

Chapter 21: Thank You for Your Generosity (1)

Thanks?

He Jichen suddenly had the impulse to strangle her. His pupils enlarged and his fingers started to tremble.

He looked at her delicate face with a fierce expression as though he'd just reached the very peak of his anger. Then he suddenly chuckled, "Thank me? What's there for you to thank me for?"

"If I remember correctly, I slept with you four years ago and gave you money, yet you didn't even take a cent!"

"So I should be thanking you instead!"

As he said this, He Jichen sneered and stared into her eyes. With a ruthlessness even he couldn't explain, his words were overbearingly harsh and degrading, "Thank you for your generosity! Thank you for letting me take your virginity for free!"

Ji Yi felt the stab of a razor-sharp knife as her face was instantly drained of blood.

Her hands instinctively balled into fists.

She clutched her palms tightly, then used the piercing pain to force herself to calm down and not completely lose it.

She directed a silent and callous gaze at He Jichen.

She didn't actually want to look at him but she didn't dare to flinch, fearing that the tears hiding beneath her eyes would pour out.

As the atmosphere in the corridor froze, the two of them didn't say a word.

After some time had passed, the phone in Ji Yi's pocket suddenly rang. In the silence, her ringtone sounded particularly piercing. He Jichen suddenly let go of his hold on her as though he'd jumped in shock. Then he took a step back, threw her aside, and turned around to leave.

Ji Yi gritted her teeth as she heard He Jichen's footsteps disappear without a trace. Without a care for how she looked, Ji Yi slowly slumped down against the wall.

The phone wouldn't stop ringing but Ji Yi waited until she'd calmed down slightly before she reached her trembling hand into her pocket to answer the call.

It was Bo He calling.

Maybe it's because I left for the restroom so long ago that they must think something happened to me...

Ji Yi was afraid that she'd sound like she was about to cry if she spoke, so she didn't take Bo He's call. Instead, she tapped on her phone and sent Bo He a message, "I'm coming."

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After dinner, everyone went to the hot springs together.

As the others chatted away, Ji Yi remained silent as she spread out in the hot spring.

In her heart, she felt stifled over the issue of He Jichen. After sitting in the hot spring for a long time, that stifling feeling only grew heavier and it made it difficult for her to breathe, so she got out. She found a bench to lay on close to Bo He and the others in the hot spring.

Even though they were quite a distance apart, Ji Yi could still hear Bo He and the girls chatting.

It was easy to get dehydrated after sitting in the hot springs for a long time. Tang Huahua was just about to call an attendant to bring them some water when Lin Ya coincidentally glanced over at Ji Yi and suddenly said, "I'll go buy some."

Lin Ya quickly came back with five bottles of water, She first handed one each to Bo He, Tang Huahua, and Li Da in the hot springs. Then, she ran over to Ji Yi's side, carrying the two remaining bottles.

When she handed the water to Ji Yi, she leaned in to whisper into Ji Yi's ear, "Xiao Yi, can you do me a favor?"

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Ji Yi unscrewed the bottle cap but didn't take a drink. She turned to look at Lin Ya. "What's up?"

"My thing came..."

At first, Ji Yi didn't understand what Lin Ya meant until Lin Ya's face flushed. That's when she realized Lin Ya was talking about her period.

Li Da was in the hot spring not too far away, so she was probably afraid he'd overhear her. Lin Ya reached her hand out to cover her mouth, then she drew closer to Ji Yi's ear and continued to whisper, "...I felt a little strange just now, so I went to buy some water. On the way, I took a turn into the restroom and realized it really did come. I don't know what's going on this month... It came a few days early so I'm not prepared. Maybe it was because I soaked in the hot springs—it's a little heavy. The supermarket is a little far from our room and since we're only here for a night, I only brought an extra pair of pants. I'm scared that if I move around too much, my clothes will get dirty so Xiao Yi, could you buy a pack of pads for me?"

Lin Ya's request wasn't a big deal, so Ji Yi didn't think much of it and let out an "Oh." She sat up on the bench.

"Thank you Xiao Yi. I'm really sorry to have to bother you!" Lin Ya raised her brows in gratitude and shot her a bright smile.

"It's nothing," replied Ji Yi as she headed for the changing rooms.

She barely took a few steps when Lin Ya suddenly realized something. Lin Ya jogged a few steps and caught up to Ji Yi. "Ah, that's right! Xiao Yi, you don't have to give it to me here. I'm on my period so I

can't go into the hot springs. I'm about to go back to my room to get some rest, so you can drop it off at my room."

"Mm, alright," replied Ji Yi.

"Thank you!" said Lin Ya again. Just as Ji Yi was about to head out, Lin Ya said her final piece, "I almost forgot Xiao Yi. I'm not in the room next to yours anymore—I've moved to room 1808."

Ji Yi gave a nod, then she headed straight for the changing rooms.

...

The hot spring resort was over a thousand square meters, and there were no shuttle buses. All Ji Yi could do was walk.

At the supermarket, she first picked up a pack of pads for Lin Ya, then figured everyone would probably be hungry after the hot springs, so she filled a basket with snacks. Then she went to pay for everything.

Ji Yi headed back to the resort and took an elevator up to the eighteenth floor.

The top floor was all suites. The rooms were quite far apart, so it took a good two minutes for Ji Yi to reach Lin Ya's room at number 1808.

She pressed the doorbell and waited a while before she heard the sound of shuffling footsteps draw closer to the door. The door opened.

Ji Yi assumed it was Lin Ya and was just about to speak. The person who opened the door didn't even shoot a glance at her before he lightly dismissed her with the words "bring it in" and turned to walk into the bathroom.

Even though Ji Yi didn't clearly catch the person who opened the door, she could tell who it was by his voice.

She thought Lin Ya was a spoiled and pampered princess who wasn't used to a regular room, so she paid for a suite. But this room turned out to be He Jichen's room...

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Ah, that's right. He Jichen is Lin Ya's boyfriend. They bumped into each other at the same hotel—it's only normal that they stay together at night...

But... this didn't seem like any of her business. She didn't need to think too much about the two of them; she was just there to drop off something for Lin Ya. The sooner she dropped it off, the sooner she could leave. Most importantly, she got so upset with He Jichen just two hours ago in the corridor of the restaurant that she didn't want to see him. Since he was now in the bathroom, she could use this chance to drop the stuff off and disappear...

With that thought, Ji Yi quickly snapped back to her senses and hastily walked into the room, carrying the shopping bags.

With the doors shut, Ji Yi didn't see Lin Ya in the living room, so she assumed Lin Ya was in the bedroom.

When He Jichen opened the door, he just said: "bring it in". Lin Ya must've already told him that she was going to drop off some things later, so she didn't bother going into the room or lingering around to talk to Lin Ya...

Ji Yi quickly pulled out the pads from the shopping bag and placed them on the coffee table, somewhere Lin Ya could easily spot them. Without planning to stay a moment longer, she turned right around and bolted for the door.

Who knew that before she could even take a few steps, the bathroom door would suddenly fling open? Out stepped He Jichen leisurely in his robe, wiping his hands with tissue.

Ji Yi suddenly came to a stop. She tightened her grip on the shopping bag and took a step back.

He Jichen walked two steps towards Ji Yi, then noticed there was someone standing in his own room.

He thought an attendant had brought up the coffee he just asked for and was waiting in the room for him to sign the bill. He wasn't paying much attention when he reached his hand out in front of Ji Yi for the bill.

Ji Yi was stunned by He Jichen's actions. She stared at his beautifully long fingers for a moment, raised her head up at him, then stared at He Jichen, "I left..."

She wanted to tell He Jichen that she left Lin Ya's things on the coffee table, but she only just managed to get out two words before He Jichen suddenly turned his head and stared dead straight at her. "Why are you here?"

Didn't Lin Ya tell him who was dropping off pads for her?

Ji Yi definitely didn't want He Jichen to assume she was there for him. "I'm looking for Lin Ya..."

Lin Ya? Lin tongxue 1 ? If she's looking for Lin tongxue, why didn't she go looking for her in her room? Why's she looking for Lin tongxue in my room?

A thought suddenly crossed He Jichen's mind. Last week, after she went back to her dorm alone after having dinner with her family, she mentioned Lin Ya again. She asked on the phone, "Excuse me, are you looking for Lin Ya?"

So she thinks Lin Ya is with me?

"Alright..." He Jichen suddenly smiled. His smile appeared cheerful, but his eyes were terrifyingly bleak. "...a beautiful excuse, truly beautiful!"

"Did you really think you could just come to my room, and I'd let you stay with that excuse?"

"Let me tell you Ji Yi... Four years ago, I let you touch me because I was drunk. Four years ago, even if you offered me money, I wouldn't touch a single strand of your hair!"

"You sure are shameless! Just at the restaurant I already made it crystal clear, yet you still have the nerve to come to my room!"

Is she really that naive to think I would believe such an excuse ... Ji Yi lowered her head without saying a single word. She walked right past He Jichen and headed for the door.

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The moment she opened the door, the doorbell to He Jichen's suite coincidentally rang.

Ji Yi wasn't the least bit interested in who rang for He Jichen, nor did she care to glance at who it was. With her head low, she was just about to say: "Excuse me, could you please move aside" when Bo He said with a little uncertainty, "Xiao Yi?"

Ji Yi quickly swallowed her words. Besides Bo He, Lin Ya and Tang Huahua were also there.

"Xiao Yi, why are you..." blurted Tang Huahua, as though she didn't dare believe her eyes. However, before she could finish speaking, Bo He nudged her in the arm and shot her a look.

Tang Huahua suddenly understood what Bo He meant and immediately shut her mouth.

From what Tang Huahua and Bo He knew, Ji Yi knew He Jichen solely through Lin Ya and He Jichen was Lin Ya's boyfriend.

In that very moment, if Ji Yi wasn't in He Jichen's room to throw herself at him, then He Jichen was cheating on Lin Ya.

They were only there with Lin Ya to look for He Jichen, but in the end, they stumbled upon this...

Every so often, Tang Huahua and Bo He shot each other a glance.

The atmosphere turned a little awkward.

Ji Yi knew that Tang Huahua and Bo He had misunderstood.

But then again, it wasn't their fault. A woman who appears in a man's room in the middle of the night—it's hard for anyone not to misunderstand.

Without a second thought, Ji Yi said, "Lin Ya, you..."

Lin Ya spoke at the same time. However, her words weren't directed at her but at He Jichen, who was standing not too far behind her, "He Dage, we just ordered dinner and since you're here, we wanted to ask if you wanted any."

Though his anger had simmered down significantly, He Jichen still looked upset from his outburst. At Lin Ya's gentle voice, he raised his eyelids and shook his head slightly to decline the offer.

"Then He Dage, if you're hungry later, let me know," said Lin Ya softly with a gentle smile, as though she didn't mind He Jichen's silence in the slightest.

This time, she didn't wait for He Jichen to respond. Instead, she stared at Ji Yi with soft eyes as though she didn't have a clue why she was there. In an innocent and inquisitive voice, she asked, "Xiao Yi, it's so late. Why are you in He Dage's room?"

Of all people, shouldn't she know best as to why I'm here?

Ji Yi furrowed her brows and came to a vague understanding.

Bo He and Tang Huahua had no idea Lin Ya asked Ji Yi to help her with a favor. Now that they heard Lin Ya ask this to Ji Yi, they assumed Lin Ya was telling her off.

Everyone lived under the same roof in the same dorm. Bo He really didn't want their relationship to disintegrate, so she quickly tried to smooth things over, "If I remember correctly, Xiao Yi spent her senior high in Sucheng and He Jichen is from Sucheng. Who knows, maybe they knew each other before. Maybe Xiao Yi was looking for He Tongxue to talk about something important."

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When Tang Huahua heard Bo He put it that way, she immediately nodded along. "Right right right, maybe they knew each other long before."

Lin Ya's eyes smiled and she continued to look as soft as gently rippling waters. "Nope. I asked Xiao Yi before; she and He Dage never knew each other. Xiao told me they didn't know each other and that she never really paid much attention to He Dage."

Bo He and Tang Huahua didn't know quite what to say after being countered like that.

Even if Ji Yi had just a vague idea as to what was going on before, she now completely understood what Lin Ya was thinking at that very moment.

She clearly ran to her for help and lured her, one step at a time, into He Jichen's room. Now she was pretending like she didn't know why she was there, and she even cut off Bo He's attempt at smoothing things out. Lin Ya was actually set on pinning her to the reputation of her "seducing a best friend's boyfriend"...

"Lin Ya, don't you know why I'm here?" asked Ji Yi in a calm voice as she looked into Lin Ya's eyes.

Lin Ya was obviously going to pretend to be ignorant till the very end. She widened her eyes and asked with a bewildered look on her face, "Xiao Yi, what do you mean by that? How would I know why you're there?"

"You don't? Didn't you come running to tell me that you're on your period and that I should pick up some pads for you? You even told me you changed to room 1808 and asked me to drop them off here!" As Ji Yi said this, she tilted her head and glanced over at He Jichen and said, "The pads are on the coffee table in the room."

To see if what Ji Yi said was true, Bo He peered over at the room then politely asked He Jichen, "May I come in to have a quick peek?" With He Jichen's slight nod, Bo He ran right into the room.

"So there really is..." Soon enough, Bo He brought the pack of pads back. With the evidence, Bo He asked, "Xiao Ya, was what Xiao Yi said true?"

Lin Ya didn't reply to Bo He but stared at the pack of pads in disbelief. Her eyes looked like they were practically going to fall out. After a while, she raised her head and stared at Ji Yi in disbelief, "Xiao Yi, why did you do that? I didn't ask you to buy me anything."

The rims of her eyes turned red as though she'd just been wronged. She looked over at Bo He and Tang Huahua for help. "Bo He, Huahua, you know I sat in the hot spring all night. If I really was on my period, why would I be there..."

"What's more, Bo He, I had my last period at the same time as you..." Lin Ya was so flustered that she asked twice, "Bo He, do you still remember? Remember?"

Bo He glanced over at Ji Yi in hesitation but after a while, she eventually nodded.

"Look, Bo He nodded. I'm not on my period, so why would I ask you to help me buy them? Xiao Yi, why did you try to lie and embarrass me?" As Lin Ya said this, she turned around like she just realized something. "Xiao Yi, did you use me as an excuse because you wanted to visit He Dage but didn't have a reason to be here?"

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"Yeah. Yeah, it must be that..." Lin Ya nodded fervently and looked at Bo He and Tang Huahua like she was recruiting allies. "Think about it. If I really was on my period and I really did ask her to buy me something, I'd definitely ask her to deliver it to my room. Why would I possibly ask her to drop it off at He Jichen's room?"

"What's more, if I really did ask her to come here, do you think I'd really stay with you both in the hot springs for so long, head of the dorms Huahua?"

That's right. No girlfriend would allow their own boyfriend to be in the same room as a beautiful young woman in the middle of the night.

Lin Ya is He Jichen's girlfriend, so why would she ask Ji Yi to go to He Jichen's room? And why would she stay in the hot springs with us, knowing full well that Ji Yi was in He Jichen's room?

Even though Bo He and Tang Huahua didn't reply to Lin Ya's words, their faces obviously looked as though they believed Lin Ya.

Seeing this, Ji Yi completely understood.

Lin Ya's story was well-rehearsed.

Though Ji Yi didn't know when Lin Ya started to hold a grudge for her, she was certain Lin Ya had plotted this for a long time.

Lin Ya knew she'd just finished her period and Bo He could back that story, so she used a good opportunity to string up a good story from a bunch of lies.

Her intent to drop off some food for He Jichen was fake; bringing Tang Huahua and Bo He over was her real intention.

First, Lin Ya wanted Bo He to bear witness and second, she wanted to embarrass me in front of all my roommates!

For Lin Ya to think up such a flawless plan, she wasn't stupid. Seeing as Tang Huahua and Bo He stood by her side, her eyes filled with tears, appearing pitiful. "Xiao Yi, did you use me?"

"Everyone said that four years ago, Ji Yi, who'd joined B-film a year before, was a big shot. She wasn't someone to be messed with. If it weren't for the car accident three years ago that put her in a coma, then Ji Yi would've long been the queen bee of the entertainment industry today. All this time, I never believed those absurd rumours because I thought Xiao Ye was really nice. But today, I learned I was wrong. Xiao Yi, I never imagined you'd use me as a pawn to get closer to He Dage. Especially after how I've treated you so well all this time..."

As Lin Ya said this, large teardrops rolled down from the corner of her eyes.

Everything would've been fine if she hadn't cried, but as soon as she did, everything fell apart. Having assumed Ji Yi used Lin Ya, Bo He and Tang Huahua couldn't sit idly by any longer.

"Xiao Ya, don't cry."

"All of us live together—Xiao Yi, why would you go and do something like that?"

"Xiao Yi, why don't you apologize to Xiao Ya? You're in the wrong in the first place. If you just went to see He Xuezhong, fair enough but to use Xiao Ya as an excuse? That's really going overboard."

She had been through setups like this before.

She told He Jichen before, though he didn't believe her and made her sound like a terrible person.

Now, even her roommates believed she had sinister motives and wanted to steal her roommate's boyfriend...

When Ji Yi heard Bo He and Tang Huahua's words, her blood ran cold and her face turned pale.

He Jichen, who hadn't said a word from start to end but watched everything unfold, stared at Ji Yi's back for quite some time. Then, his eyes dropped to her fingers.

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Though they were quite some distance apart, he clearly saw her fingers tremble.

He Jichen's mouth pursed slightly as he stared at Ji Yi's fingers for a few seconds, then he opened his mouth.

The words he wanted to say didn't manage to escape his lips before Ji Yi, who had her back turned from the door, suddenly repeated Lin Ya's words, "After I've treated you so well all this time..." Her tone of voice wasn't pitiful like Lin Ya's but taunting instead.

"Huh..." chortled Ji Yi as she said that. "...Lin Ya, doesn't your face hurt after saying those things?"

“Ji Yi, what do you mean? You were obviously the one who used me, and you schemed to embarrass me in front of so many people. Not only are you not the least bit sorry, you have the nerve to say such things. Just what the hell do you want?” Lin Ya cried violently and started to shiver as though Ji Yi had frightened her. She looked as innocent and pitiful as could be.

Bo He and Tang Huahua stared at Ji Yi, visibly upset.

Ji Yi pretended as though she hadn't seen Lin Ya's reaction and stared unwaveringly at her. “What do I want to do? I don't want to do anything. I just want to ask you a question. Lin Ya, everything you said tonight—were you messing around or were you for real?”

“Xiao Yi, at a time like this, are you still not going to admit you tried to sabotage me? You still want to berate me and blame the victim...”

B lame the victim... Nice word choice. Just who's blaming the victim here?

Ji Yi didn't wait for poor, teary-eyed Lin Ya to finish speaking as she interrupted in a low and a far more serious tone of voice, “Don't talk shit to me!”

Since Ji Yi's tone of voice was so aggressive, Bo He couldn't help but cry out, “Xiao Yi!”

Ji Yi ignored Bo He's complaints and stared at Lin Ya, speaking freely, “Lin Ya, answer me this. Are you just messing with me, or are you for real?!”

“Xiao Yi, I never thought you were this type of person...” Lin Ya avoided her questions like before.

Ji Yi didn't say anything but immediately removed her waterproof watch.

“I truly saw you as a friend. Even then, after I learned that you used me and embarrassed me...” continued Lin Ya.

Ji Yi pretended as though she didn't hear what Lin Ya said and clicked a button on her watch with disregard for everyone around her.

“...Though I'm really upset and angry, I don't really blame you...”

Ji Yi put the watch to her ear as though she was trying to hear something.

“...I still hope we can continue to be friends...”

Ji Yi brought the watch down from her ear and quickly clicked the button on her watch a few times.

“...So much so that I want to tell Bo He and Tang Huahua that we should pretend what happened to us tonight never happened at all. The four of us are still best roommates and best friends—”

Before Lin Ya could finish her final word, a voice was suddenly heard, “Xiao Yi, can you do me a favour?”

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The words Lin Ya was about to speak suddenly dissipated into nothingness.

This... this is obviously my voice, but I didn't say that earlier...

Bo He and Tang Huahua were also completely astonished.

The corridors were extremely quiet to the extent that you could hear Ji Yi's voice, crystal clear: "What's up??"

"My thing came..."

When Lin Ya's voice was heard again, they finally suddenly snapped back to their senses and instinctively looked at the watch in Ji Yi's hand.

So all this time, this watch they were looking at was no ordinary watch; it could record.

"...I felt a little strange just now so I went to buy some water. On the way, I took a turn into the restroom and found out that it really did come. I don't know what's going on this month... It came a few days early, so I'm not prepared. Maybe it was because I soaked in the hot springs—it's a little heavy..."

Lin Ya and Ji Yi were whispering at the time, so the recording was a bit hard to hear. Even if Ji Yi turned up the volume to its very loudest, they still couldn't quite make out some words. But with the words they could hear, they could make out it was Lin Ya's voice, along with what she was saying.

Lin Ya's face gradually turned pale, and her eyes shot over to He Jichen standing behind Ji Yi. She was visibly unsteady.

"...The supermarket is a little far from our room and since we're only here for a night, I only brought an extra pair of pants. I'm scared that if I move around too much, I'll get my clothes dirty so Xiao Yi, could you pick up some pads for me?"

The air in the hallway instantly turned tense with the sound of Lin Ya's recorded voice.

Bo He and Tang Huahua looked over at Lin Ya.

Lin Ya's pale face was flushed as she tightly pursed her lips and clutched her sleeves. She looked exactly like a thief being caught at the scene.

The recording was still going.

The hallway was frighteningly silent.

"...I'm about to go back to my room to get some rest, so drop it off at my room..."

With that, Ji Yi replied, "Mm, alright." That was when Lin Ya remembered what she said afterwards and like she'd just been electrocuted, her whole body trembled. Then her whole body lurched towards Ji Yi with her claws. "Enough! Stop it!"

As she screamed, she hurled her handbag at Ji Yi's head.

Unprepared, Ji Yi wasn't ready for an attack by Lin Ya, so she didn't have time to dodge.

While she stared at the bag on the verge of hitting her face, a forceful hand grabbed her arm. With quick reflexes, her entire body was dragged backwards.

The bag brushed past Ji Yi's head and hit the door with a "Bang"!

Ji Yi only recovered from her shock seconds later.

He Jichen had pulled her away at the most crucial moment.

She didn't even think about why He Jichen did such a thing before she instinctively pulled away from He Jichen's hands. Then she took two steps forward and stood directly in front of Lin Ya.

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Her reaction was so intense—was she afraid of everyone hearing the words she said next?

Ji Yi wasn't a particularly virtuous person, but she never bothered anyone if they didn't bother her. Since Lin Ya came looking for trouble, she wasn't going to just idly sit around!

In the middle of the scuffle, the recording finished playing but Ji Yi wasn't done. She rewound the recording a little and continued to play it.

"...I almost forgot, Xiao Yi. I'm not in the room next to yours anymore, I moved to room 1808...."

Ji Yi waited for Lin Ya's words to completely finish playing before she refastened her watch onto her wrist. Then she nonchalantly raised her eyelids and stared coldly at Lin Ya. "I gave you a chance, but you didn't want it!"

Lin Ya's face was frighteningly pale as she bit down on her lips so hard that they turned blue. Despite this, Ji Yi didn't hold back; in fact, she became even more swift and fierce like a queen, full of gloating. "Since you already know the big shot Ji Yi who joined B-film four years ago is no ordinary person, let me offer you a bit of advice: don't mess with me!"

Ji Yi then turned right around and strode out in her high heels.

Bo He and Tang Huahua didn't snap back to reality until Ji Yi stepped into the elevator.

The two of them glanced at Lin Ya, then they each found an excuse to leave.

All of a sudden, it was just the two of them—Lin Ya and He Jichen—left in the corridors.

Lin Ya lowered her head, a little afraid to look at He Jichen.

Actually, she never wanted to take on Ji Yi; she only planned tonight's act because of He Jichen.

She was popular for being the most beautiful woman in B-film. There were so many guys lusting after her that they could form two rings around the school track, but her standards were too high. Not a single one of them caught her eye until she met He Jichen.

She had a friend from her hometown who studied in the directing program. It was because of him that she was able to meet He Jichen. From that point onwards, she often hung around her directing friend just so she could try to catch He Jichen's eye, but he never paid any attention to her. It wasn't until a month ago when she picked up Ji Yi's call while in the middle of a conversation with her friend that it all started.

That day, they were eating at the canteen. She deliberately sat next to He Jichen, and when she cried “Ji Yi”, He Jichen turned his head and shot her a glance.

At the time, she thought the look was because she was a little too loud, but after that meal, he began to show up at different points in her day. She figured that she’d finally gotten his attention, so she was unbelievably happy inside.

Later, what made her even happier was when she went over to clean her plate that he came up to her and asked, “Classmate, can I get your number?”

In that very moment, she was ecstatic.

She tried her best to contain her excitement and tried to casually exchange numbers with him.

She often made the first move to contact him. He rarely replied so she assumed it was just because his personality was naturally distant.

Even though he didn’t explicitly express that he wanted to be with her, she didn’t clear things up when Tang Huahua and Bo He mistook them for being a couple.

Because she felt that they already were a couple.

Otherwise, why would he invite her to dinner and to parties?

Oh wait—he never really invited just me. Every time, he said the four words, “You and your roommates” ...

But at the time, she was so overcome with happiness to be able to get closer to him that she didn’t notice anything wrong with his words.

That is, until the night of the outdoor party. When she came back from the party, Ji Yi told her that He Jichen had called the dorm room’s phone to look for her.

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Although she used irrefutable arguments to dismiss Bo He’s suspicions then, she still had deep doubts in her heart.

When He Jichen called the dorm room, she was right next to him. Bo He and Tang Huahua were also with her, so was he looking for Ji Yi?

At times, a woman’s intuition is really accurate.

She had to admit, when she invited He Jichen out that weekend, she deliberately told He Jichen that Ji Yi was going to the hot springs too.

So when she unexpectedly saw He Jichen at the Peony Pavilion, she finally understood.

He Jichen wasn’t into her. He obviously wasn’t drunk in love with her, but Ji Yi.

And for over a month now, I’ve been foolishly used as a pawn.

How could I just take that? How could I?

Yet she didn't want to lose face in front of He Jichen, so she plotted to ruin Ji Yi. She wanted Bo He and Tang Huahua to look down on her, and she wanted He Jichen to think she was a sly, calculative woman... so she put on that show tonight.

Lin Ya prepared well in advance for that night. She had been full of confidence, but she never imagined that Ji Yi would have a recording device on her.

In the end, she hadn't ruined her target but ruined herself. Bo He and Huahua definitely looked down on her now, and as for He Jichen...

At that thought, Lin Ya's fingers trembled. She carefully raised her head and looked up at He Jichen.

He was bending down to pick up her bag...

In that very moment, a sliver of hope surfaced Lin Ya's ashen heart. If he's doing this, does that mean he forgives me?

"He Dage, I..."

Before Lin Ya could finish, He Jichen straightened up, raised his hand and threw the bag at her face.

With that, an immense pain pierced Lin Ya's heart. Her heart was instantly shattered.

He wasn't helping me pick up my bag; he was giving me a taste of my own medicine by throwing the bag I just hurled at Ji Yi!

Tears instantly filled Lin Ya's eyes. She turned her head and looked at He Jichen as she said, a little choked up, "He Da..."

She only managed to get those two words out before He Jichen took a step back into his room. It was as though he wasn't willing to waste any more time with her. He slammed the door right in her face.

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After their fight, Ji Yi wasn't in the mood to spend the rest of the weekend at the hot spring resort, so the next morning, she sent Li Da, Bo He, and Tang Huahua each a text. She gave a weak excuse and returned home, back to the city.

Ji Yi didn't go back to school dorms that night since she only had class the next morning. When she returned to school, she went straight to the classroom.

Lin Ya never showed up, even after the bell rang for class.

After class, when Bo He and Tang Huahua looked for Ji Yi to talk, Ji Yi learned that Lin Ya didn't come back to the dorm room last night either.

In the following days, no matter in the classroom or the dorms, Lin Ya was nowhere to be found.

When the three of them—Ji Yi, Bo He, and Tanghuahua—finished class and went back to their dorm on Friday, Tang Huahua was just about to pull out her keys to unlock the door when someone from inside pulled the door open.

It was Lin Ya, who they hadn't seen for a few days. She emerged from the room with a suitcase and walked out.