

Chapter 181: The Recording Pen in Her Hands (1)

Could she have returned to her parents' house?

He Jichen instinctively found Ji Yi's mum's phone number, but the second he was about to tap on it, he paused.

What if she wasn't back home and he was just making her parents worry?

He Jichen hesitated for a second then eventually swiped back to WeChat, where he sent Tang Huahua a message, "Still not back yet?"

Tang Huahua quickly replied with, "Not yet."

The words "Typing..." appeared right above the WeChat chat bubbles. He Jichen waited for about half a minute before he saw another message from Tang Huahua. "He Xuezhong, we have a class at ten. Xiao Yi would never miss class for no reason, so I'll definitely see her at ten."

He Jichen tapped the screen and was about to start typing when he received a line of text from Tang Huahua. "When I see Xiao Yi, I'll ask her where she went last night and let you know."

Tang Huahua didn't know about all the things that happened between him and Ji Yi, so she simply thought he was curious about Ji Yi's whereabouts. Perhaps it was because he and Ji Yi left on such horrible terms that He Jichen felt an indescribable sense of unease. However, he didn't tell Tang Huahua about the anxiety in his heart but instead, he just replied with an "alright."

He Jichen didn't reply to Tang Huahua's smile emoji. He put his phone away and raised his wrist to check the time – it was already half past seven. He had an early meeting at nine, so after he ordered breakfast, he went into the bathroom.

...

At the start, He Jichen sat in the meeting room at the office, fully focused on the meeting.

When it reached about ten to ten, he started to frequently check his phone in fear of missing Tang Huahua's message on WeChat. The phone was still silent at five past ten.

He Jichen tried to look as though he was paying attention to what the corporate strategy manager was saying as he lowered his eyes to his phone. He tapped the chat with Tang Huahua and started typing.

Just as he typed the three words "How's it going?", his phone vibrated. The text he longed for from Tang Huahua had finally arrived. "He Xuezhong, Xiao Yi really didn't show up to class. The teacher just took attendance and from the teacher's looks, it seems like she didn't give notice for her absence either. I secretly hid under the desk and gave her a call. Right now, her phone is off."

He Jichen started to feel like something was wrong. With complete disregard to the meeting, he dialed Ji Yi's number and raised the phone to his ear.

“Sorry! The number you dialed is currently unavailable.”

Tang Huahua said Ji Yi’s mum called her last night looking for her. Did something happen at home? Was she at home?

As He Jichen tried to figure out what happened, he kicked the chair back and without saying a word, he grabbed his car keys. Under a row of bewildered stares, He Jichen left the meeting room, headed straight for the underground parking lot, and drove to Ji Yi’s parents’ house.

Ji Yi’s dad was at work, so her mum was the only one at home. She was pleasantly surprised to see He Jichen.

He Jichen handed Ji Yi’s mum the nutritional supplements he prepared for her and lied that his mum asked him to drop them off.

He chatted with Ji Yi’s mum for a while, but after he realized that Ji Yi wasn’t home, he immediately found an excuse to leave. He quickly said his goodbyes and left.

Back in the car, He Jichen reached around for his phone and called Ji Yi again. Just like before, her phone was off, and that was when he realized the situation was far more serious than he imagined. All of a sudden, he felt incredibly flustered and uneasy.

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She wasn’t at the university nor was she at home. Could she have gone to visit a friend?

In the past few years, he paid attention to all her movements. After being in a coma for three years, most people lose contact with their friends. At the moment, she didn’t have many people she kept in contact with...

The first person He Jichen thought to call was Li Da, but when he called him, the first thing he heard over the phone before he thought about asking him if Ji Yi was with him, was a polite female voice. “Sorry sir, the plane is about to take off. Could you please turn off your phone?”

Li Da first replied to the air hostess politely with a “Right away,” then said to He Jichen, “Chen Ge, did you need something? I’m going to Hangzhou for a business trip. If there’s nothing urgent, I’ll call you when I land.”

“Just you?” asked He Jichen casually.

“Of course it’s just me. I’m not in a high position...”

“It’s nothing. Let’s talk when you land.” Having heard that, He Jichen knew Ji Yi wasn’t with him, so he flatly ignored what Li Da said afterwards. He said his goodbyes and hung up.

He Jichen grabbed his phone and used all kinds of methods to contact other people Ji Yi still kept in contact with. They were all either on holiday abroad or were busy with their own matters.

So Ji Yi... didn’t go see her friends either?

At first, there was no way of getting through to her, then her phone was turned off. Something couldn't have happened, right?

He Jichen's mind wandered back to an article he read on his phone not too long ago about a university student who was reported lost forty-eight hours after getting into a taxi. They later found the woman in the wilderness where she had long been dead.

He tightened his grip on his phone then anxiously stepped on the gas. He turned the steering wheel with just one hand as he aimlessly drove around Beijing.

As time flew by, He Jichen realized he almost ran out of gas, so he stopped at a nearby gas station. That was when he realized it was already late in the afternoon.

With his phone in hand, he sent a text to Tang Huahua: "Has she come back to the university?"

Just after he finished filling up the tank, paid and exited the gas station, he received a text from Tang Huahua: "Not yet, He Xuezhong. Say, do you think something happened to Xiao Yi?"

He Jichen, who was already a complete mess, saw Tang Huahua's message and became completely agitated and uneasy. He felt so lost that he clicked on news websites to see if there was any news about women in the Beijing area.

When he realized that the headlines were all trivial news about the entertainment industry, He Jichen was slightly reassured, but afterwards, he felt that he was acting so stupid. If something really happened to Ji Yi, how would it be reported on the news so soon?

The unsettled feeling inside made He Jichen feel even more on edge. He raised his hand and rubbed his temples then started driving aimlessly again.

When the sun went down, He Jichen felt his stomach churn in pain from having eaten nothing all day long. He stopped by the road and got out but didn't go to the fast food restaurant. Instead, he went to the convenience store nearby to buy a pack of cigarettes.

He didn't go back to the car but went straight to the trash can on the sidewalk and opened a pack of cigarettes.

As the cigarette butts piled up, the sky got darker.

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He Jichen finished the pack of cigarettes. It was only when it was dark that he took two steps back in complete exhaustion and leaned against a tree.

He pulled out his phone to call her several times, but her phone was still turned off. Then he sent another message to Tang Huahua, but the reply he received was the same; she still hadn't come back to the university.

She wasn't with her friends, he checked all her favorite places, and he'd spent a whole day searching the streets for her, but he couldn't find her... She couldn't have left Beijing, right?

At that thought, He Jichen suddenly clicked into his call logs. He found his secretary's number and was about to call and ask for help with finding out if Ji Yi recently took a plane or train. However, before his finger could touch the screen, a reminder popped up: "Low battery."

He Jichen casually flicked his last cigarette into the trash then straightened up before he walked over to the car. He pulled the car door open and searched the compartment for a phone charger. That was when he accidentally caught a glimpse of another phone.

This is He Yuguang's phone... He Yuguang...

As those three words flashed across He Jichen's mind, he suddenly stopped searching for the phone charger.

How could he be so careless? He searched everywhere. How could he not think of the "newly-wed" house "He Yuguang" prepared for her? She always relied on He Yuguang, so could she be there now?

Before the thought settled in He Jichen's mind, he got into the car and sped off.

After the car drove quite some distance away, He Jichen had a sudden thought – if she really was there, it'd be bad for him to go like this, so he made a detour and turned into his own place.

He took a thorough shower then pulled open the lowest drawer in the changing room. He removed the red string that he rarely took off all these years and he carefully checked himself in the mirror to see if there were any flaws. Only then did he grab He Yuguang's phone and walk out the door.

He Jichen hailed a taxi and headed straight for the house he prepared for Ji Yi as He Yuguang.

When he reached the building, He Jichen paid the taxi fare and without waiting for his change, he took big strides into the building.

When the elevator doors opened, He Jichen darted towards the door and quickly entered the code for the front door. He charged in without even removing his shoes.

The lights in the room were off, but with the scattered lights from the floor-to-ceiling windows of the balcony, He Jichen immediately saw a round shadow.

He Jichen tightened up and forgot to turn on the light switch as he slowly walked over.

With the light from outside the window, the closer he got, the clearer he could see who it was.

It was her. It was her, the person he'd been looking for all day.

She sat balled up in the corner of the wall with her face buried between her knees.

She looked very calm, yet He Jichen's heart ached as he watched her.

When he was just two meters away, his footsteps stopped. He stopped on the spot for a few seconds before he closed the distance between them and crouched down in front of her.

It seemed like she hadn't noticed he was drawing closer as she didn't move an inch.

He Jichen stared at her ruffled hair for a little while then slowly reached his hand out and touched her.

Finally, she slowly started to raise her head.

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The image of her eyes swollen from crying came into his view.

She looked distraught; her dark pupils were completely misty and the tears swayed as they clung from the corners of her eyes.

He had never seen her like this before. The image instantly cut his eyes, making his hand upon her shoulder tremble violently. All of a sudden, he didn't know how to react.

Through her tears, she stared at him for quite some time before she saw his face clearly. She instinctively shifted backwards to hide before her eyes timidly glossed over him and looked down at his wrist. That was when she realized there wasn't a red string. Her small, tense frame gradually relaxed and she opened her mouth. She probably wanted to cry "Yuguang Ge," but in the end, she just moved her lips without making a sound before lowering her head back down again.

As He Jichen watched her reaction, it suddenly felt like a hand clutched his heart hard and brutally squeezed it. The sharp pain of it stung intensely.

So, she was frightened by his fit of rage at the Four Seasons Hotel after all...

He Jichen calmly lowered his eyes to hide the frustration in his mind. He waited for the pain in his chest to slowly subside a little before his hands slowly lifted from her shoulders, shifted over to her head, and gently stroked it.

Ji Yi trembled softly as she couldn't help but tighten her clasp on her knees, but she didn't avoid He Jichen's touch.

He Jichen dotingly stroked her head even more gently.

After getting into a taxi when she left the Four Seasons Hotel last night, she couldn't go back to the university all the worse for wear, nor could she go back home. She couldn't see her friends either, so in the end, she chose to secretly hide here on her own to lick her wounds.

She never thought that someone would care about her, but here in the saddest of times, "He Yuguang" suddenly showed up. He obviously cared immensely for her.

As her face followed the touch of his fingers little by little, the feeling of being wronged, which already disappeared after such a long time, amplified in her heart now for some reason. She thought she had no more tears to cry, but her eyes suddenly turned hazy and tears started to fall again. The tears poured from her eyes and crashed heavily onto the floorboards as she let out a soft wail.

Seeing her tears fall made He Jichen's heart feel like it had been sliced open. The pain made him lose his breath for a moment before he pulled out his phone, unlocked the screen and typed a question he obviously knew the answer to: "Did something happen?"

He touched her knee and handed her the phone.

She raised her head slightly, but she didn't look up at him. Instead, her eyes were drawn straight to the phone screen.

Did something happen?

It was a simple question, but it made Ji Yi cry even more violently.

Not long after, while clutching onto his phone, He Jichen's hand was covered in her tears.

He Jichen silently pursed his lips and grabbed his phone back as he typed the words: "Don't cry..."

After Ji Yi saw that, not only did she not stop crying, but the tears kept pouring down endlessly.

Seeing her cry even more fiercely than before, He Jichen became completely powerless.

He held onto the phone and racked his brain for a long time but couldn't quite find the right words to comfort her. In the end, he threw his phone to one side and helped her wipe her tears.

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As he wiped her face, the tears drenched his hand as she continued to cry.

He Jichen hopelessly let out a soft sigh as he sat down on the ground. He reached over to her body against the wall and dragged her small frame over to him as he held her in his arms. With the same hand used to wipe her tears, he gently patted her back to cheer her up.

His embrace made her tense up a little and gave her the urge to struggle out of it, but he tightened his hug.

Maybe she wasn't used to his hug since she was a little tense. After some time, perhaps due to his affectionate pat on her back, she eventually relaxed, buried her head in his chest, and openly let out a cry.

As her tears drenched his shirt and her throat became hoarse from crying, He Jichen held her in his gentle embrace as he let her cry on him.

The sound of her crying slowly subsided into a sob which eventually weakened and returned the room to complete silence. He Jichen didn't let go of Ji Yi, nor did Ji Yi pull out of He Jichen's embrace.

If it was possible, He Jichen really hoped he could hug her silently like this until the end of time.

After she calmed down, a sudden thought sprung to mind: did she hide here all alone last night after she left the Four Seasons Hotel?

Nobody normally came here, and she didn't look like she had been outside. It had been almost a whole day and night now; could she have been crouching here all this time without eating?

At that thought, He Jichen slightly pushed her away from his arms, grabbed the phone from the floor, and typed: "Have you eaten?"

After reading what "He Yuguang" wrote, Ji Yi gently shook her head.

So he guessed right. She hadn't eaten all day?

He Jichen felt a painful tug in his heart then continued to type into his phone: "Then, I'll go cook something for you okay?"

After Ji Yi read those words, she instinctively glanced over at the time on He Jichen's phone. It was already nine something in the evening, so it would be troublesome to cook...

She was just about to reject him when He Jichen put his phone back and typed the line: "The floor is cold. I'll take you to the bedroom first to get some rest. Later, when I finish cooking, I'll call you to come eat, alright?"

From the two consecutive messages he wrote to her, he spoke with peaceful a tone of voice which made her feel important. A warm sensation gradually engulfed Ji Yi's body before she finally said, "It's too much trouble..."

Because she had been crying, her voice was a little hoarse, so it took some time for He Jichen to make out what she meant.

She didn't want to trouble him to cook...

He Jichen's eyes softened as he shook his head at her. Without typing a single message, he got up, carried her in his arms, and headed for the bedroom.

When he put Ji Yi on the bed, he realized that she hadn't worn any socks all along.

Even though it was warm in the room, her feet were frighteningly cold.

He pulled two covers over her, grabbed his phone and wrote: "Wait a while for me. It'll be done soon". After he saw her nod, he got up, but just as he was about to turn to leave, he caught a glimpse of a recording pen in her hands.

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She wasn't doing anything, so why did she had a recording pen in her hands?

A wave of suspicion came over He Jichen. He wanted to ask, but in the end, he fought the urge. He just furrowed his brows, pretended like he didn't notice anything, and walked out of the bedroom.

He Jichen first brewed some congee. The moment it was on high heat, he went over to the dining room and picked up some brown sugar from the container. He poured the sugar into the hot water and carried it back up into the bedroom.

Ji Yi wasn't asleep yet, but she was sitting upright against the headboard and searching for a charger in her bag.

She heard the sound of the door being pushed open and instinctively looked over at the door. At the same time, He Jichen happened to walk in.

The two of them looked at each other for about three seconds before Ji Yi swiftly lowered her eyes, plugged the phone charger into the wall, and connected it to the phone.

A second later, Ji Yi put her phone down. The next second, He Jichen stopped by the bedside.

Because she had just been crying, her eyes looked as large as peaches. She probably knew she didn't look presentable right now, so she shot him a swift look then lowered her head and quietly said, "Yuguang Ge."

Compared to her crying from earlier, her voice sounded a lot more normal now. She must've felt a lot better.

He Jichen's relaxed considerably as he raised the sweet soup to Ji Yi's face, signaling for her to take it. Then he reached into his pocket and swiftly tapped the screen: "Drink some sweet soup to warm up."

Perhaps it was because He Jichen had devastated her so much yesterday that she stayed here on her own for so long, but now "He Yuguang"'s simple acts of care seemed to easily warm Ji Yi's heart. She held the sweet soup, nodded, and quietly said, "Thank you Yuguang Ge."

The congee was still cooking in the kitchen, so He Jichen didn't stay long in fear of it burning. He grabbed the phone to tell Ji Yi, but just as he was about to leave, he remembered he'd only just boiled the sweet soup, so with a little uneasiness, he typed a few words of warning: "Be careful, it's hot."

Ji Yi saw those words and was stunned for second. When she came to her senses, she noticed he was pointing at the sweet soup in her hands. Her heart quivered as her fingers couldn't help but tightly clutch onto the mug. She shot "He Yuguang" a gentle smile and let out a low, "Mhm."

With the cup in her hand, Ji Yi lowered her head to take a sip.

The sweet warmth ran down her throat and filled her stomach. The warmth soon spread around her entire body.

He Jichen stood by the side of the bed and stared at Ji Yi for a while with her head lowered, drinking the sweet soup before he quietly slipped out of the room.

When he closed the door, his eyes swept over at the woman in the bed. From the corners of his eyes, he stared at the recording pen by her pillow and froze there for two seconds before he closed the door again and went to the kitchen.

When he finished cooking, it was already half past ten.

He Jichen pushed the bedroom door open and was about to call Ji Yi when he realized she was laying on the bed with her eyes shut, fast asleep.

He Jichen hastily stopped the sound from escaping his mouth then quietly walked over to the bedside. He tucked her in a little tighter and was going to head to the kitchen to keep the food warm for when she woke up, but just as he straightened up, she opened her eyes. "Yuguang Ge?"

Did I wake her?

He Jichen furrowed his brows and instinctively reached for the cell phone.



Before he could unlock it, Ji Yi seemed to understand what he meant and said, "I'm a little hungry, so I wasn't completely asleep. I woke up when you pulled the covers over me."

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He Jichen's brows relaxed a little then without typing, he pointed out the bedroom door.

Ji Yi knew he was telling her that dinner was ready, so she said, "I'll go wash my heads then I'll go eat."

He Jichen nodded gently and left the room.

He carried the food over to the dining table, and just as he finished, Ji Yi appeared at the dining room door.

He casually pulled out a chair for Ji Yi as he gestured for her to take a seat. Then he pulled out another chair for himself and sat down.

He placed a bowl of congee in front of Ji Yi.

She thanked him.

Ji Yi hadn't eaten a thing from last night till now, so she was really hungry. She mixed the congee with a spoon a few times then she silently started to eat until she was half-full before slowing down. She looked up at "He Yuguang" who was casually eating then suddenly remembered that He Yuguang was usually in Sucheng, so she asked out of curiosity, "Yuguang Ge, why did you suddenly come to Beijing today?"

He Jichen stopped eating for a moment, put down his bowl, and wiped his hands first before grabbing the phone. After some time, he pushed the phone over to Ji Yi with his message typed out: "Tomorrow I have to fly to America, so I'm stopping over in Beijing. I'm afraid my body can't handle the long plane journey, so I decided to rest up the day before."

"Oh," responded Ji Yi. She didn't press the issue.

He Jichen then took two bites of congee. He grabbed his phone again and, knowing the answer, he asked: "What about you? Why are you here all alone? Did you get in some kind of trouble?"

As "He Yuguang" typed away, Ji Yi watched every letter emerge on the screen. The image of what He Jichen did and said to her last night crossed her mind...

She instinctively pursed her lips and lowered her eyes to mask the embarrassment and hurt in her eyes.

He Jichen was Yuguang Ge's little brother. For her to get into an argument with his little brother, it must put him in a bad position... Most importantly, He Jichen made her feel so humiliated that she didn't want other people to know...

At that thought, Ji Yi tried her hardest to smile and forcibly replied to "He Yuguang" by changing the subject. "Yuguang Ge, I'm a little tired, so I'm going to take a shower first before getting some rest."

As she said that, Ji Yi got up and said “goodnight” without even giving “He Yuguang” any time to reply. She pushed the chair back and hurriedly left the dining room.

He Jichen continued to sit at the dining table for some time before he too got up and gave the dining table a quick wipe.

Having spent a whole day busily looking for her, there was quite a lot of work piled up in the office for him to deal with. He made himself a cup of tea and made her a cup of hot milk while he was at it.

He carried the glass cup to the bedroom and gently knocked on the door. There was no reply from inside, but he heard the sound of a phone ringing from the other side of the door.

He Jichen waited a while, but hearing that the phone wasn't picked up, he pushed the door open and walked in.

Ji Yi was already in bed, fast asleep.

Just after the phone stopped ringing, it went off again. He glanced over at her phone screen and saw three familiar words: “Lin Zhengyi.”

Why's Lin Zhengyi calling her in the middle of the night?

He Jichen was afraid to wake her up, so he reached over and turned the phone to silent.

Just as he put the phone down, a text message popped up on the screen.

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Just as he put the phone down, a text message popped up on the screen.

He instinctively looked down, glanced over at her phone screen, and clearly saw what was written in the text.

It was sent by Lin Zhengyi: “Xiao Yi, I've been calling you all day. Why haven't you picked up?”

Lin Zhengyi has also been calling Ji Yi all day?

He Jichen's eyes turned a lot colder. He was just about to turn his gaze away when the phone in his hands vibrated again.

It was another text sent from Lin Zhengyi: “Xiao Yi, I tried to contact He Jichen about the investment for ‘Three Thousand Lunatics.’ It's not that I didn't follow your orders... I even offered to add twenty percent on top of my original investment, but He Jichen wouldn't accept it. He rejected it without a second thought. In the afternoon, I sent someone to discuss it with him, but his people didn't even have anyone available to talk to us. The situation really...”

Lin Zhengyi's message was a little long. As He Jichen read, he hadn't taken it all in before a third text popped onto the screen: “Xiao Yi, there's no way I can invest in ‘Three Thousand Lunatics’ right now. How about this? I'll give you a good part in the new series I'm investing in and you'll hand me the recording you have. How about that?”

“Perhaps you could suggest a new condition. As long as I can do it, I’ll try my best to satisfy you.”

Lin Zhengyi then continued to follow up with more text messages, but He Jichen didn’t read them. His full attention was drawn to the words: “you’ll hand me the recording you have...”

Ji Yi had suffered in the entertainment industry, so she always had the habit of carrying a recording device on her at all times. Otherwise, she wouldn’t have gotten out of Lin Ya’s trap from a while back at the spa resort.

From Lin Zhengyi’s texts, he assumed that Ji Yi had a recording of Lin Zhengyi that she used against him...

At that thought, He Jichen’s eyes fell on her, deep asleep. By her pillow, he saw the recording pen that she clutched tightly onto while he carried her to the bedroom earlier that night.

He Jichen knew it was unethical to touch another person’s things without their permission.

However, he felt like he might’ve gotten something wrong. He contemplated it for a few seconds before he gently grabbed the recording pen and walked out of the bedroom.

As he shut the door, He Jichen hadn’t walked too far before leaned against a wall and turned on the recording pen. Soon enough, Lin Zhengyi’s voice was heard: “If I hadn’t caught you, I would’ve almost forgotten. Now that I see you, I remember. Xiao Yi... I hear many of you girls from B-Film want to become escorts? Is that right?... I encourage you to behave well and let me play with...”

He Jichen erupted into a terrible fit of rage the night that Lin Zhengyi preyed on Ji Yi at the China World Hotel Beijing. Hearing this now, his eyes released a solemn feeling, but he wasn’t lost in thought by Lin Zhengyi’s words for too long as his mind jumped back to the texts he just read on Ji Yi’s phone.

Lin Zhengyi said he was following orders from Ji Yi to reinvest in “Three Thousand Lunatics.”

Though it was just a text, he clearly saw from his long-winded message that he was nervous after He Jichen rejected his investment.

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That’s right. In private, Lin Zhengyi could mess around however he liked, but the things he said in the recording could never fall in anyone else’s hands. If it was leaked, he would get caught up in an endless amount of trouble.

No wonder he boldly suggested that Ji Yi give him new terms; he wanted the recording in his possession.

Lin Zhengyi had worked in the business industry for many years, and to have survived all this time, he was naturally extremely knowledgeable. Ji Yi couldn’t have used her beauty to make Lin Zhengyi obey her like this, so the key was this recording pen in his hands...

As that thought flashed across He Jichen’s mind, everything that transpired in the past two days swiftly came to mind too.

Last night, Ji Yi and Lin Zhengyi had dinner together.

That same night, Lin Zhengyi contacted YC Corp to reinvest in “Three Thousand Lunatics.”

Tonight, Lin Zhengyi, whose investment was rejected, came looking for Ji Yi in a panic to talk about new conditions...

All of sudden, He Jichen completely froze like someone hit his pressure points. He silently realized something.

Perhaps... perhaps he had gotten it all wrong. Ji Yi didn't see Lin Zhengyi last night to get a role in “Dust,” but she went to...

He Jichen didn't dare speculate, because he felt if he did, it'd turn into some kind of wild story.

Ji Yi... How could Ji Yi go looking for Lin Zhengyi about the lost investment for “Three Thousand Lunatics”... She knew “Three Thousand Lunatics” was his series. She rejected him so much...

Even if he didn't believe it, Lin Zhengyi's text was crystal clear...

He Jichen held his breath as he couldn't help but tighten his grasp on the recording pen. An indescribable sense of powerlessness and panic suddenly engulfed his whole body.

If it was any other day, he would love that she had done something like this for him, but in that very moment, he was afraid. He was afraid she really went to see Lin Zhengyi for him...

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Ji Yi didn't sleep all night the night before, so this time, she fell in a deep sleep for a long time.

When she finally woke up, the sky outside were bright. The bright rays of sunlight illuminated the entire city, making it look surreal.

She stayed in bed for some time before she finally climbed out and walked into the bathroom.

In the mirror, she stared at every little mark He Jichen left on her body as his eyes turned dark the previous night.

She didn't dare think too much of it and quickly pushed the thought to the back of her mind. She dried herself off and went to get changed into a conservative set of clothes in the change room. Having wrapped herself up tightly, she then walked back into the bathroom, grabbed her phone, and walked out the door.

“He Yuguang” was already awake. He was sitting on the sofa and reading the news.

There was a hired helper cleaning the house. Seeing Ji Yi come out, she shot her a beaming smile and said, “Madam, shall I prepare some food for you?”

Ji Yi nodded gently and said, “Thank you.” When the the helper walked into the kitchen, she then sat on the sofa and greeted “He Yuguang”: “Good morning, Yuguang Ge.”

“He Yuguang”'s dark circles under his eyes exposed how he didn't sleep well last night. His phone probably wasn't on him, so he only shot her a smile because there was no other way for him to communicate with her.

After Ji Yi sat down, she glanced over at “He Yuguang” who was reading the news. Then she unlocked the phone in her hands.

To her surprise, there were dozens of unread text messages.

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Among those messages were a long thread of reminders for missed calls sent by “10086.” There were calls from her mum, Tang Huahua, He Yuguang, Lin Zhengyi, and... He Jichen.

As Ji Yi saw the missed calls, she sent a text to each person to let them know she was safe.

When He Jichen came out of Ji Yi’s room, he averted his attention from the news to her. As she looked down at her phone, his eyes couldn’t help but fall on her every now and again.

His eyesight had always been very good. Sitting next to her, he could see every word on her phone.

Though he didn’t try to chat with her, his gaze intermittently turned back to the scattered words on her phone when he realized that she was replying to everyone who called her the day before.

As he glanced over again, he saw the name “He Jichen” appear on the screen which drew his full attention to her.

She looked down at her phone, so he couldn’t see her gaze, but he clearly noticed that her fingers tensed up. She stared at the string of missed calls from him yesterday for about three seconds before she pursed her lips then she deleted all of his missed calls.

Her fingers instinctively wanted to click into the texts, but she paused for a moment as though she realized something and exited out of the texts. She opened the chat logs, found his phone number, and put it on her list of blocked numbers.

As she did this, she didn’t hesitate in the slightest. In fact, she looked like nothing had happened. The next second, she opened her texts again to see dozens of messages from Lin Zhengyi.

He Jichen had already seen those texts last night, so he wasn’t the least bit curious. He averted his peripheral gaze from her and looked straight at the television ahead.

She replied to everyone’s missed calls but his. Not only that, but she moved his number into her list of blocked numbers.

After hitting Lin Zhengyi the last time at “China World Hotel Beijing” and bringing her home, she actively came to speak with him the next day.

At the time, he was so thrilled because he thought their relationship had finally improved, but after a few short days, their relationship became even worse than before...

He Jichen thought back to how he incidentally saw Lin Zhengyi’s texts and the recording pen last night after she fell asleep. The anxiety in his heart from last night became even more intense.

Beside him, Ji Yi had her head down while she tapped on her phone non-stop, replying to other people's messages.

The gentle sound of "tap tap tap" made He Jichen so devastated and a little suffocated. He was afraid to suddenly lose control, so he put down the remote control, got up, and headed for the study.

...

Just as Ji Yi was about to finish texting, the hired help cried from the kitchen nearby, "Madam, the food's ready."

Ji Yi responded in affirmation. She finished typing the last few words and got up. She headed to the bathroom to wash her hands then walked into the dining room.

While she ate, Ji Yi noticed that He Yuguang still hadn't come, so she asked out of curiosity, "Yuguang Ge isn't eating?"

"I'll go call him." The helper put down the things in her hands and went to the study.