

Chapter 131: Defamation is a Form of Flattery (1)

The first to respond to Qian Ge wasn't actually Ji Yi but the casting director, who looked full of surprise. He stared at Ji Yi, then back at Qian Ge and said, "You guys know each other?"

"Of course we know each other..." Qian Ge spoke first, her meticulously made-up face had the same friendly and kind look. "...Xiao Yi and I were senior high classmates!"

As she said this, Qian Ge tilted her head again and looked over at Ji Yi. "Xiao Yi, long time no see. How have you been all these years?"

They clearly met each other twice before, and each time they fought on equal grounds... Ji Yi stared at Qian Ge with a caring expression. Her heart felt revolted inside, but in front of everyone, she kept up her deep sisterhood act. She couldn't not play along with her, so before Qian Ge could speak, Ji Yi instantly plastered on a bulletproof smile and said, "It's really been a long time. I've been alright, and you?"

"Not bad myself..." Qian Ge saw Ji Yi's smile, and her smile became even brighter. What she said next wasn't directed at Ji Yi but the casting director: "...Xiao Yi is also on our production team?"

"Yes, she's the supporting actress," replied the casting director.

"Director, you really have a good eye. Truth be told, Xiao Yi's acting skills are great!" Qian Ge looked like she was sincerely complimenting Ji Yi as she looked over Ji Yi repeatedly. "Xiao Yi, I'm really happy we can be on the same production team."

Even though Qian Ge acted really modest, Ji Yi clearly felt an infinite number of hidden knives and swords heading straight at her. She curved her lips upward and just like Qian Ge, she lied unblinkingly, "I'm delighted too! At first, I was really nervous about acting poorly, but now that I see you, I feel a lot better."

Qian Ge heard Ji Yi's words and laughed out loud as though she just heard the happiest thing. But soon enough, she changed the subject and started talking with the producer.

The final empty seat was at the head of the table. The seat hadn't been filled even after half an hour into the dinner party.

Qian Ge skillfully and easily made her way chatting around the room then stepped out to take a call. After she came back, she whispered something to the investment company's Mr. Lin, who was sitting next to her. Then she raised a glass to everyone in the room and apologized before leaving the room early.

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As soon as Qian Ge left the party room, her little smiling face instantly turned incredibly cold. She stomped her heels over to the elevator and headed straight for the underground parking lot.

When she got out of the elevator, she saw that the parking lot was empty, so she immediately reached for her phone and dialed a number in a hurry.

A second after the call was picked up, Qian Ge said, "Xie Siyao, what the hell is this? When I took on "Three Thousand Lunatics,, did you not check in advance to see who the supporting actress was?"

"Who's the supporting actress? It's Ji Yi?! It's not like you don't know just how powerful she was four years ago! Back then, we tried so hard to beat her down! Luckily, my reflexes were fast tonight. After I found out she was the supporting actress, I immediately thought of a plan. I told the old pervert, Mr. Lin, that the girls who knew Ji Yi said she's famous for doing anything to reach the top, and she was someone who dared to play any kind of game! I even told the old pervert that Ji Yi slept with three men at once before. I bet the old pervert will definitely hit on her after hearing that, and with Ji Yi's personality, she'd never allow it. When the time comes, that old pervert will turn embarrassment into anger and definitely kick her off the production..."

Before the word "crew" could leave Qian Ge's lips, someone suddenly viciously grabbed the phone from her very hands.

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Qian Ge, who hadn't noticed that someone was around, shivered in shock. Her fingers instinctively lost their grip for a second then her phone fell straight to the ground with a "Pa!"

The words "Who's there?" were about to slip from her mouth, but only the word "who" managed to come out. A cold and stern voice came crashing down on her, "What you said just now... was that true?"

Qian Ge could tell who it was from the voice. It was like her pressure points had been pressed as she became completely frozen on the spot.

In the next second, the person forcefully asked, "You told Lin Zhengyi that she was famous among your girls for daring to do anything to get to the top and that she was someone who dared to play any game?"

As those words fell into Qian Ge's ears, her fake eyelashes trembled while she snapped back to reality.

It's him, He Jichen... How did he suddenly turn up here? Also, how did he know I was talking about Mr. Lin, Lin Zhengyi?

The confusion hadn't cleared in Qian Ge's mind. Seeing as she was slow to respond, He Jichen impatiently grabbed her wrist and suddenly swung her aside forcefully.

Qian Ge was like a kite with a broken string. She crashed completely into the car without warning, which prompted the alarm system on the car and a string of ear-piercing whistles.

Through all the noise, Qian Ge clearly heard He Jichen grit his teeth and say one word at a time, becoming increasingly cold and emotionless: "You even told Lin Zhengyi she once slept with three guys at once?"

The more he repeated her words back to her, the angrier he got. Qian Ge clearly felt He Jichen gradually tighten his grip on her wrist.

She furrowed her brows in pain before she slowly lifted her eyes and looked straight at He Jichen.

For some reason, his clothes were formal like he was attending some kind of party. Even though the white shirt and black suit were simple and bold, he looked completely majestic and elegant. However, he looked so bleak that he could leak water. The corners of his lips quickly pursed into a single line, revealing just how angry he was inside.

He towered over Qian Ge and stared her down with a faint hint of spitting flames in his eyes.

Qian Ge only saw He Jichen like this once before. It was three years ago, about a month after the car accident when he suddenly appeared in front of her.

At this very moment, he wasn't as terrifying, bold, or frightening as he was back then.

Maybe she was left scarred from the time he blew up three years ago. Even though he didn't say anything particularly harsh this time, Qian Ge already felt her back drenched in cold sweat.

Just as Qian Ge's legs started to shiver, He Jichen glared unwavering at her. He was deeply furious as he sneered, "Hmph. This is truly the first time I've met such a shameless woman like you! Someone who can slander and backstab without even batting an eyelid!"

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"But with that said, I truly feel sorry for you..." There was an obvious disdain and mockery on He Jichen's face as he scornfully stared into Qian Ge's eyes. "...No matter if it's the you who had nothing four years ago, or if it's the flashy Queen of the silver screen that you've become now, four years later, you can feel it in your very bones—you can't beat Ji Yi!"

"Because the people who are better than you don't even bother to mention you, let alone talk about using some kind of underhanded tricks on you!"

"Yet you, by every possible means, racked your brain thinking up ways to torment her, to slander her, and make it look like you're better than her. But in reality, you forgot that slandering someone is a form of flattery!"

Qian Ge was flushed by He Jichen's words, but He Jichen didn't look like he was finished yet. He stared into her eyes with a frosty, icy look, and the words from his mouth were even more merciless and harsh: "Also, you just repeatedly slandered her by saying she would dare to do anything and play any games as though you really understood what you were talking about. Sure enough, you must be an old timer at this game with lots of personal experience!"

How could Qian Ge not understand what he really meant by his words?

He Jichen slyly mocked her. The only reason she knew these things was because she did them herself before!

Qian Ge's turned pale as she tried to move her lips.

He Jichen sensed she was about to speak, so he beat her to the punch. "But that's you, and the kind of sacrifices you had to make to be in your position today. However, Ji Yi doesn't need to, because she's destined to live a good life since she met me, He Jichen, who's happy to help her!"

Since liking Ji Yi, he realized just how beautiful it felt to like someone.

Even though he never responded to any of the women who admired him, he respected their affection for him.

All of them but Qian Ge.

He knew she liked him, so he wanted to use that affection to mercilessly torment her.

At that thought, a hint of ferocity crossed He Jichen's eyes. Though his voice was gentle, there was a faint cruelty which came out: "There's something I want you to know... I'm the director for "Three Thousand Lunatics," and I'm also the chairman of YC Entertainment! The only reason you were chosen to be the leading actress wasn't because you're some big shot, but because the fame you have today came from stepping all over her. I wanted to put the two of you in the same production crew so that everything you got from stepping all over her is completely returned, bit by bit!"

After Qian Ge heard the truth, her eyes suddenly shot wide open.

She wasn't stupid because if she was, how could she put Ji Yi in such difficult situations, time and time again?

In that instant, it was like everything became clear.

No wonder when they asked her to sign on to "Three Thousand Lunatics" and she asked who the director, head producer, and supporting actress were, absolutely no one had a clue. All they said was that it was unconfirmed!

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So he's in charge of "Three Thousand Lunatics..." He had such a good script for "Three Thousand Lunatics" that she couldn't miss out.

He did it all on purpose. He waited for her to sign the contract then cast the supporting actress...

Her current value was sky-high, and the cost of breaking the contract was terrifyingly high. As soon as the contract was set, she faced a huge sum of compensation, so she couldn't break the contract!

So from the moment she had the script for "Three Thousand Lunatics" in her hands, He Jichen already had a ditch dug for her!

She knew Ji Yi would never give up on returning to the entertainment industry. She also knew that He Jichen couldn't resist helping Ji Yi, but she never imagined that He Jichen would come up with such a plan to help her!

At that thought, a flash of complete disbelief crossed Qian Ge's eyes as she met He Jichen's eyes.

Her reaction told He Jichen that she already understood everything.

Since he reached his objective of sufficiently upsetting her, he didn't need to continue wasting his time with her here!

At that thought, He Jichen let go of Qian Ge's wrist, took a step back, and without even so much as a glance at her, he headed for the elevators.

Qian Ge stared at He Jichen's back. She couldn't help but clench her hand into a fist.

He was right. Ji Yi was born to live a good life because she had him, so she didn't need to do everything she had to do. To make it in the industry and to stand out, she had to socialize with all types of people every day to have everything go her way.

But what about her? She liked him... She always liked him, but he actually helped another woman and he hated her to the bone...

A waft of jealousy and instability instantly shrouded Qian Ge's heart and sent her emotions spiraling. The second He Jichen stepped into the elevator, she suddenly got up and cried, "He Jichen, due to what you did three years ago because of her car accident, you sullied yourself, yet she doesn't even know about it... You say I'm pitiful, but I think maybe you're even more pitiful. No... even sadder..."

With Qian Ge's words, He Jichen didn't react at first. When he heard her final word, his finger over the button to close the elevator doors suddenly paused. Then, he took big strides to stand in front of Qian Ge.

He didn't say anything but grabbed the car keys from her hand, pressed the unlock button and saw the lights of a nearby car light up. A second later, he dragged Qian Ge's arm all the way to the car, pulled open the car doors, and shoved her in.

"If you didn't mention it, I forgot how you worked with Lin Ya to trap her in the abandoned building that day of her audition for 'The Palace,' right?"

Alright then! Today he was going to give her a taste of her own medicine!

"Just to make me even sadder, tonight, why don't I take back what you owe her from that day?"

With that, He Jichen slammed the door of Qian Ge's car hard, pressed the button on the car keys, and locked her in. Then, without even bothering with Qian Ge who was slapping the windows, he mercilessly turned around to leave.

As the elevator reached the door for that night's dinner party, He Jichen was in no hurry to go into the party room, so instead, he handed the restaurant manager Qian Ge's phone and car keys. He ordered him to unlock a car in the underground parking lot in four hours time then leisurely stepped over to the party room doors.

He pushed the door open, scanned the room while ignoring everyone's greetings, but he couldn't find Ji Yi.

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He Jichen thought maybe Ji Yi went to the restroom, so he didn't think too much of it. He nonchalantly averted his eyes towards the waitress who brought him a glass of wine before he leisurely clinked glasses with everyone in the room.

After greeting everyone, He Jichen then pulled out a chair and took a seat.

The people in the room endlessly tried to find topics to talk about with him.

He Jichen never liked these kinds of lively situations, yet it wasn't a responsibility he could avoid. Having to face each person there, he either nodded or said a few polite words in response.

He seemed evidently more distant than the friendly people around him, but that was fine. The livelier the atmosphere in the room was, the less likely it would be silent and awkward.

After a while, everyone's conversations slowly moved away from his appearance.

He Jichen used that opportunity to pull out a single cigarette, lit it up, and out of years of habit, he didn't smoke it. Instead, he put it between his fingers and every now and again, he tapped the ashes into the ashtray.

Sitting next to He Jichen was the main actor for "Three Thousand Lunatics," Lu Nan. After Lu Nan and the casting director finished their conversation, he turned his head and exchanged a few words with him every now and then.

He Jichen only listened but didn't answer.

The third time he raised his hand to flick the ashes, he looked up and scanned the people around the dining table as though he just thought of something. Then he realized that since he arrived about twenty minutes ago, Ji Yi still hadn't returned.

He Jichen furrowed his brows, shifted over to Lu Nan, interrupted his rambling on how many times he'd read "Three Thousand Lunatics" and said, "How come I haven't seen the leading actress and supporting actress yet?"

"Qian Ge left long ago since she had something to do at the last minute. The supporting actress..." Lu Nan probably forgot Ji Yi's name, so he called her by her role. As he replied to He Jichen, he looked around the room like he was looking for her. "...I didn't pay attention to her. If she's not in the room then she's probably in the restroom?"

After he said this, Lu Nan's eyes hovered over the empty seat next to He Jichen and said in astonishment, "Huh? Mr. Lin hasn't come back yet?"

What Qian Ge said in the underground parking lot suddenly wandered into He Jichen's mind. His fingers clasped onto the cigarette, and abruptly trembled for a moment as an awful feeling climbed into his heart.

He had been there for about twenty minutes now, yet the two of them hadn't shown up. It couldn't be that Qian Ge's words to Lin Zhengyi actually worked and messed up thoughts came over Lin Zhengyi?

As the smoke slowly fell, three words slipped from He Jichen's mouth practically without hesitation as though asking for confirmation, "Lin Zhengyi?"

"Yeah, Mr. Lin went to the restroom half an hour ago, but he hasn't come back yet..."

Before Lu Nan could finish, He Jichen put out the cigarette in his fingers and suddenly got up.

It was so sudden that it caught everyone's attention. Someone cried, "Mr. He?"

He Jichen ignored them and kicked the chair back as he rushed out of the private dining room.

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To attend these types of events, you had to drink. Even though Ji Yi only took a sip each time after clinking glasses with each person, there were over ten people in the room, so she had quite a bit to drink. Not long after Qian Ge left, Ji Yi headed to the restroom.

As she exited the cubicle, Ji Yi walked over to the sink and turned the tap on. Just as she finished washing her hands and was about to wipe them with tissue, she heard someone from behind call out, "Xiao Yi?"

Ji Yi turned to find a middle-aged man walking over to her on his way out of the male restroom.

Though Ji Yi didn't have a great memory, she recognized him. He was one of the main investors for "Three Thousand Lunatics" at that night's dinner party. She couldn't quite remember his name, but she knew his surname. Ji Yi smiled and politely said, "Mr. Lin."

Lin Zhengyi didn't say anything but smiled at Ji Yi who stood in front of the sink.

Ji Yi threw a tissue into the bin then prepared to say goodbye to Lin Zhengyi. As Lin Zhengyi wiped his hands, he turned to look at Ji Yi like he just remembered something and said, "If I hadn't caught you, I would've almost forgotten. Now that I see you, I remember. Xiao Yi, do you have some time now? I want to speak to you privately about 'Three Thousand Lunatics.'"

Ji Yi nodded and said with a smile, "Okay."

Lin Zhengyi pointed outside the restrooms as he signaled for them to step out together. He started to explain how big the investors for "Three Thousand Lunatics" were.

This was all public information she could find online, but out of politeness and respect, she didn't interrupt. She listened with a smile on her face, and every now and then, she indicated her agreement by nodding.

By chance, they happened to bump into a waitress. Lin Zhengyi stopped, called the waitress, and asked, "Are there any more private party rooms?"

“Mr. Lin, please wait.” Lin Zhengyi was probably a regular at China World Hotel Beijing, seeing as the waitress recognized him. The waitress immediately asked the front desk if there were any available rooms over his walkie-talkie.

As the waitress made preparations, Lin Zhengyi used this chance to ask Ji Yi, “The room we’re in is too loud. If you don’t mind, let’s find a quiet place to talk before heading back?”

Every single word Lin Zhengyi said was about “Three Thousand Lunatics,” so Ji Yi thought Lin Zhengyi genuinely wanted to talk about the series. As the supporting actress, there was no reason to not go along with him, so Ji Yi didn’t think too much of it and agreed.

When the waitress put his walkie-talkie away, he smiled and made a gesture to welcome them into the room in front of them. “Mr. Lin, please.”

Lin Zhengyi booked a new private party room that looked exactly like the one from that night’s dinner party.

Because it was just the two of them, Lin Zhengyi didn’t order any food, nor did the two of them sit at the table. Instead, they sat on the sofa by the lounge area.

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Lin Zhengyi didn’t wait for the waitress to hand them the drinks menu, but instead, he asked her to bring him one of the bottles of wine he stored there.

The waitress politely replied with a “yes” then left the room. After a while, the waitress brought a bottle of Royal Salute back with her.

Lin Zhengyi didn’t allow the waitress to help serve the wine but dismissed her.

When the doors to the party room were shut, Lin Zhengyi held the bottle of wine, poured two glasses and handed Ji Yi a glass. After Ji Yi took the glass, he clinked glasses with her and quickly downed the wine.

Seeing Lin Zhengyi do this, Ji Yi couldn’t refuse to give him face, so all she could do was smile, bring the glass to her lips and drink a few gulps of wine.

As Lin Zhengyi poured another full glass for himself, he started to talk about “Three Thousand Lunatics” again.

On his second glass, he didn’t forget to point at Ji Yi’s glass of wine as if to signal for her to drink too.

At first, Ji Yi really didn’t think there was anything wrong. As the bottle of “Royal Salute” emptied little by little, she felt she had to keep her distance from Lin Zhengyi. She started to feel like something wasn’t right, and she slowly backed away. When he raised his glass again, wanting to drink with Ji Yi, the topic changed, “Xiao Yi, I’ve read your profile. It says you’re currently studying at B-Film University?”

“Yes, Mr. Lin.” As Ji Yi politely replied to Lin Zhengyi, she silently shifted back to create some distance between them.

Lin Zhengyi looked up and emptied his glass again. When he reached his hand out for the bottle, he pretended to have had too much to drink and accidentally fell onto Ji Yi.

Ji Yi instinctively wanted to get up to avoid him, but Lin Zhengyi's reflexes were faster than hers. His hands quickly wrapped around her shoulders, and he put his lips close to her eyes, releasing a strong stench of alcohol. "I also hear many of you girls from B-Film want to become escorts? Is that right?"

When she heard that, Ji Yi finally snapped to her senses. She was too gullible to think that Lin Zhengyi booked a party room just to talk... she never imagined that he'd be like this. Ji Yi used some force to struggle out of Lin Zhengyi's grip. She pretended she hadn't heard what he said and shifted onto her own tangent. "Mr. Lin, if there's nothing else, I'll head back to the production crew."

As she said this, Ji Yi stood up.

Before she could leave, Lin Zhengyi grabbed her wrist so tightly that it didn't seem like he had drunk much at all. "Alright, you don't have to pretend to be all high and mighty with me. I know just what kind of person you are. Are you just faking this to get more from me? Go on, how much do you want? Or, what do you want?"

Annoyance flashed across Ji Yi's eyes as she used all her strength to bat Lin Zhengyi's hand away. Without even bothering to respond, she headed for the door.

Though Lin Zhengyi was already middle-aged and overweight, his reflexes were fast. Ji Yi hadn't taken two steps before he quickly dragged Ji Yi's arm again and forcefully pulled her back onto the sofa.

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Ji Yi hadn't completely snapped back to her senses when Lin Zhengyi's flabby body pressed heavily down on hers as he pulled his arms out and started to rip her clothes off.

Ji Yi reflexively struggled by punching and kicking him.

Lin Zhengyi, whose wild animalistic instincts kicked in, tried to get close to her a few times but never succeeded. He became so annoyed that he grabbed her harder, and the words from his mouth became increasingly hard to hear. "Don't think that I don't know just how many people you slept with to get the role as the supporting actress of "Three Thousand Lunatics," and don't think that I don't know how many guys you messed around with. I mean who 'messed with you'. What's more, don't forget that I'm the main investor for "Three Thousand Lunatics," so I encourage you to know your place. If you upset me, you won't get anything out of this! So, I encourage you to behave well and let me play with..."

In her ears, Lin Zhengyi's words became increasingly dirty. Ji Yi had never been so humiliated like this before. Without thinking twice, she reached out her hand and uncontrollably slapped Lin Zhengyi hard across the face.

Having endured such a hard slap, Lin Zhengyi was stunned for a second before he exploded. First, he swore then he mercilessly slapped Ji Yi's face back hard!

Lin Zhengyi's slap was so hard that Ji Yi's ears rang. When she turned her head, Lin Zhengyi tugged on her hair and forced her to stand up. "You wanted some face, but you didn't take it! Seeing as you refuse to take it easy, I won't be polite about it!"

With that, Ji Yi saw him pull out a pill and chuck it into the remaining bottle of Royal Salute which was still half full. Then he grabbed the bottle and put it to Ji Yi's lips.

Even though Ji Yi didn't know what the pill was, she knew he was going to force her to down the wine. As soon as the medicine kicked in, she'd be done for.

She used all the strength in her body to resist him, but Lin Zhengyi was a man after all. He quickly held her down, raised the bottle above her face, and forced her to drink.

She struggled like crazy to resist it so the wine poured all over her face. She could feel Lin Zhengyi clutch her face in rage. He pried her mouth open as he shoved the wine bottle over her mouth...

In her struggle, Ji Yi wanted to kick back, but she couldn't move. All she could do was watch the mouth of the bottle draw closer. The second it touched her lips, she heard a familiar voice from outside the doors of the private party room. "Is Lin Zhengyi inside?"

Before Ji Yi could figure out if it was an illusion or if it was real, the doors to the private party room doors were suddenly pushed open.

From the corners of her eyes, she instinctively looked over at the source of the sound. She hazily saw a tall figure with a ferocious aura instantly come over to where she and Lin Zhengyi were.

She didn't catch how the person made their move, but Lin Zhengyi immediately fell to the ground.

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As Lin Zhengyi hit the ground with a "Bang!" Ji Yi instinctively sat up and immediately glanced down at the embarrassed Lin Zhenyi on the floor. Then she turned her head and looked at the person standing by the sofa.

The second she caught a glimpse of the man's handsome face, Ji Yi was left stunned then her eyes fell to the man's wrist.

Under the light, the guy's skin looked unusually fair, making that red string eye-piercingly evident.

He Jichen... Why's he here?

Confusion clouded Ji Yi's mind before she realized something was off with the guy.

She slowly looked up at his face again.

Only then did she realize that he was staring unwaveringly at her. His eyes were frightening like he was going to spit fire.

Ji Yi was so scared that her entire body trembled as she instinctively lowered her eyelids. Then she heard a loud crash—the coffee table in front of her went flying.

The objects on top of the table slid to the ground with successive crashes.

Following that, Ji Yi heard the sound of the man's footsteps leaving.

He's going to leave just like that?

The bewilderment in Ji Yi's mind hadn't settled when she suddenly heard painful cries. She looked up to see that He Jichen had punched Lin Zhengyi square in the face, knocking him to one side.

Just watching the scene, Ji Yi felt the bone-piercing pain herself.

However, He Jichen looked like he wasn't finished. He raised his hand and punched Lin Zhengyi twice. Then when he saw the wine bottle in his hand, he connected that to what he saw when he first entered the room. Without any hesitation, he grabbed him and punched him violently in the face.

Bright red blood trickled down from Lin Zhengyi's head.

After finally realizing who hit him, Lin Zhengyu cried painfully and said, "Mr. He, do you think one woman is worth this? Don't you know I have a collaboration with your company, YC Corp? Though you're the director of "Three Thousand Lunatics," I'm the biggest investor. If I take back my investment, you'll definitely be..."

Lin Zhengyi couldn't even finish his sentence before He Jichen grabbed his collar and yanked him up from the ground. Then he raised his leg and sent him flying.

As she watched He Jichen's frightening fighting form, Ji Yi was left completely stunned when she heard Lin Zhengyi's words.

What did Lin Zhengyi say? Your YC Corp? Director?

Which means... He Jichen owns YC Corp? He's the director for "Three Thousand Lunatics"?

That explained the discrepancy when she saw only two empty seats at the dining table but expected three more guests to arrive. She assumed one of them was busy, so they couldn't make it. In the end, YC Corp's chairman and the director for "Three Thousand Lunatics" was the same person—He Jichen?

Ji Yi hadn't completely digested the implication of all that explosive information when she heard a "Dong!" in front of her.

She trembled all over as her eyes followed the noise. That was when she saw Lin Zhengyi's swollen, bruised face spread out beneath her feet.

She instinctively shrunk her foot back, but then she heard He Jichen's stern and bold voice nearby. It was low but cold: "Apologize!"

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"He Jichen, do you have to be like this?" Lin Zhengyi attempted to stand up, but with just one movement from He Jichen, Lin Zhengyi quivered in pain and drew a sharp breath of air. Then he turned his head,

looking slightly angry as gritted his teeth at He Jichen standing next to him. He said, "You have to understand. You're treating me like I'm completely in the wrong here..."

He Jichen impatiently took two steps forward, raised a leg, and stomped on Lin Zhengyi's left shoulder. He gritted his teeth and enunciated each word: "Do you know how to apologize?"

Lin Zhengyi grunted in pain as his teeth chattered. After a while, he forced himself to finish what he was saying: "...You won't get anything good out of this..."

Lin Zhengyi barely managed to say "this" before He Jichen used his foot to apply more pressure on Lin Zhengyi's shoulder. As Lin Zhengyi let out an anguished cry, He Jichen spoke again, "If you don't know how, I'll teach you!"

As he said this, He Jichen reached for the back of Lin Zhengyi's collar.

Before He Jichen could fling him around again, Lin Zhengyi, who felt dizzy from all the attacks, wailed like a ghost and howled like a wolf and cried, "Alright! Alright! Sorry! Sorry! I'm sorry!"

Lin Zhengyi's cries got louder with each consecutive one until finally, He Jichen slowly released his collar. He gradually stood up, extracted his leg from Lin Zhengyi's body and stood aside.

He didn't look at the mumbling Lin Zhengyi on the floor, but instead, his gaze fell to Ji Yi's face.

The aura of violence around him hadn't disappeared, and there was an air of arrogance swirling swiftly in his pitch-black eyes.

He Jichen was terrifying and dangerous like this, but in her shock, Ji Yi forgot to fear and avoid him. She responded to the man's drifting gaze with astonishment.

She still remembered the young man drenched in blood on the school grounds of Sucheng Yizhong from years ago. He clutched onto a boy and threw him on the ground in front of her. He wildly stepped on the boy's back and forced him to apologize. With each and every "Sorry," Fatty at the side counted along.

In that moment, Ji Yi couldn't distinguish between her memories and reality. She was in a complete daze, so when He Jichen stood in front of her, she was completely frozen with no reaction at all.

Once he came close enough, He Jichen saw everything clearly. The clothes on her body were in an array and her collar was ripped, exposing five fresh finger marks on her fair, delicate face.

Before I came, Lin Zhengyi touched her?

A murderous thought instantly rushed to He Jichen's mind, causing the tender look in his eyes to turn cold and vicious again as he drew closer to her.

Both his hands curled into fists and he tried hard to suppress his heaving chest. After a while, he removed his blazer and covered her up since her ripped clothes exposed her bare shoulders.