

Chapter 221: The Person I Love Is Not My Lover (1)

Ji Yi knew “He Yuguang” meant he already caught a taxi from the airport. She first replied with a smiling emoji then quickly typed a reply: “Yuguang Ge, give me your address. I’ll mail you the jade.”

“He Yuguang” must’ve been on his phone as he replied swiftly: “You don’t have to go through all that trouble. Keep it with you for now, and let’s talk about when we see each other next.”

Ji Yi replied with an “Alright.” She stared at her phone screen and gently bit her bottom lip. After thinking about it for a few seconds, she nonchalantly replied with a few words: “Yuguang Ge, is the jade missing a piece?”

“He Yuguang” replied quickly as usual, with a simple: “Mhm.”

Ji Yi was just about to ask “He Yuguang” what happened to it when another new message popped up on her phone: “Accidentally dropped it.”

Accidentally dropped it... It’s exactly as the nurse described...

Ji Yi’s breaths suddenly caught in her chest. After about a good half minute, she forced herself to steady her trembling fingers. She continued to casually ask him: “You never got someone to fix it? I hear that people in the trade are really skilled; they could make it so that you can’t even see the crack!”

“He Yuguang” replied: “At the time, I couldn’t find the corner that broke off.”

At the time...

The nurse said that the guy picked up the big piece of jade and left in a hurry. Wasn’t that when he dropped it and broke off that small piece?

Is it possible that the owner of the jade is Yuguang Ge?

Ji Yi thought about it before she flipped through the photos on her phone and found a photo of “He Yuguang” and sent it to the nurse. She also added a comment: “Liang Jie 1 , was this the person who came to see me every month while I was in a coma?”

After she was discharged from the hospital, Ji Yi hadn’t really kept in contact with the nurse, so she was afraid she would’ve forgotten her by now. After texts were successfully sent out, she thought about it for a moment then called the nurse directly.

The nurse probably got her messages, so she immediately picked up to say, “Xiao Yi, it’s him! That’s him!”

Before Ji Yi could say hello, the reserved confidence in her voice became stunned.

The nurse was even more excited than she was as she chattered non-stop over the phone. “I definitely didn’t remember wrong. Even though I see many people at the hospital, it’s rare to see someone with such striking features, so I know I’m right. Xiao Yi, how did you find him?”

Seeing as Ji Yi didn't reply, she raised her voice and said, "Xiao Yi? Xiao Yi?"

Ji Yi snapped back to her senses a little, but still sounded a little absent-minded as she said, "En?"

"How did you find him?"

"Me?" Ji Yi's mind went blank for a moment before she realized what the nurse asked. She sounded dazed as she said, "I, I... He is an old friend..."

"Then he definitely has a crush on you, Xiao Yi. You don't often see this type of person. To actually be able to meet... Ah, you must treasure this..."

The nurse was talkative as usual – Ji Yi knew that if she didn't stop her, the nurse would talk for ten whole minutes. After the nurse spoke for a while, Ji Yi found an appropriate time to cut her off: "Liang Jie, sorry to have disturbed you. I still have some things to deal with, so I've got to go."

As soon as the call ended, Ji Yi's fingers relaxed and the phone crashed to the ground.

She didn't bother to pick it up as she hugged the cushion firmly and sat back on the sofa.

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She stared emptily at the TV in front of her for an awfully long time before she came back to her senses.

So, after I woke from my coma, the person I kept looking for was actually Yuguang Ge?

That's about right... Right now, besides her parents, the person who treated her the best was Yuguang Ge. The owner of the jade must've missed her dearly to visit her every month. Besides Yuguang Ge, who would go as far as to travel overnight to see her just because she sprained her ankle?

What's more, how could she forget that after she and Yuguang Ge got into their fake marriage, Yuguang Ge always went to Beijing on the eighteenth of every month...

With that thought, more and more ideas came flooding into Ji Yi's mind. Her heart started to race.

So in the three years she was in a coma, Yuguang Ge never forgot about her.

So the person she was looking for was Yuguang Ge. It was indeed Yuguang Ge...

An inexplicable feeling instantly overcame Ji Yi's chest. The feeling flailed erratically as it entered her heart; the sensation made her unsettled.

She always thought she kept a good distance between her and Yuguang Ge; she went to the extent of not allowing them to take an irreversible step.

But now, she realized she underestimated how well Yuguang Ge treated her.

This type of treatment was silent – incredibly attentive yet stifling, like one of the world's incurable poisons. It gradually seeped into her skin and entered her body, coursing through her organs and veins, making her feel helpless in defending herself from it.

Ji Yi didn't know just how long she could withstand this kind of poison and save herself from it.

But she knew clearly that in this very moment, her senses were still there. She had to grit her teeth and be reasonable.

Because between her and Yuguang, there was still He Jichen...

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After Ji Yi's foot fully recovered, she followed her original plan of going to Erhai.

She received "He Yuguang"'s messages every day and she replied to them, but she never had the courage to let "He Yuguang" take it any further. This was why she never asked him if he was the one who came to visit her every month while she was in a coma for three years. Of course, she didn't let "He Yuguang" know that she actually had the small lost half of his jade in her hands.

Her holiday flew by, and in the blink of an eye, it was the tenth of January in the lunar calendar, so there was still one week before school started. Ji Yi took a plane back to Beijing.

At home, she ate and slept comfortably for three days, then on the fourteenth of January, which was also February eighteenth in the Gregorian calendar, "He Yuguang" came to Beijing.

Ji Yi and "He Yuguang" had dinner together. Since Ji Yi needed to go back to university the next day, she didn't go back to "He Yuguang"'s apartment but headed straight back home.

"He Yuguang" drove her back. Just before she got out of the car, Ji Yi returned his jade to him.

It was better that she didn't look at the jade because as soon as she did, Ji Yi's mind wandered to how well "He Yuguang" treated her. Even though she tried hard to control herself, when she handed the jade to "He Yuguang," her fingers started to tremble gently.

After she returned home, Ji Yi laid in bed and summoned her strength to force the riveting emotions she felt for "He Yuguang" to settle down.

The next afternoon, Ji Yi ate lunch and returned to the school.

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Bo He and Tang Huahua arrived in the early afternoon. The two of them unpacked all their belongings then laid in bed to get some rest.

Delighted to see Ji Yi had arrived, the three women excitedly hugged each other and chatted for some time before Ji Yi started to change her bedsheets.

After Ji Yi finished getting her bed ready and wiped down her desk and chair, the three women went downstairs together to register at the admin office and to buy textbooks for the new semester.

Ji Yi assumed many of her classmates would judge her and talk about what Lin Ya posted on Moments on the evening of new year's upon her return to school. However, as she lined up at the admin office, she bumped into so many familiar faces, yet not only was everyone as normal as ever, there were even people who shot her "sympathetic" looks.

Tang Huahua, who she was close with, felt like something was off. She even whispered into Ji Yi's ear: "Xiao Yi, they obviously know about what Lin Ya posted on her Moments, but not only did they not judge you, they're actually acting all friendly. Don't you think something's not right here?"

Ji Yi nodded in agreement, not quite sure what was going on.

Since there were many students registering, the three of them waited half an hour before finally seeing hope.

In front of them was the school committee member who was very familiar with the class advisor. As soon as they saw each other, they struck up a casual conversation.

Standing behind the school committee member, Ji Yi didn't really pay attention to their conversation until the school committee member asked the class advisor, "Yang Jie, I heard Lin Ya was expelled?" Ji Yi furrowed her brows and focused all her attention to listen in on their conversation.

The class advisor spoke quietly, so Ji Yi came a little closer. Even though she couldn't hear clearly, she heard most of the conversation. "Yeah, I only caught wind of this today. No matter if she dropped out or if she was expelled by the administration office, it happened because of personal misconduct. Someone reported her to the Education Bureau for working an inappropriate job in a nightclub outside of school. The school leaders were called in to make a judgement. This situation just tarnishes our school's reputation. The administration office said they'll be taking this matter seriously – in a school assembly, they'll probably call out names related to this case..."

Having also heard the school committee member say this, Tang Huahua sneakily pinched Ji Yi's waist.

Ji Yi got the hint and looked back to shoot Tang Huahua a glance. Then the school committee member hugged her books and said her goodbyes to the class advisor before she left. It was time for Ji Yi to sign up and collect her textbooks.

Coming out of the admin office, Tang Huahua immediately started chatting with Ji Yi: "Xiao Yi, did you hear what Yang Jie said? Lin Ya was expelled! Our school... Oh.. Wait.. every school has students who commit misconduct, but how many schools actually deal with it? Lin Ya was obviously set up, but who did she offend to receive this fate?"

Just as Tang Huahua said "Lin Ya," they heard someone also say "Lin Ya" from behind a nearby tree.

Ji Yi and the other two instinctively stopped walking and looked over in that direction.

They were some girls from the same dorm floor chatting enthusiastically together. Some had books in their hands while another was empty-handed, probably preparing to pick up her textbook.

"I never imagined that Lin Ya was so shameless! She's capable of anything!"

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"Yeah, I never imagined that her jealousy could actually be so intense. After she found out that Ji Yi got a role in "The Palace," she actually locked Ji Yi in some abandoned school building just to stop her from making it to the set."

“If Xiaoyang didn’t see it with her own eyes, I wouldn’t believe her. This is clearly the type of drama that only happens in TV shows! I never imagined it’d really happen in real life! What’s more, according to what Xiaoyang said, He Jichen from the directing course forced Lin Ya to tell him where Ji Yi was and almost threw Lin Ya out the window. While this happened, the door of their dorm was wide open, so loads of people saw the look on Lin Ya’s face. In her heart, she must’ve hated Ji Yi to death!”

“What’s more, Ji Yi already decided to take on the supporting female role in “Three Thousand Lunatics,” so it was normal for her to have dinner with those people. Lin Ya hated Ji Yi so much that there was no way what she said on Moments was credible. Who’s to say that Lin Ya didn’t purposely try to make Ji Yi look bad?”

“...”

Several of them continued chatting away, all huddled together.

After Ji Yi listened up to this point, she turned her head and locked eyes with Tang Huahua. The two of them had the same flash of confusion in their eyes.

It was no wonder that when she returned to school, nobody judged her for Lin Ya’s photos that caused such an uproar on new year’s eve. So as it turned out, the situation already took a different turn without her even knowing it... It was obvious that someone secretly helped her clean up this mess.

As this thought flashed across Ji Yi’s mind, Tang Huahua said, “Xiao Yi, it’s obvious that someone is helping you. What’s more, that person must’ve had something to do with Lin Ya’s expulsion!”

Bo He immediately tagged along with Tang Huahua and added, “It’s not just a theory! Someone’s helping Xiao Yi for sure! By expelling Lin Ya, they probably wanted to kick her out of Xiao Yi’s life completely. This person obviously made matters so resolute to cut the weeds, eliminate the roots and prevent any problems that might come up in the future.”

The circumstances were obvious. Even if Tang Huahua and Bo He didn’t say it, Ji Yi guessed this too.

But this person... who is it?

It definitely isn’t Yuguang Ge, because I didn’t even tell him about what happened with Lin Ya...

“Say... who do you think this person could be?” Bo He pondered out loud and the three of them were silent for a moment.

Tang Huahua let slip, “I got it!”

Tang Huahua picked up her phone and started typing while completely ignoring Bo He’s incessant questioning.

A moment later, Tang Huahua’s phone rang, “Ding! Ding!” She raised her phone in front of Ji Yi. “I was right! It really was him!”

“Who is it? Who is it?” Bo He came over to Ji Yi’s side and read what was on Tang Huahua’s phone with her.

Tang Huahua had a simple conversation with Xiaoyang on WeChat.

Huahua: "Did someone entrust you to spread news about how Lin Ya trapped Xiao Yi in the abandoned school building?"

Xiaoyang: "How did you know?"

Huahua: "Don't worry about how I know. Let me ask you, was it He Jichen?"

Xiaoyang: "You know about even this?!"

Xiaoyang: "What the hell? God! Tang Huahua, were you born in the year of the celestial?"

After reading all the WeChat messages, Bo He turned to look at Ji Yi. "So, Xiao Yi. The person who helped you was He Xuezhang?"

Ji Yi looked calm and still as she stared at the phone screen. She didn't reveal too much on her face, but her fingers silently gripped her textbooks tightly.

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About the incident with Lin Ya... He Jichen actually helped me settle this issue?

It wasn't like he hadn't helped her before – for example, he also helped out in the situation with Lin Zhengyi. However, he helped her that time on Yuguang Ge's behalf, but this time, Yuguang Ge didn't even know about it. Anyway, He Jichen even viewed her as a filthy woman...

The things Lin Ya said on her Moments was obviously similar to what he thinks about me, so why did he help me?

Tang Huahua and Bo He didn't notice Ji Yi deep in thought as the two of them stood to one side. They even spoke back and forth on the topic of "He Jichen."

"Ah... He Xuezhang treats Xiao Yi so well..." said Tang Huahua.

"That's really great! I seriously wondered whether He Xuezhang became friends with Lin Ya just because of Ji Yi..." speculated Bo He.

"What is there to..." Tang Huahua instinctively wanted to elaborate on what Bo He said, but she only said four words and suddenly stopped. She thought back to how He Jichen asked her to help report on Ji Yi's daily activities every day and how she promised to keep it a secret. Then she swallowed the following words: "suspect? He obviously is" and forced herself to change her words to: "...think about? In any case, Lin Ya's already old news. Now that she's expelled, she won't cause Xiao Yi any more trouble."

Bo He, who didn't notice anything strange with what Tang Huahua just said, felt like Tang Huahua had a point. She nodded and added, "I agree!"

Tang Huahua and Bo He clapped hands. Then Tang Huahua was struck with a sudden thought as she turned to look at Ji Yi. She stared at her for some time but eventually couldn't contain the curiosity in her mind any longer and asked, "Xiao Yi, what do you think of He Xuezhang 1?"

When Ji Yi heard Tang Huahua's question, she quickly repressed her feelings.

She was lost in her own thoughts just now, so she hadn't heard Tang Huahua's question at all. Ji Yi raised her eyelids, looked over at Tang Huahua, and let out an "Mm?"

"I said, what do you honestly think of He Xuezhong?" Tang Huahua figured that Ji Yi didn't quite understand what she meant by her question, so she explained it in a little more detail.

Having clearly heard the question, Ji Yi's fine brows slightly furrowed of their own accord. Then she looked down and remained quiet for some time before she replied casually, "Nothing. He's just someone from the same school."

Tang Huahua could tell that Ji Yi didn't want to answer her question, but she didn't want to let Ji Yi off the hook, so she added, "Xiao Yi, don't brush me off. I'm asking you one more time, for real!"

"Look, He Xuezhong is really hot and his family background is great. You rarely find a person like him in this world and what's most important, he treats you..." Tang Huahua almost said the two words "especially well," but the words only managed to reach the corner of her mouth before she recalled what He Jichen secretly did for Ji Yi behind her back. Ji Yi had no idea, so Tang Huahua improvised by rewording her sentence to: "...not bad, so Xiao Yi, have you considered taking the next step with He Xuezhong?"

Ji Yi furrowed her brows even more tightly as she turned her head and looked over at Tang Huahua.

Having received Ji Yi's fierce gaze, Tang Huahua caught a tinge of annoyance.

She knew Ji Yi didn't like her asking that question...

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In the past, when something like this happened, Tang Huahua would instinctively shut up and stop asking, but this time, she didn't have the slightest intention of stopping. Instead, she continued to ask for even more clarification, "Or, Xiao Yi, would you ever like He Xuezhong? And do you now feel something for He Xuezhong?"

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Long ago on new year's eve when He Jichen received the screenshots from Tang Huahua, he was determined to not let Lin Ya off. However at the time, Ji Yi wouldn't pick up her phone and he didn't know her whereabouts, so he was worried and shoved the incident with Lin Ya to the back of his mind.

After returning from Lijiang, there was just over a month before "Three Thousand Lunatics" started filming. He had to make last-minute decisions and finalize the pre-release promotion, script, set and more. In the first month of the year, everyone was off on holiday, but he was working like crazy.

It wasn't until yesterday that he finally finished his work. After he got a good night's sleep, he realized it was the eighteenth – the very day he secretly went to see her every month after losing contact with her four years ago.

As soon as he thought of her, he conveniently remembered the unresolved situation with Lin Ya.

He was supposed to start school the next day, so he couldn't allow those rumors to spread wildly around the school. Without any appetite for Zhang Sao's breakfast set-up, he headed out to handle the situation with Lin Ya.

He knew about Lin Ya's antics long ago, but he never intended to completely remove her from the picture in the past.

He figured that after giving her that vicious warning last time in her form, she would instinctively know to stay away from Ji Yi. He never imagined that after two short months had passed, she would cause even more trouble.

Because Qian Ge alone already created enough trouble for Ji Yi, he couldn't allow Qian Ge to also have an easily manipulatable pawn such as Lin Ya, so he simply had to attack them at the root.

After saying goodbye to Ji Yi posing as his older brother back in Lijiang, he hadn't seen her for a little under two weeks. It was alright if he kept busy, but when he was free, he constantly thought about her. Since he had a free day yesterday combined with the fact that he helped her take care of the incident with Lin Ya, his longing for her grew stronger. He knew that as He Jichen, he simply couldn't ask her out, but he couldn't resist missing her. He struggled over the idea for a long time but eventually asked her out for a meal posing as He Yuguang.

Today was the first day back at school. He Jichen originally had a meeting scheduled for later in the afternoon, but he remembered that Ji Yi had to be at the administration office to register and pick up her textbooks that day. After rescheduling the meeting for tomorrow at eight in the morning, he drove to the school.

He parked the car close to the school building, pulled the window down and lit a cigarette. He turned on the music in the car and waited there for about an hour before he saw her and a few girls from her dorm walk over from afar.

It took half an hour for her to walk into the school building and walk out again with the two girls from her dorm, hugging her textbook.

After walking for some time, the three of them came to a stop to discuss something.

Through the windshield, he stared at her when he suddenly had the urge to talk to her.

Ever since that night at the Four Seasons Hotel, he hadn't spoken a single word to her as He Jichen... He could use the excuse of telling her that filming started on the fourteenth of March just to say a few words to her.

With that very thought, He Jichen pushed the car door open and headed straight for Ji Yi.

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Just as he was about to reach the three women, he heard what Tang Huahua said: "Or, Xiao Yi, would you ever like He Xuezhong? Moreover, do you now feel something for He Xuezhong?"

His footsteps came to a sudden halt as he held his breath and silently stared firmly at Ji Yi for her answer.

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Like He Jichen? Or feel something for He Jichen?

The annoyance between Ji Yi's brows grew more intense.

She would never forget how she endured and put up with Lin Zhengyi that night, just to help He Jichen get his investment back. She also remembered how he treated her and how humiliated she felt.

Like? Feel something?

She couldn't hate and avoid him enough, so how could she ever develop any pleasant feelings for him?

Tang Huahua saw how Ji Yi pursed the corners of her lips and how she didn't reply for some time, so she hid behind Bo He. In a quiet voice, she prompted her, "Xiao Yi..."

Ji Yi's train of thought was broken when Tang Huahua spoke. She was afraid Tang Huahua would continue to say offbeat, ridiculous things, so she immediately responded, "Would you fall for someone you hated?"

Ji Yi left Tang Huahua stunned with her swift response which then made Tang Huahua laugh. "Xiao Yi, are you kidding? He Xuezhong treats you so well, how could you hate such a..."

Ji Yi didn't want to keep talking about this topic in the slightest. Ji Yi understood exactly what Tang Huahua meant in an instant and stopped her from saying the word "person" by interjecting, "I'm not joking around with you. Like or feel something for him? Why don't you just kill me!"

After saying that, Ji Yi didn't stay a second longer. She hugged her textbooks and turned back around, heading towards the dorm.

Bo He and Tang Huahua seemed stunned by the sternness and conclusiveness of Ji Yi's last words. The two of them continued to stand there, staring each other in dismay for quite some time before they hurriedly caught up to Ji Yi.

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The three girls left and long ago disappeared from his line of sight, but He Jichen still stayed right where he stopped in his tracks without flinching at all.

Quite a few students brushed past him and entered the school building. There were also quite a few students holding textbooks, chatting and laughing beside him as they walked away.

However, his line of sight seemed frozen on the spot where Ji Yi was just standing.

The afterglow from the setting sun elongated his shadow.

Even he didn't know just how long he stayed there in that position before someone from his dorm, who had come to the administration office to register, saw him and cried, "Chen Ge?"

He Jichen still didn't flinch as though he hadn't heard a thing.

The roommate was so confused that he took a few big steps forward and stood behind He Jichen. He reached his arm out and patted his shoulder. "Chen Ge, what're you looking at? What has you so entranced?"

He Jichen suddenly snapped back to reality and turned his head around to look at his roommate.

The roommate followed He Jichen's line of sight, but couldn't see anything interesting. He let out a chuckle and cut to the chase: "Chen Ge, there's a party tonight in our dorm. Are you coming?"

Perhaps He Jichen was just in a daze for too long as he was a little bewildered. He initially shook his head then realized what his roommate asked and after a short while, he nodded.

He was afraid his roommate would be confused by his conflicting head shaking and nodding, so he added in an unbelievably hoarse voice, "Where?"

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"It's at the hot pot restaurant in front of the school." After the roommate said this, he pointed to the school building nearby. "Chen Ge, I'm going in to register first. See you later at the restaurant."

He Jichen gave a gentle nod but didn't say a word.

After his roommate left, he stood on the spot for some time before he strode back to his car. He pulled the car door open and got in.

He closed the door and pulled up the windows, letting silence seep through the entire car.

He Jichen lowered his eyes and stared at the steering wheel in front of him with Ji Yi's words to Tang Huahua echoing in his ears: "Would you fall for someone you hate?"

"I'm not joking around with you. Like or feel something for him? Why don't you just kill me!"

In actuality, deep down inside, he knew full well that she didn't have him in his heart. If he was, why would he need his brother's identity to get close to her?

However, when he heard himself just how non-existent he was to her, he realized the resulting devastation was a little too much to bear.

He knew she wasn't at fault here. He went overboard that night at the Four Seasons Hotel, but his heart still throbbed in pain at her words.

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Back in the dorms, Bo He received a call from the class president.

The class president and Bo He were from the same hometown and they were classmates since high school, so their relationship had always been good. He was calling to ask if Bo He would like to have dinner with him and his roommates later that evening.

Bo He thought about Ji Yi and Tang Huahua and hesitated a little since the class president asked her to bring them both along. However, when she remembered that it was a free meal, Bo He immediately

broke into a wide smile while hanging up the phone. She called Ji Yi and Tang Huahua to hurry up and get ready to head out for a free meal.

The dinner party was at a hot pot restaurant opposite the school, which eight out of ten school dinner parties were held at. Students at B-Film called it "Second Canteen."

Today was the start of the term, so all the students were eating out together. When Ji Yi and her two roommates arrived, the entire first floor of the hot pot restaurant was filled with people.

The three of them circled the first floor but couldn't find the class president and the others. Bo He was just about to take out her phone and give them a quick call when the class president showed up by the stairway. "Bo He."

Ji Yi and the girls walked up the stairs, following the class president while they heard him explain, "When we got here, the first floor was full. There was just no room, so we had to book large private room on the second floor. However, they were full today and seeing as the large private room could seat over ten people, the boss wasn't particularly willing to give it to our party of seven. Luckily, I bumped into good basketball friends of mine. They came too, so he figured that we might as well share tables. We're from the same school, so you guys can get to know each other..."

By the time the class president finished talking about how it all happened, the four of them had already reached the entrance of the large private room.

Aside from the three girls, all the others were already seated around the big round table, happily chatting away.

Tang Huahua walked right to the front, pulled a chair out, and just sat down when her eyes widened in disbelief. She cried out, "He Xuezhang?"

The second Tang Huahua said that, she thought back to what she asked Ji Yi in front of the administration office not too long ago. She instinctively turned her head and glanced over at Ji Yi.

When Ji Yi heard Tang Huahua say the three words "He Xuezhang," her fingertips trembled but the expression on her face didn't change.

If she knew she'd have to share tables with He Jichen, she would've definitely found an excuse to decline tonight's dinner invitation.

But she was already there, so she couldn't just turn and leave.

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Ji Yi could only force herself to endure the uncomfortable feeling inside as she slowly pulled out the chair next to Tang Huahua and took a seat.

Seeing as everyone was there, the class president immediately called the waiter to order food.

Since there were too many people eating tonight, not only did it take a long time for the food to arrive, but the staff also took a long time to distribute the tableware.

Coincidentally, Ji Yi's back was to the doors of the large party room, so all of the cutlery was by her side. As she helped Tang Huahua hand out the tableware, Ji Yi incidentally looked up and caught a glimpse of He Jichen sitting right in front of her.

He sat by the window with his chair turned to one side. There was a cigarette in his mouth as he stared out the window.

The somber expression on his face revealed he was in a bad mood. Despite this, it didn't conceal his air of nobility.

When he raised his lighter and lit his cigarette, the flickering flame illuminated his face and emphasized the frightening good looks of his perfect facial features.

After he lit the cigarette, he pinched it from his lips and held it between his fingers without smoking it.

This guy has so many weird habits – he doesn't smoke, so why does he still light up the cigarette?

After Ji Yi silently cursed at him deep inside, she then realized that she really was caring too much about He Jichen. She then averted her gaze and joined back into the group conversation.

Everyone in the room was cheerfully chatting away apart from He Jichen, who from start to finish, didn't say a word.

After the waiter finished serving the food, the class president dipped the beef into the hot pot water to cook. That was when the man sitting next to He Jichen cried, "Chen Ge, let's eat."

He Jichen tilted his head stiffly but didn't say a word.

But after some time passed, the cigarette between his fingers had burned down to half its size.

Not in a hurry to turn his chair around to start eating, He Jichen nonchalantly brought his cigarette up and swiped the window pane.

After Chinese new year in Beijing, the weather was still really cold. As soon as the hot pot in the room started to boil, the temperature rose, creating a layer of condensation on the window pane.

As He Jichen's cigarette swiped the window pane, it left temporary marks against the dispersing condensation.

At first, Ji Yi didn't pay attention to what He Jichen was writing on the window, but just as she got up to fish out the beef balls from the hot pot, she saw him write "I" on the window pane with his cigarette-wielding fingers. Out of utter curiosity, she looked over at his slender fingers as she sat down.

He looked unusually serious as he slowly wrote stroke by stroke until he wrote the word "love." By then, the first word was already covered by condensation.

Did He Jichen want to write "I love you"?

Before that thought could settle, she caught sight of the third word He Jichen wrote.

Every time he wrote a word, the condensation from the previous word covered up the last.

After he finished writing the whole sentence, the only word left on the window was "lover."

So it wasn't what I thought it was. Then what does he want to write?

Ji Yi stopped eating and stared unblinkingly as He Jichen's cigarette butt burned out.

With her gaze transfixed, Ji Yi stared at He Jichen as she silently read the entire line: "The person I love is not my lover."

What a sad line...

Ji Yi instinctively turned her gaze to He Jichen.

He was still staring out the window with his back against the entire room.

Chapter 230: The Person I Love Is Not My Lover (10)

She wasn't entirely sure if it was because of what He Jichen just wrote, but Ji Yi felt a strong sense of sadness permeate little by little from his silhouette.

Sadness?

From Ji Yi's impression of He Jichen, his characteristics were best described with words like egotistical, arrogant, brash, and self-righteous. As for sadness... this adjective was completely out of place in his world...

There are actually things for him to be torn up about?

And from what he just wrote, it looks like it's about... love?

He Jichen has someone he likes? Back in Sucheng, there was a long period of time when we were especially close. How could I not know that he liked someone? Could he have met someone after we parted four years ago?

It's really hard to imagine what kind of woman He Jichen could fall for.

Ji Yi couldn't help but stare at He Jichen, entranced. When Tang Huahua saw her holding her chopsticks still for a while, she gave her a little nudge.

Ji Yi shook and quickly glanced down to hide the fact that she stared at He Jichen.

Tang Huahua, with something in her mouth, said in a muffled voice, "Xiao Yi, why're you not eating?"

"Oh, right." Ji Yi quickly picked up some food with her chopsticks and shoved it into her mouth.

She chewed a little but couldn't resist glancing up at He Jichen.

The final word he wrote on the window pane, "lover," was long gone, but she stared firmly at him. Everyone in the room was still eating, but he didn't have any intention of picking up his chopsticks. He looked truly devastated as he felt around for another cigarette. He eventually found one and put it in his mouth. Through the shroud of cigarette smoke, Ji Yi hazily saw a flash of deep heartache in his eyes as his gaze fell.

It felt like Ji Yi's heart was stabbed harshly by something, inducing an inexplicably sharp pain.

She hurriedly withdrew her gaze and creased her brows. Then she remained frozen in place while tightly gripping her chopsticks for a moment before the heartache disappeared.

That was so weird. What does He Jichen being sad have anything to do with me? Anyway, how does the way his crush looks have anything to do with me?

Ji Yi shook her head as she cast the thoughts of He Jichen away and continued to eat.

By the time everyone was full, He Jichen's plate was still untouched.

The class president noticed it was still early, so he wasn't in a rush to get back to school. Seeing as the conversations were dying out, someone suggested they play a game.

The game was simple – everyone had one piece of paper and a pen, and you had to write a message you could never bring yourself to say to someone. All you had to do was write the person's name but not your own.

Everyone around the table thought it was really interesting and agreed.

When someone called the waiter for some paper and pens, they asked if He Jichen wanted to join in.

The roommate next to He Jichen instinctively said, "Chen Ge would never..."

Before he could finish, He Jichen, who hadn't said a word all night, finally said, "Let me."

The roommate's mouth gaped as he sat next to him.

The waiter quickly brought over some paper and pens.

Each person at the table grabbed a paper and pen and started to write.

After they finished writing, they folded the piece of paper and called a waiter over to help collect them and distribute them back in a random order.

The first one on top was for the class president: "Your socks are so stinky."

Everyone in the room burst into laughter.