when we get inside," said Mrs. He finally.

Ji Yi didn't move and the tears started pouring down. "Auntie He, you misspoke, right? Or I heard wrong, right?"

Ji Yi didn't dare to face the true meaning behind those words. Not only was she kidding herself, but she even turned to look at the housekeeper and said, "Hey, did I hear correctly just now? Mrs. He, you didn't say those four words, right?"

The housekeeper wasn't sure how to reply to Ji Yi's question and showed a helpless look.

Her reaction made Ji Yi even more frantic. "I misheard. I must've misheard..."

Chapter 730: He Jichen is.....He Yuguang (40)

"Yuguang Ge, how could he... How could he..."

Have died... Those two words lingered in Ji Yi's mouth, but she couldn't say it aloud.

Since He Yuguang passed away four years ago, Mrs. He had long accepted that reality. However, seeing Ji Yi crying over her biological son, her eyes couldn't help but turn red. "You know Yuguang's health was poor since he was young."

"The doctors said he wouldn't be able to live past eighteen years old. In the end, he held on till the age of twenty before passing away. To him, that was truly a miracle."

Twenty years old?

Which means He Yuguang passed away four years ago?

But why have I not heard a word about this? Even my parents don't know about this...

The tears in Ji Yi's eyes continued to fall as she asked suspiciously, "Why have I never heard about this?"

"Yuguang slipped into a coma the day after you got into the car accident. One month later, he passed away. At the time, you were in a critical condition and you're your parents' only child; it was already bad enough to encounter something like this, and I didn't want to make matters worse for them. What's more, you know Yuguang grew up at home and didn't really know many people outside, so when he passed away, only members of the He family were there to see him off."

Mrs. He gave a long speech. After it was over, she stared at Ji Yi for a while then added, "Today happens to be the anniversary of Yuguang's death. I'm going to see him in a moment. Would you like to come with me?"

...

Ji Yi stood in front of He Yuguang's grave for three whole hours from the moment she found out he passed away.

At first, Ji Yi thought three hours would be enough for her to process the grief a little. However, when she saw the black and white photo of young He Yuguang on the gravestone and the three words "He Yuguang," her heart felt a sharp pain striking her.

So six years ago, when she left Sucheng, that was actually the last time they would see each other.

The sickly, weak young man who called her “Manman” had already passed away.

The He Yuguang in the photo was the version Ji Yi was most familiar with. He looked warm with a smile on his face, and he made her feel happy and comfortable.

After Ji Yi tried so hard to stop the tears, they finally crashed down, drop after drop, as she stared at the photo.

...

Ji Yi didn't leave with Mrs. He.

She stayed in front of He Yuguang's grave from the afternoon till sunset. When night fell, Ji Yi finally reached out to stroke He Yuguang's cold gravestone and silently said goodbye.

As she walked out of the cemetery, Ji Yi called for a taxi to the city.

Through the window, Ji Yi looked out at the dark sky as she sped through the streets and reminisced about every little thing that happened between her and He Yuguang after they reunited.

From the moment she received a text from He Yuguang saying “Manman” to the night he rushed over to Lijiang to see her to the sky lanterns he prepared for her...

Ji Yi quietly reminisced for a long, long time. It wasn't until she entered the city that her mind lingered over a single thought: The real He Yuguang passed away many years ago, so the He Yuguang I reunited with was actually... He Jichen?