

Chapter 31: Let Her Leave (1)

Bo He and Tang Huahua, who were loudly chatting away, instantly fell silent.

After a short while, Bo He and Tang Huahua greeted Lin Ya one after the other, “Xiao Ya.”

Lin Ya felt that something was off, so she raised her head and looked straight ahead. Her footsteps stopped in their tracks.

Lin Ya first saw Bo He who was right at the front, then she saw Tang Huahua. Her lips twitched as though she was going to greet them back, but before doing so, she saw Ji Yi behind them. Her face froze, and her eyes turned cold. Then without saying a word, she walked right around Bo He and dragged her suitcase on her way out without looking back.

When Lin Ya brushed past her, Ji Yi caught a glimpse of a bruise on her face.

Ji Yi couldn't help but turn her head to look at Lin Ya's face. Even with heavy makeup, Lin Ya's bruise was still very obvious. Before Ji Yi could get a clear look at the bruise, Lin Ya already sensed her gaze. As though she had an electric shock, she quickly covered her face with her hand, then turned to shoot Ji Yi a fierce look. Her eyes were icy cold as she picked up the pace and quickly disappeared around the corner, going downstairs.

...

A long time passed since Ji Yi last saw Lin Ya.

If it weren't for Lin Ya, Ji Yi would never have unexpectedly crossed paths with He Jichen again; He Jichen would never have appeared so often in her world. Now that Lin Ya disappeared from her life, He Jichen would completely disappear from her world as well.

Ji Yi wholeheartedly felt that this was great—she could go back to her uneventful but peaceful life like before.

As the days went by, fall was soon upon them. Just as Ji Yi had almost completely forgotten about He Jichen, she picked up some rumours about him.

It was a Thursday. After she finished dance class, she went back to the dorm room to find that Bo He and Tang Huahua seemed a little different. She furrowed her brows and casually asked, “What's up?”

Tang Huahua and Bo He didn't say a word. Without warning, their eyes were drawn towards Lin Ya's bed.

Ji Yi also turned her head in the same direction and realized that Lin Ya's bed was empty.

“Not only are the duvets gone but even the things on her table are gone,” said Bo He.

“Her cabinet’s unlocked, and it’s empty inside.” Tang Huahua added, “When Bo He and I got back, the stuff was already gone. She probably doesn’t want to see us, so she secretly came back on her own and moved out while we were in class. Looks like she really doesn’t plan on coming back to live with us.”

“However, Xiaoyang from the next dorm came by and said that she saw Lin Ya in the afternoon with a guy who helped pack her things. After they exchanged a few words, she found out that Lin Ya moved in with her boyfriend.”

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“Mm, that’s right!” Tang Huahua then took over from Bo He, “Xiaoyang said the guy was handsome and drove an Audi. He Xuezhang’s car is an Audi. Bo He and I have even been in it twice now, so we suspect Lin Ya must’ve moved in with He Xuezhang.”

“It’s not just a suspicion—we’re sure of it.” Compared to Tang Huahua, Bo He’s tone of voice sounded calmer and more assured by far. “I remember when we went to that outdoor party, someone from He Xuezhang’s dorm mentioned that he occasionally stayed in the dorms, but he has his own apartment. They say it’s a mansion. What’s more, it’s worth ten million and completely paid off. He Xuezhang really isn’t just your average rich person...”

Of course, He Jichen was no average rich person—he had the listed company, He Enterprises, behind him. Not to mention, he had a mansion in the heart of Beijing worth ten million. He was even able to afford a villa worth billions in the rich neighbourhood up on the north side of Beijing.

Since four years ago, anything regarding He Jichen long had nothing to do with me...

Ji Yi’s facial expression didn’t change much as she grabbed a change of clothes and walked into the bathroom.

As they say, don’t believe what people tell you until you see it for yourself.

More or less, women liked to gossip; Ji Yi was just having a half-hearted conversation with Bo He and Tang Huahua—who said there was any truth to the rumors? The next day, when she went to her afternoon fitness class, she made a detour into the school supermarket and bought a bottle of water. On her way out, she saw Lin Ya and He Jichen together, and that was when she realized that what she, Bo He and Tang Huahua gossiped about was all true.

The two of them stood facing each other, talking about something.

He Jichen lowered his head and played around with his car keys. He leaned against his car which flashed in the sunlight every now and then.

It was just as Tang Huahua and Bo He described; he really did have an Audi.

At that thought, Ji Yi drew her gaze back from He Jichen and Lin Ya. As she did so, He Jichen, who had his head lowered from the start, coincidentally looked up in the direction where she was standing.

The sun was bright, so Ji Yi wasn’t sure if she was seeing things but she thought she saw He Jichen slightly stunned. Then, he abruptly straightened up like he was ready to rush over towards her.

Ji Yi instinctively raised her legs and bolted in the direction of the sports track.

After putting a good fifty meters between He Jichen and herself, she turned her head back to see that He Jichen and Lin Ya were rooted at the same spot. She couldn't help but secretly laugh to herself. As she figured, her eyes were just playing with her; why would He Jichen come rushing over to her? Yet his Audi looked a little familiar as though she'd seen it somewhere before...

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Recently, He Jichen hadn't felt great, especially today. As he drove away from school, he realized he left his lighter in the dorms, so he stopped by the supermarket near the school to get a new one. As he got out the car, he was stopped by Lin Ya, who he hadn't seen for a while.

Lin Ya stood in front of him rambling on about a bunch of things, but he wasn't really listening so he didn't say a thing.

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Actually, Lin Ya didn't say much, but he just didn't have the patience for her. He lifted his head, hoping to avoid her, but then he saw her. It was Ji Yi, standing not too far away by the entrance of the supermarket.

She was looking over at him and Lin Ya. Her eyes were clear—there was no emotion at all—but in that very moment, his heart skipped a beat for some reason. An indescribable sense of panic came over him as he subconsciously lifted a leg in her direction. However, before he could make his way over, Ji Yi suddenly turned around and left in a hurry.

His crappy mood instantly worsened. He silently stared at where Ji Yi had been standing for a while then without even buying the lighter, he turned around, pulled the car door open, and got in.

He ignored Lin Ya's frantic slapping on his window and stepped hard on the gas, leaving her in the dust as he sped off.

Just as he was about to reach his house, He Jichen got a call from Han Zhifan inviting him to The Golden Lounge to play cards. He hadn't decided if he was going or not, but he let out a non-committal "Mm" and hung up the phone.

As He Jichen was about to take a turn into the residential gates, he hesitated for a moment then turned the car around, heading for The Golden Lounge.

Playing cards made the time fly by. In the blink of an eye, the sky was already dark.

After He Jichen picked up a card in front of him, Han Zhifan glanced at his watch. It was already eight o'clock, so he turned his head around to look at He Jichen, who'd remained quiet from the start. He asked, "Want to go next door for some food?"

He Jichen knew that by "next door", Han Zhifan meant China World Hotel, Beijing. His fingers nonchalantly rubbed the card, and after thinking it over, he gave a slight nod and got up to walk out of the room.

Han Zhifan hurriedly called the waiter for the bill, then picked up his jacket and swiftly chased after him.

After dinner, Han Zhifan pulled out a pack of cigarettes out of habit. He took out a cigarette and was about to put it to his lips when remembered He Jichen. Turning to him, he offered the cigarette to He Jichen. "Want one?"

He Jichen silently reached his arm out to take it.

Han Zhifan lit He Jichen's cigarette first, then his own. While holding the cigarette with his lips, he slowly took a drag. He assumed He Jichen would silently hold his cigarette between his fingers, waiting for it to slowly burn to the end as he always did. Who knew that a second later, he would actually put it to his mouth and take a deep drag.

Having been classmates with He Jichen for four years, he knew more than anyone that he liked cigarettes but never smoked them.

Since three years ago, this was the second time seeing him take a big drag like this.

He Jichen's odd behaviour stunned Han Zhifan. He then looked down at He Jichen's plate and realized there wasn't a single trace of oil. He realized that he might've been the only one who ate that night since He Jichen hadn't even picked up his chopsticks.

Han Zhifan quickly released the smoke from his mouth and asked, "What's up? Not in a good mood?"

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He Jichen raised his hand and took a hard drag. Through the lingering smoke, he glanced at Han Zhifan, who had an indescribable look on his face.

"What's up? Not happy at B-film?" Han Zhifan spoke again. At the mention of B-film, Han Zhifan continued, "I did tell you... You already got your bachelor's degree from a prestigious university. They even wanted to send you to study at an American university, but in the end, you wasted so many years of your academic career to start over at B-film?"

"I really don't know what to say. Can B-film even compete with prestigious schools? Can it compete with America?"

"In any case, if you're bored of studying, it'd probably be easy for you to just become a CEO of a listed company with all your years in university!"

"Not to mention, even if you didn't want to be some CEO, couldn't you just go home and take over He Enterprises?"

"No matter which path you take, anything is surely better than coming to B-film to study from scratch?"

"I just don't get it. Why did you give up your bright future and unbound glory and insist on starting again from scratch? Aren't you wasting all your years of hard work and struggle?"

Given all the criticism, He Jichen wasn't phased. Instead, Han Zhifan started to feel regretful on He Jichen's behalf yet energized at the same time, "Say, just how depressed must you have been to make

such a decision? Honestly speaking, I really do pity you. I'm not afraid of anything, but I'm scared you've given up far too much and you'll come to regret it one day."

He Jichen, who'd been quiet the whole time, showed no signs of wanting to talk.

After going on his monologue for so long, Han Zhifan paused for a moment. Then, as though something had clicked for him, he turned his head to He Jichen with some uncertainty and said, "Jichen, are you hiding something about why you came to B-film?"

"I've been your classmate for four years now, but I've never heard you say you're interested in directing, so don't give me that "it's my dream" bull. Tell me straight up—are you here because of someone?"

He Jichen's fingers trembled as he held the cigarette between them.

After a while, he drew the cigarette over to the ash tray and lightly tapped it. The ashes fluttered down.

Like a detective, Han Zhifan also recounted, "Every month during the four years in university, you made a trip to Beijing—did you go see someone?"

"A man or a woman?"

"Does that person have something to do with why you've come to Beijing?"

"And this person, are they in B-film too—"

"Waiter, bill please!" After remaining quiet all night, He Jichen finally said his first words of the night.

"I can't have possibly guessed right... right?"

When Han Zhifan finished speaking, He Jichen paid the bill, put out his cigarette and took off.

The Golden Lounge and China World Hotel, Beijing were so close to one another that the two of them simply walked between them.

When they reached the front doors of the Golden Lounge again, Han Zhifan pointed upstairs at the cards room that wasn't empty yet, "Do you want to go up to play for a while?"

"I can't; I have class tomorrow morning."

Han Zhifan could tell that He Jichen really had no intention of going back up, so he said his goodbyes and walked up the stairs.

He Jichen stood at the front doors of the Golden Lounge for a while before going to the parking lot.

As he drove off, He Jichen headed towards the university.

The light from outside the window flashed across his handsome face. He stared straight ahead with a calm expression for the entire journey. It wasn't until he drew closer to the university that he suddenly hit the brakes.

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He Jichen stared out at the empty street in front of him for quite some time before he slowly turned his attention to the road.

There was a woman crouched on the ground with her body curled up under the pale yellow light from the lamppost.

Her face was lowered so he couldn't see her face, but he still recognized her with a single look.

Her shoulders quivered slightly as though she was crying.

He Jichen subconsciously tightened his grip on the steering wheel as he watched the scene before him.

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Ji Yi crouched by the side of the road with her head buried between her knees. Her eyebrows were furrowed, and she had one hand pressed against her stomach, with the other tightly clenched into a fist.

She had been fine just now, but for some reason, her stomach suddenly started to hurt out of the blue.

At first, she assumed the faint, sharp pain was just trapped gas, so she didn't think too much of it. Who knew the pain in her stomach would grow as she continued to walk to the entrance of the school? It ended up hurting so much that it became a little difficult to breathe, and her legs were so weak that she couldn't walk any further. All she could do was hold her stomach, sit down, and hope for the pain to gradually disappear.

After about four or five minutes, the pain had dulled quite a bit. With trembling legs, Ji Yi was just about to stand up when suddenly, her stomach was struck again by a sharp pain. This time, the pain was several times more intense than before as though her stomach was cut by a knife. It hurt so much that she let out a grunt, and tears came pouring out. Then, she sat back down on the ground.

Not only did the wave of pain not subside, but it grew more intense. Ji Yi was in so much pain that her body started to tremble. She realized that something wasn't quite right. She wanted to reach her arm out to grab her phone to call for help.

The pain made her fingers tremble like crazy. She used every bit of her strength to drag her bag in front. She was about to pull the zipper when another wave of pain bore into her. Ji Yi was in so much pain that her body swayed, almost causing her to fall to the ground. She steadied herself, held her breath, and remained quietly still for a moment before she gritted her teeth. She reached her fingers over to the zipper but realized that the pain had exhausted her so much that she couldn't find the strength to pinch the zipper, let alone pull it open.

She felt herself become a little disoriented. She forced herself to hold it together and not faint, but the pain grew increasingly sharp, and her back was completely drenched in sweat.

Every now and then, she heard the whistling of passing cars on the road slowly disappear in the distance.

Just as she felt so much pain that she started to black out, she heard the faint sound of a familiar voice above her head, "Why are you sitting here?"

Ji Yi thought she was just hearing things. She was stunned for a while before she groggily lifted her head.

In front of her was a pair of men's black leather shoes.

Ji Yi furrowed her brows as she tried hard to look up. Just as she caught a glimpse of the man's waist, the pain in her stomach caused her vision to go dark. Her entire body slumped to the ground.

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"Xiao Yi! Xiao Yi!" That familiar voice rang in her ears again, but this time, the voice wasn't the least bit composed like it was before; it was filled with anxiety and worry with an evident tremble.

Ji Yi thought she must've been hallucinating. How could that man call my name with that kind of tone?

And yet, this hallucination felt so real... The way he reached his arm out to gently pat her face as though he was trying to wake her up...

Ji Yi's eyelashes quivered. She wanted to open her eyes, but before she could, she fainted completely. The final second before she lost consciousness, she vaguely heard, "Dr. Zhu? Come to my place immediately..."

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When Ji Yi woke up again, she was no longer on the dark, ice-cold street but under the covers on a soft, warm bed.

She laid in bed for a while in a daze before she realized how unfamiliar the ceiling above her head looked. As she looked around, she gradually remembered walking to the fourth crossing to eat la mian noodles. On the way back to school, her stomach suddenly started to hurt. She tried to call for help, but then she fainted... so... where was she right now?

At that thought, Ji Yi suddenly sat up, hugging the covers. Completely unfamiliar surroundings filled her eyes.

It looked like a bedroom. The walls were beige, the room was purely decorated in a European style, there were white floor-to-ceiling glass windows and fine, elegant furniture. The entire room looked luxurious, yet low-key.

Am I at someone's home? Judging by the furnishings of the room, the owner is probably rich... She continued to observe her surroundings.

There were two doors in the room; one open, the other closed shut.

Through the open doors, she could see a changing room with rows and rows of neatly organized men's clothes.

So I'm in a man's room?

Before that thought could settle, the door was pushed open and Ji Yi instinctively diverted her attention towards the sound.

An unfamiliar middle-aged woman came in softly and quietly. When she saw Ji Yi up in bed, her footsteps stopped for a moment. She wore a friendly smile. "Miss, you're awake?"

Ji Yi stared at the unfamiliar woman for a while, then asked in hesitation, "Hello, excuse me, are you..."

When the middle-aged woman heard this, she immediately smiled and said, "I'm the housekeeper here. You can call me Zhang Sao..."

Zhang Sao suddenly looked like she just remembered something and continued, "Oh my poor memory... I almost forgot! Miss, please wait, I'll go tell mister..."

Ji Yi didn't have any time to react before Zhang Sao turned around and ran right out of the bedroom.

After about five or six minutes, footsteps were heard outside the room. Ji Yi could tell those footsteps weren't Zhao Sao's.

Zhao Sao didn't close the door on her way out, so after hearing those footsteps, Ji Yi turned her head in that direction. In the next instant, He Jichen appeared at the door, fully dressed in all white loungewear.

Chapter 37: Let Her Leave (7)

Ji Yi stared at He Jichen for a while, completely stunned. Her mind slowly caught on.

Last night, the person who brought me back to their place was... He Jichen?

So, the hallucinations I had before I fell unconscious were real?

That thought crossed Ji Yi's mind for just a second before she rejected it without hesitation.

Before she lost consciousness, she saw a pair of leather shoes. That was probably real, but when she heard the anxious cry of "Xiao Yi"... now, that must've been hearing things.

Without giving it much consideration, she was certain of it. Why would He Jichen worry about me?

In the midst of all her wild thoughts, she heard the sound of footsteps from outside again. Then, she heard Zhang Sao say to He Jichen in an extremely respectful voice, "Mr. He."

Ji Yi snapped to her senses when Zhang Sao appeared. She realized too late that He Jichen, who was just at the door, had already made his way to the side of the bed.

As he drew closer, Ji Yi started to feel incredibly uncomfortable and instinctively clutched onto the bed sheets out of habit.

"Mr. He, I've brought the congee up. Should the Miss eat now?"

With that, Ji Yi realized that Zhang Sao now had a food tray in her hands.

He Jichen didn't say anything. As he stared at Ji Yi's deathly clasp on the bedsheets, he gave Zhang Sao a gentle nod.

With his permission, Zhang Sao came to the side of the bed. She first placed the food tray on the bedside table. Then, she put two pillows against the head of the bed and took a seat. As she stirred the

steaming hot congee, she said to Ji Yi, "Miss, when Dr. Zhu came over last night, he said you had acute enterogastritis, so he put you on a drip..."

So, the sudden pain I felt last night was because of acute enterogastritis... With Zhang Sao's words, Ji Yi lowered her head and glanced over at her arm. There actually was a needle sticking out of the back of her left hand.

"...Dr. Zhu recommends that you eat light meals for a few days, so I made you some congee. Please have some now, then take your medicine after a while." With that, Zhang Sao brought the spoonful of congee to Ji Yi's lips.

Ji Yi stared at the smooth white congee but didn't eat it. Instead, she turned her head, looked over at He Jichen and said politely, "Thank you for last night."

The clothes she wore the night before were still on her body. When Ji Yi finished speaking, she removed the covers and attempted to get out the bed.

"Miss, you were unconscious for so long that you missed breakfast and lunch. Your body is weak, so you should eat something. You can get out of bed in a moment..." Zhang Sao said hastily.

"I'm fine," replied Ji Yi to Zhang Sao. She found her shoes on the floor and bent over to pick them up.

Zhang Sao wanted to try persuading her again, but just as she cried "Miss", He Jichen, who hadn't said a word since he entered the room, suddenly addressed Zhang Sao, "Please leave first."

"Yes, Mr. He."

When Zhang Sao got up, He Jichen added, "Give me the congee."

Zhang Sao hurriedly handed it to him with both hands.

He Jichen took the congee. After Zhang Sao shut the door on her way out, He Jichen looked over at Ji Yi. "Eat a little. Even if you don't have an appetite, eat some."

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After Ji Yi put her shoes on, she straightened up and said something completely unrelated to what He Jichen said, "I'm terribly sorry for troubling you last night."

He Jichen furrowed his brows. His voice didn't carry any emotion, and his voice remained calm as he said, "What's wrong? You don't feel like eating congee?"

Aside from the time he said harsh, mocking words to her at the hot spring resort, he either didn't talk to her at all or he'd say under ten words to her each time, ever since they bumped into each other that first day. To date, this was the first time he spoke calmly with her since they were reunited after four years.

Ji Yi still thought it was odd. She silently glanced at He Jichen for a moment but didn't reply. Instead, she continued with her own train of thought and said, "I'm much better, so I'll be leaving now."

The corners of He Jichen's lips tightened for a moment. Ji Yi saw a faint hint of annoyance flash across his eyes but when she took a closer look, a sense of calmness had already filled his eyes.

He stood there on the spot with such calm eyes as he stared at her about to leave. He said, "What do you want to eat? I'll call someone to make it for you."

From Ji Yi's memory, He Jichen rarely had this much patience. If this had been in the past, it would've been a miracle for him to hold his anger and try to persuade you more than once. Today, he tried to persuade her three times... Ji Yi felt even more suspicious. After a while, she softly replied to He Jichen and said, "Thank you, but that's okay."

As Ji Yi's voice fell, she felt his expression turn cold. The atmosphere in the room became completely tense.

Ji Yi waited for half a minute, but seeing as He Jichen didn't say anything further, she lifted her legs and prepared to leave.

Just as she was about to take a step, He Jichen spoke again, "Since you don't have an appetite, then at least take your medicine."

As He Jichen said this, he walked over to the bedside table.

It would've been better if He Jichen hadn't mentioned the medicine, but Ji Yi thought about the money it must've cost for her checkup. Paying for it completely slipped her mind, so she hurriedly said, "Mr. He, I'm sorry. I forgot for a moment there. Could you please let me know how much the medical bill was from last night?"

With his back turned to Ji Yi, He Jichen's body tensed up for a moment, then he bent over to put the bowl down.

He reached his hand out to pick up the home phone as though he hadn't heard what Ji Yi said, then he pressed a button.

The call quickly went through. From what Ji Yi could tell, He Jichen called Zhang Sao. "Bring up a cup of water."

After he hung up, He Jichen grabbed the bag on the bedside table and pulled out a few boxes of medicine. He looked down for a moment, then picked up a pill.

Just then, Zhang Sao coincidentally walked in with some water. He Jichen took the cup and turned around to Ji Yi.

Ji Yi wasn't stupid. Of course she knew He Jichen wanted her to take the medicine, but she didn't understand why he was treating her so well?

Last night, he picked her up from the street and took her home. She could justify that by saying he couldn't refuse to help someone in need, but after she woke up and wanted to leave, shouldn't he be glad?

Could it be that he's.. .

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Could it possibly be that he's...

For some reason, the thought of Lin Ya suddenly flashed across Ji Yi's mind. Her whole body froze like her pressure points had been pressed. After some time, she continued her thought.

... trying to apologize on behalf of Lin Ya?

He was Lin Ya's boyfriend—Bo He and Tang Huahua both said she moved in with He Jichen. Yesterday, she saw the two of them together outside the supermarket with her own eyes.

Back at the hot spring resort, Lin Ya was exposed for doing such outrageous things to me that she moved out of the dorm room. As her boyfriend, he probably didn't want his girlfriend to fall out like that with her roommates, so maybe that's why he was so patient with me. He tried to get me to eat the congee and take the medicine to express his apologies. He hoped that I could consider the fact that he saved me last night to stop arguing with Lin Ya over the past...

Ji Yi knew just how much He Jichen hated her. He definitely wouldn't have done this out of genuine care for her, so the more she thought about it, the more she was convinced by her own reasoning.

He Jichen handed the cup of water and medicine to Ji Yi. He waited a moment, then seeing as she was staring at a random spot on the ground with no reaction, he said, "Take the medicine."

A second later, it was like he suddenly remembered something. He turned his head towards Zhang Sao who was about to leave and instructed her, "Zhang Sao, find some paper and write down Dr. Zhu's instructions on how often to take the medicine. Give it to her later..."

Zhang Sao didn't have time to say "yes" before Ji Yi snapped back to reality and the words "It's okay" slipped out.

After hearing Ji Yi say this, Zhang Sao hurriedly swallowed her words and looked over at He Jichen with a little confusion.

Ji Yi instinctively knew that Zhang Sao would look to He Jichen for clarification, so she turned to look at him too. She repeated it again, "Really, it's okay..."

He Jichen didn't say anything, but his gaze towards the door turned blank. After a while, he blinked gently and looked over at Zhang Sao again. He wanted to give her a nod to tell her to do as instructed. All of a sudden, Ji Yi, who stood quietly next to He Jichen for a long time, finally spoke, "You don't have to do all this for me..."

Ji Yi's words had He Jichen confused. He held back a nod and turned his head slightly towards her.

Ji Yi quietly gulped as she gathered the courage to say these next few words, "...I know the only reason you're treating me like this is because of what happened back at the hot spring resort. You're apologizing on Lin Ya's behalf for what she did to me."

The corners of He Jichen's lips pursed tightly. His fingers trembled and gradually started to tense up as he held the cup of water.

"Don't worry. I won't do anything to her. What's more, I'll pretend as though you never saved me last night." Ji Yi paused for a moment. Then, she swiftly pulled out her purse, unzipped it and pulled all her cash out in front of him. "This money here should be enough to pay for the medical bills from last night."

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He Jichen's hand started to gently tremble as he held onto the cup.

Ji Yi figured that Lin Ya probably had other things to do last night, so she didn't stay over at He Jichen's place, but what if she came back later... Ji Yi wholeheartedly wanted to leave as soon as possible. Seeing He Jichen wasn't going to take the money from her hands, she put it on the bed then politely bid farewell to He Jichen, "I better be off now to avoid any unnecessary misunderstandings and trouble with Lin Ya when she gets back..."

Ji Yi barely finished her last word when He Jichen suddenly smashed the cup hard onto the ground.

It made an unparalleled, sharp "pala!" and Ji Yi shut her mouth in shock. She wanted to take a step back to distance herself from He Jichen, but before she could react, He Jichen abruptly took a big step forward. He firmly grabbed her collar and pulled her in front of him.

He seemed angry. His body trembled slightly, and there was an arctic air that felt apocalyptic. An extremely stifling sensation emanated from his very bones, and it made her want to shudder.

He looked into her eyes with a cold intensity as though they were two sharp, invisible knives itching to hack her to pieces.

He panted like crazy. After a good while, he forced the words out between his gritted teeth, "Let me tell you, there's..."

With that, He Jichen almost let it slip. He suddenly stopped talking and tightly pursed his lips. He just couldn't bring himself to say the rest "...nothing between Lin Ya and me."

He opened and closed his lips a few times, but he couldn't think of a better excuse.

This doesn't seem like the first time she's lumped me and Lin Ya together. She actually took everything I did for her as an apology on behalf of Lin Ya?! What did she say about Lin Ya coming back? What right did she have to assume Lin Ya lives in this house... The more He Jichen thought about it, the more he boiled with rage. The bottom of his eyes turned scarlet as he clutched her collar with uncontrollably shaky fingers. He gulped hard but as usual, he didn't say a word. He eventually forcefully pushed her down with an angry swing.

Ji Yi's body felt like a leaf in a violent storm. Without the strength to fight back, she fell to the ground.

Her head banged against the solid wooden chair with a loud thud.

Zhang Sao, who was at the door, shrieked in shock when she saw this and rushed over to Ji Yi. “Mr. He, Miss!”

But just when Zhang Sao took barely two steps forward, He Jichen suddenly roared, “Don’t bother with her! Didn’t she want to leave? Let her leave!”

Zhang Sao didn’t dare to move any further as she stood frozen on the spot, so she could only look at Ji Yi with a face full of worry.

After a few seconds, Ji Yi recovered from the pain in her head, then she silently tried to stand up. She didn’t say a thing, nor did she glance at He Jichen, before striding right out of the bedroom.

The moment she brushed past him, He Jichen suddenly reached his hand out and hastily grabbed her wrist. He paused between every word as he said, “I warn you, don’t talk about me ever again!”