

Chapter 421: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (1)

Ji Yi's lips quivered. Before she could put her phone away, she heard "tap tap tap" sounds coming from beside her.

It was the tapping sounds of a keyboard on a phone...

Ji Yi instinctively turned her head and looked over to see He Yuguang sitting in the empty seat beside her. He had his head down, concentrating on typing.

Ji Yi was stunned.

When did Yuguang Ge turn up? How did I not sense a thing?

Ji Yi hadn't come to her senses when her phone rang in her palms. She blinked in bewilderment as she slowly turned away from "He Yuguang"'s side profile and looked at her phone screen. Then the words he just typed came into view: "Do you know what day it is on the lunar calendar?"

Ji Yi always used the Gregorian calendar and rarely took note of the lunar calendar, so she was confused for a few seconds. Then she hurriedly opened the calendar on her phone.

May tenth of the lunar calendar.

Sitting next to Ji Yi, He Jichen watched all her movements. Without waiting for her to reply, he started to type on the keyboard: "Do you still remember the first year of high school, when Jichen drove us to Sucheng's Jixian district?"

Reading that line, Ji Yi remembered.

At the time, she and He Jichen weren't close. There was a Xianxia TV series that was really popular at the time that had a sky filled with sky lanterns when the main female and male characters reunited.

The scene was incredibly beautiful. After she saw it, it was all that was on her mind. She often brought it up with He Yuguang. Later, it wasn't clear who told He Yuguang, but he found out there was an annual sky lantern festival on May tenth that was two hundred meters from Sucheng in Jixian. Many people went to release sky lanterns that day. They wrote their wishes on them, released them into the sky, and prayed for their wishes to come true.

Because it was too far and it was at night, nor was it good for them to stay overnight, her grandma and He Bomu didn't allow them to go.

At the time, He Jichen wasn't even eighteen yet. He didn't have a driver's license, but he already knew how to drive. The night before, he stole He Bofu's car keys. The next day, it snowed as she and He Yuguang secretly rushed over to Jixian.

The journey took at least four hours. When they made it to Jixian, it was already eight in the evening and there was just half an hour left till it was time to release the sky lanterns.

Not having eaten yet, the three of them rushed to Jixian in time to release their own sky lanterns.

That night, the sky over the town of Jixian and the remote area half-way up the mountain were covered in sky lanterns just for a moment.

Ji Yi stared up at the stunning, breathtaking picture of the sky with boundless joy as she turned around endlessly.

Wherever she went, He Yuguang was by her side.

Whereas He Jichen looked tired from driving and he sat down on a rock with a bleak expression on his face. He looked as though he wasn't the least bit interested in the view Ji Yi was admiring.

After the sky lantern festival ended, they went back on the road overnight. Like before, Ji Yi was excited.

He Jichen sat in the front, concentrating on driving, and she sat in the back with He Yuguang. She started to talk about how she definitely had to see an amazing view like this seven years later when she graduated from university.

Come to think of it, it had been seven whole years since she said that. If she hadn't been in a coma for three years, then now, she would've been about to graduate from university.

Thinking back to it, Ji Yi softly said to "He Yuguang," "So, Yuguang Ge, you asked to meet me here because of that night, seven years ago?"

Chapter 422: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (2)

When He Jichen heard Ji Yi say this, he looked down. He gently tapped the keyboard and he sent just one word to her phone: "Mhm."

That simple word let Ji Yi know that the beautiful scene captivating her was specifically prepared for her.

Ah... Seven years. Seven years had passed, yet Yuguang Ge actually remembered.

All of a sudden, intense emotions bubbled up in her heart. After some time, Ji Yi forced herself to speak. "It's been so many years – I never thought Yuguang Ge would still remember such a thing."

It wasn't He Yuguang who remembered, it was He Jichen... He remembered every little thing about Ji Yi's younger-self very clearly.

Just like her first year of high school. They weren't close, but he came home as soon as school ended every day because he knew she would often come to his house.

He actually stayed at home for her, but every time she visited, he pretended that he didn't care in the slightest and played video games.

When she was at his house, he would pay attention to her every word and movement, so he often overheard her telling Yuguang Ge how she hoped to see a sky covered in sky lanterns. Then he started to search online and found out about Jixian's sky lantern festival. Since they weren't close, there was no natural way of inviting her, so he told He Yuguang about it.

On the way back from Jixian, she said that she definitely wanted to see a spectacular view like that again seven years later when she graduated from university.

Even though he didn't utter a word to her and He Yuguang on the drive, he constantly caught glances of Ji Yi through the side mirror.

He saw He Yuguang gesture to her in sign language: "Okay, I'll go with you in seven years."

As He Yuguang couldn't talk, she understood basic sign language, so she nodded cheerfully and said, "Okay, okay, Yuguang Ge, let's meet seven years later to watch the sky lanterns together!"

At the time, he really thought the trip was worth it because she was so happy seeing such beautiful scenery. It was only later that he realized her happiness back then was because of He Yuguang's promise to see it with her.

He Jichen returned from his wandering thoughts and started to type on the phone: "I promised you that we would see the sky lanterns together seven years later, but it was such a shame that many people were burned by Jixian's sky lanterns a couple years ago. The festival's been canceled now, so I carried out the promise I made seven years ago to you here."

Yeah, he really did promise her, but it was a one-sided promise to her that he made deep down inside.

At the time, he watched her chatting to He Yuguang as he drove. He Jichen secretly thought to himself that in seven year's time, no matter if He Yuguang remembered or not, he would definitely take Ji Yi to see the sky lanterns again.

Seven years later, even if he had to do so under the identity of the man she liked, he fulfilled that seven-year-old promise he made to her.

This time, "He Yuguang"'s text message was a little long, so Ji Yi took some time to read it.

He remembered such a careless promise he made when they were young, just like... He Jichen. By West Lake, she randomly told him that when women are upset, he should use lipstick to cheer them up. That night when she got drunk, after she told him that he upset her, he really prepared a room filled with lipstick.

Her emotionally touched mood fell to rock bottom when He Jichen suddenly popped into her mind.

Chapter 423: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (3)

If things were how they were before, she could let herself be completely happy, but now... The more He Yuguang treated her well, the more torturous it felt for her.

She and Yuguang Ge hadn't seen each other for three months now. Now after meeting again, he created such a beautiful scene for her, but what about her?

She actually had sex with his younger brother while being married to him, and she even had feelings for his younger brother too...

Ji Yi stared at the rising sky lanterns that looked like little stars. Her heart started to ache.

She didn't say anything and he didn't a word; silence fell in this spot midway up the mountain.

A gust of the evening wind drifted past, blowing Ji Yi's long hair across his face. The itchy sensation was coupled with an intoxicating scent.

He Jichen's fingers around his phone couldn't help but relax as he finally turned to look at Ji Yi.

She raised her head and looked up at the sky lanterns in the night sky. It wasn't clear what she was thinking about.

With the dim lights beside them, he could see the unbelievably bright glow of the sky lantern-filled sky reflected in her eyes.

His heart trembled gently.

As long as he was prepared to confess his deep love for her with his older brother's identity and accept Ji Yi's love for his brother, then perhaps he could spend his whole life with her...

My whole life... Three captivating words...

He Jichen's Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he continued to stare at Ji Yi for a while. Then he withdrew his gaze and stared up at the floating sky lanterns in the distance for a moment. In the end, he couldn't resist the temptation and picked up his phone. He typed something and sent it to Ji Yi: "Manman..."

When she felt the vibration in her palms, Ji Yi suddenly snapped back to reality. She tore herself away from her troubled feelings over He Jichen and He Yuguang, looked down, and glanced at the screen.

It's just my name... What did Yuguang Ge call my name for?

Ji Yi turned her head in confusion then saw "He Yuguang" staring at the phone attentively like he was wondering how to tell her something.

Most of the time, a woman's sixth sense is very accurate.

Before "He Yuguang" could raise his fingers to type on the keyboard, Ji Yi already had an inkling of what he might say next.

Her fingers clasped the phone in her palms tightly.

After five seconds, she saw "He Yuguang"'s fingers move. He used the Nine Grid Chinese keyboard on his phone. She saw him first tap "9," then "6," then "9" again, then "4," but when his finger hovered over "4" for a second, a light bulb turned on in Ji Yi's mind, confirming her intuitions.

Seeing "He Yuguang"'s fingers about to tap "4" for the second time, Ji Yi suddenly cried, "Yuguang Ge."

Up on the quiet mountain, her voice sounded hurried, unusually sudden, and ear-piercing.

Having been frightened, "He Yuguang"'s fingers shook for a moment as he was concentrated on typing. Then he released his phone and turned to look at Ji Yi.

He couldn't speak but his eyes were filled with silent questions.

Ji Yi tightened her grip on her phone then she cried, “Yuguang Ge, I didn’t come to see you tonight to meet with you like we usually do.”

Ji Yi paused for just a second then continued to say, “Tonight, I came to see you because I have something to tell you.”

The expression on her face was very serious. It was so serious that He Jichen really believed that she had something important to say.

Chapter 424: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (3)

He cast aside what he was planning to say as he put his phone away and gave her a nod to let her continue.

Seeing He Jichen’s reaction, Ji Yi gulped and said, “Yuguang Ge, although we were on the same page at the beginning and were just helping each other out, I’m still very thankful to you. Last year when I was at my wit’s end, you stepped up and helped me land a role on ‘The Palace’ without asking for anything in return.”

A few days ago, she thought about the things she wanted to say, but when it came down to really saying it, Ji Yi realized her heart was starting to feel a dull ache before she even got to the point.

She held her breath unflinchingly for a few seconds; she waited until the pain subsided before she continued. “Come to think of it, eight or nine months have passed. My problems have long been resolved, so I shouldn’t continue to drag you down. At this point, I wanted to see you to tell you...”

A few days ago, she cried so many times that she should’ve finished crying all the tears she had. However, when she got to the main point, her eyes still became red and her voice became a little haggard.

She pursed her lips tightly as she stared unwaveringly at the lanterns in the sky for a moment. Then she gritted her teeth and pressed on to the main point. “... Yuguang Ge, our agreed marriage should end now.”

It wasn’t like He Jichen wasn’t curious about the important thing Ji Yi wanted to say, but he never imagined that as soon as she opened her mouth, she would talk about her and He Yuguang’s marriage.

He had a feeling deep down about what she was going to say next, but when she really did say it, he was still completely stunned.

Ji Yi waited for a long time but didn’t receive any messages from “He Yuguang.”

She didn’t dare turn her head to look at him. Strictly speaking, she didn’t dare move in fear that any movement would cause the tears in the corners of her eyes to roll down.

She continued to wait for some time, but seeing that he was still motionless, she repeated what she said one more time: “Yuguang Ge, our agreed marriage should end now.”

Having remained unflinchingly still from her first word, He Jichen finally blinked and picked up his phone about ten seconds later. "Manman, why did you suddenly decide this?"

"It's not a sudden decision. It was a decision I made long ago. After all, we aren't really married. My parents don't know nor do yours, so it'll be pretty easy to end it like this. At the very least, it'll save us some trouble." Although Ji Yi tried her best to speak clearly, she realized that after she spoke, her voice sounded slightly shaky.

The night when she decided to end her fake marriage with He Yuguang, she already experienced pain. Yet, it was at this very moment that she knew the pain back then was no comparison to the pain she felt now.

But there was no other way. She had no other choice. He Yuguang and He Jichen were biological brothers. If she was with either one of them, it would be impossible to avoid the other brother. Now that the two of them had entered her heart, she couldn't forget either one of them and pretend that she never had feelings for them. She couldn't wholeheartedly like only one brother, so all she could do was give up on both.

Chapter 425: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (5)

She really did want to get a divorce with He Yuguang...

Had he not been rejected after telling her that he'd take responsibility just two days ago, he definitely would've been happy to hear this decision of hers.

But now, after hearing what she said, he felt an unspeakable sense of panic in his heart.

The only reason he decided to confess to her as He Yuguang was because he was at the end of his rope. After she refused to let him take responsibility, pretended their night together was a mistake, and took the morning-after pill right after their night together to avoid any trouble afterward with him, he didn't see a world where the two of them could have a future together.

He was willing to pretend to be his older brother for the rest of his life, as long as he could be with her.

But who knew that just as he was willing to genuinely start married life as "He Yuguang" with her, she was going to ask to end her marriage to him.

The more he thought about it, the more He Jichen's heart grew flustered.

Although he was afraid there was no way for him to be with her, he was even more afraid she would ignore He Jichen. He couldn't even use He Yuguang's identity to get close to her now.

He instinctively wanted to change her mind. "Manman, was I lacking in some way?"

Such a clear and simple question almost made Ji Yi's tears come pouring out.

How's he lacking? I'm the one who wasn't good enough. I'm so bad that I'm not worthy of being his wife. I'm not worthy of being by his side, and I'm not worthy of accepting his kindness.

Ji Yi stared at the sky of lanterns with sorrowful eyes and felt so upset that she couldn't speak. All she could do was endure the bitterness in her heart. She raised her fingers and started to type a message: "No, Yuguang Ge. You're great. You're a good person. You treated me very well... really, really, really well."

"Manman, do you know what the most hurtful thing to say is? It's to call someone really good but leave them anyway." He Jichen tightened his lips as he tapped the screen to reply to Ji Yi.

Speechless at the sight of those words, Ji Yi read them for some time before her fingers started to type the words: "I'm sorry."

If she could help it, Ji Yi really didn't want to say those words to someone who cared for her, because those words were more hurtful than what she just said. However, all she could say to He Yuguang were just those words.

What's more, she was really, really, really sorry.

It was just as Ji Yi imagined. When He Jichen saw those words "I'm sorry," his eyes instantly turned dark.

He wasn't stupid. He knew the meaning behind "I'm sorry" and what it really meant.

It meant: You're great, but I still can't be with you.

When she was young, didn't she like He Yuguang? Didn't she quickly agree to He Yuguang's request to marry her? Didn't she share everything on her mind with He Yuguang every night?

But why doesn't she want to be with He Yuguang? Didn't she spend a night with him in Shanghai?

He Jichen found a glimmer of hope as he quickly typed a line to Ji Yi: "Manman, is there some reason why you want to divorce that's hard to say?"

Ji Yi, who was staring at her phone all this time, was slightly stunned when she read the line on the screen that hit the nail on the head: "If I said that I don't mind and I don't care, could you reconsider divorcing me?"

Chapter 426: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (6)

Those words... If he sent her those words two days ago when she didn't realize she had feelings for He Jichen, she would definitely feel tempted to follow her heart and say yes if Yuguang Ge insisted, even though she would feel bad for cheating on Yuguang Ge with his brother. The very thought of being able to make up for everything she owed him after sleeping with He Jichen gave her the strong urge to nod and say yes.

But now, it was too late... It wasn't that she didn't want to promise him – she just couldn't.

Ji Yi pursed her lips and was ready to refuse when she saw another message from "He Yuguang": "Manman, I guarantee I don't mind. No matter what the reason is, I don't mind. If there's ever a day I go back on my word, let heaven unleash its wrath upon me!"

Clearly, Ji Yi was in the wrong. Why did it seem like Yuguang Ge was acting like the one who made a huge mistake?

Ji Yi's heart was already incredibly guilty towards He Yuguang, but now she felt even worse.

This isn't right! I can't mess around with him any longer; otherwise, he might really make me have a change of heart.

What's more, she made her mind up long ago and already carried out her decisions – she rejected He Jichen and decided not to string Yuguang Ge along.

With that thought, Ji Yi started to type: "Sorry Yuguang Ge, there's no way I can promise you."

As Ji Yi's fingers typed out each and every word, she felt her heart cry violently in pain.

She forced herself to ignore the pain and continue to tap with her incredibly shaky fingers: "Even if you don't care, there's no way I can still promise you, Yuguang Ge. It's me, I'm not good enough and I'm not worthy. Don't say anything else. I've already made my mind up. Sorry. I'm really sorry, Yuguang Ge. If it's possible, I hope we don't keep in contact after we finalize the divorce."

As she typed this, Ji Yi's eyes turned misty. Barely able to see the screen, she bit down hard and gritted her chattering teeth as she then typed: "If it's possible, it's best that we don't keep in contact."

Ji Yi didn't dare read over the line she wrote. After she typed the final period, she immediately tapped "send." Without bothering to see if "He Yuguang" read it, she hurriedly got up and said goodbye with a trembling voice. Without giving herself any chance to go back, she quickly picked up her bag and walked down the mountain.

She was only half a meter away when the tears she held back for so long came rolling down from her eyes.

She raised a hand to frantically wipe her face then walked faster.

The mountainous roads were winding and it was dark, so Ji Yi stumbled as she walked. On her way down, she even tripped twice, but she didn't feel any pain and continued to hurriedly walk down.

She was wearing high heels, so she didn't walk particularly steadily. When she tripped for the third time, her shoes flew off. She continued to stumble down bare-footed while ignoring the pain from the rocks under her feet.

There were two cars parked at the foot of the mountain. The driver who picked her up sat inside one car with the lights on while playing on his phone.

Because he was paying full attention to his phone, the driver didn't notice her walk up to the car. It wasn't until she reached her hand out and pulled the car door open that the driver noticed something was odd. Then he turned to look in her direction.

Chapter 427: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (7)

In just a second, the driver swiftly put his phone away, pushed his car door open and got out.



When he walked around the front of the car to open the door for Ji Yi, he saw her walking barefooted with cuts of various sizes. She had several grazes on her arms and legs, and she was covered in mud.

The driver was stunned for a while before he worriedly asked, "Miss Ji, what happened? I'll call Mr..."

Before the driver could say "He," Ji Yi suddenly cried, "There's no need. Take me home!"

Her hurried tone of voice gave the driver a scare.

Ji Yi realized she sounded overly agitated, so she spoke again with a more relaxed voice. "You don't need to call him. Please take me home, thank you."

From Ji Yi's expression, the driver could tell that Miss Ji and Mr. He got into some kind of argument. The driver didn't bring up the topic again and replied with a "yes" as he helped Ji Yi pull the car door open.

After the driver got into the car, he stepped on the gas and drove out of the parking lot at the foot of the mountain. As the car drove out, Ji Yi turned her head and stared at the pitch-black night sky out the window as the tears came crashing down like a flowing river.

She was truly devastated. Even if she knew deep down that by rejecting He Jichen and leaving He Yuguang, it would be the best ending for her, for He Jichen, for He Yuguang, for the three of them... she was still devastated.

Even if she knew that nobody else was aware she had feelings for He Jichen while liking He Yuguang, she still deeply despised herself for being this disloyal and fickle.

What's more, because nobody knew this bad-to-the-bone side of her, nobody could blame her. This was why she blamed herself so harshly.

From today onwards, He Yuguang would be just a memory to her, and as for He Jichen, she had to try hard to control her heart. She had to limit herself to this stage of infatuation and prevent herself from falling any deeper.

From today onwards, her future love life would not include He Yuguang or He Jichen ever again. She might get married in the future or she might not, but no matter what, her other half wouldn't be either one of them.

From today onwards, she had to say goodbye to the He Yuguang she liked and goodbye to the He Jichen she had feelings for.

At that thought, Ji Yi couldn't help but bite the back of her hand hard to stop herself from crying, and embarrassingly, to prevent herself from wailing.

—

It was already the fourth day Chen Bai couldn't get hold of He Jichen.

He didn't come to the office, he wasn't at home, he wasn't at the university, and his phone was switched off.

Chen Bai even tried calling He Jichen's home in Sucheng. The person who picked up the phone was the He family's housekeeper who told him that after he left in the spring, he hadn't visited in almost half a year now.

After finishing shooting "Three Thousand Lunatics," the company still had many follow-up projects for He Jichen to finalize.

For him to vanish into thin air, there was lots of work at YC that couldn't be carried out. Business was fine two days ago, but two days later, Chen Bai spent practically every day in the office receiving an infinite number of calls asking when He Jichen would hand them the signed documents.

All Chen Bai could do was handle the seemingly endless aftermath to prevent matters from getting even worse.

One night, after seeing that YC was going to lose several big projects, Chen Bai personally called everyone who ever had anything to do with He Jichen out of desperation. However, in the end, he couldn't manage to locate He Jichen.

Chapter 428: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (8)

Time went by and another day passed. The sun rose and fell, and nightfall came.

It was about to be the fifth night without any news from Mr. He. If things went on like this, Chen Bai was afraid that not only would they lose YC, but "Three Thousand Lunatics," which had already finished shooting, would probably be lost too...

Chen Bai paced around his desk with his phone in hand for a while. Eventually, he wound up standing in front of the tall window, looking for Ji Yi's number.

The status of Mr. He and Miss Ji's relationship wasn't very promising. He wasn't sure what Mr. He was thinking deep down, so he didn't want to disturb Miss Ji in fear that Mr. He wouldn't forgive him... But he already contacted everyone else. The only person left to call was Miss Ji.

YC was Mr. He's blood, sweat, and tears. Chen Bai witnessed Mr. He's determination as he went against the He family and his professor at his prestigious university. He also watched as Mr. He built YC from a twenty-square-meter rental... Everyone knew Mr. He came from a good family background and had a privileged position, but they didn't know how he actually created YC from scratch.

At that thought, Chen Bai realized nothing else was important right now.

Between getting lectured by Mr. He and the real threat of losing his job if YC collapsed, it was more important to help Mr. He save YC... So, Chen Bai pulled up Ji Yi's phone number.

The call was made and the phone rang a few times, but nobody picked up.

Chen Bai furrowed his brows and put the phone down. He glanced at the time. It was already half past ten – could Miss Ji be asleep now?

Just as curiosity crossed Chen Bai's mind, his phone screen lit up.

Ji Yi sent him a message: “Mr. Chen, can I help you with something?”

Chen Bai instinctively wanted to call her again, but seeing as she replied with a text rather than picking up the call, she probably didn’t want to take his call. He then switched over to texting: “Miss Ji, has Mr. He contacted you in the past two days?”

Soon enough, Chen Bai received a simple “No” back from Ji Yi.

Chen Bai didn’t really know how to continue the conversation.

Just as he was preparing to think of another way to find He Jichen, his phone screen lit up. He received a simple message from Ji Yi: “What’s wrong?”

“It’s like this, Miss Ji. I don’t know where Mr. He went and I can’t get ahold of him. There’s a lot of work for him to handle at the company. Today, several shareholders got angry. There are also many collaborative projects awaiting replies and people are asking to end their collaboration with YC, including “Three Thousand Lunatics,” which just finished filming... In short, it’s been quite troublesome. If you have any news about Mr. He or if you can reach Mr. He, please help.”

After about five minutes, Chen Bai received Ji Yi’s reply. This time, the message was just a simple: “Alright.”

“Thank you,” replied Chen Bai.

Ji Yi didn’t reply anymore.

Chen Bai stared at the phone for a while then closed the text message screen and continued to think up different ways to get ahold of He Jichen.

—

Ji Yi had a fever the day after asking for a divorce from “He Yuguang” and had to stay in the hospital on a drip for two days. Then she returned to school to inform them that she was back from her leave shooting “Three Thousand Lunatics.”

It happened to be a Friday, so Ji Yi didn’t have class. After reporting her return, she headed straight back home.

Perhaps she was still recovering from her serious illness, or perhaps it was because she gave up on both He Jichen and He Yuguang a few short days ago that she was feeling a little glum. She didn’t go outside and if she wasn’t sleeping in her room, she was watching TV.

Chapter 429: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (9)

Ji Yi tried her best not to think about anything else.

She figured this way, she could slowly forget about her devastating losses.

But truth be told, she was just kidding herself – one second, she was laughing till her stomach hurt after watching a comedy series while the next, her eyes were red from Chen Bai’s phone call.

She didn't dare take the call in fear of Chen Bai noticing the pain in her voice, so she waited till after he hung up to reply to him with a text.

She didn't dare send too many messages to Chen Bai because reading his name reminded her of He Jichen. Wave after wave of heartache made it difficult for her to summon the strength to type. She forced herself to stay composed. After their chat ended, she couldn't wait to close their messages.

She figured that since Chen Bai called her, He Jichen's phone must be off.

Chen Bai was more familiar with He Jichen's friends, where they lived, and their whereabouts more than Ji Yi did. Since she knew where He Jichen lived, Chen Bai definitely knew too and he must've searched there already. After some thought, Ji Yi called Fatty, who Chen Bai wasn't familiar with but who was very close to He Jichen.

Fatty was working overtime, so he spoke quietly when he picked up the phone. Ji Yi gave him the basic rundown of the situation, to which Fatty asked, "Is Chen Ge in a terrible mood?"

Ji Yi figured that he must be in a terrible mood since he couldn't be reached for several days, so she replied, "Probably yeah."

Fatty muttered to himself over the phone for a moment then told Ji Yi two addresses. The first was a bar in Sucheng and the second was a bar in Beijing.

Sucheng was several hundred miles away from Beijing, so it was unrealistic for Chen Bai to go there overnight to search for him. After Fatty told Ji Yi where He Jichen might be, he added, "How about this? You can be in charge of checking the bar in Beijing. I have a lot of friends in Sucheng, so I'll ask them to check."

"Sorry to trouble you, Su Han," said Ji Yi politely before Fatty could say "farewell." Then she said goodbye to him.

After Ji Yi hung up the phone, she sent a text to Chen Bai with the whereabouts and name of the bar Fatty mentioned.

—

Having failed to find He Jichen, Chen Bai had no choice but to stay in the office like a sitting duck. He still had hope that He Jichen might come home, so he drove to the apartment he bought near B-Film.

Just as Chen Bai was about to reach He Jichen's apartment block, he received a text from Ji Yi.

He held the steering wheel with one hand and replied to her message with the other. "Got it, Miss Ji. I'll check it out now."

After he put the phone down, Chen Bai immediately turned the car around and drove to the address of the bar Ji Yi sent him.

It was a sake bar, so the atmosphere was elegant and peaceful. The groups of people inside were chatting quietly.

Aside from the barman who was making cocktails at the counter, the only staff member Chen Bai saw was a waiter. With a menu to his chest, the waiter stood in front of a table by the window, taking an order.

Chen Bai wanted to wait for the waiter to finish taking the order before showing him a photo of He Jichen and asking him if he'd seen He Jichen. All of a sudden, just as he walked about ten meters deeper into the bar, he saw a familiar figure in the furthest corner.

Ah! So, Mr. He really was here...

Chen Bai paused for a moment then walked over.

The lights in the bar were dim, so Chen Bai only noticed that He Jichen was still wearing the same clothes from five days ago when he drew closer to him.

Chapter 430: I Really Love Her, Who I Could Never Be With (10)

Mr. He couldn't have stayed here for five days, right?

As that thought flashed across Chen Bai's mind, the waiter who was taking an order nearby happened to walk past him. Seeing as Chen Bai was staring at He Jichen, the waiter stopped. "Hello sir. May I ask, is this gentleman your friend?"

Chen Bai nodded. "Yes."

After a pause, Chen Bai added a short explanation. "He's my boss."

"That's great! This gentleman hasn't left since he came in four days ago. We've cleared almost a hundred empty bottles from him. Besides going to the restroom, he's stayed here and hasn't been anywhere else. When he gets drunk, he just sleeps on the table then wakes up and continues to drink. He's been living in this half-drunken state for four whole days and nights. Since you're his employee, it'd be best if you quickly took him away. We're really afraid that something might happen to him if he continues to drink like this." The waiter looked at Chen Bai like he'd seen a savior and said all that in one long breath.

Ah! So Mr. He really has been here for four days. What in the hell happened to him? Having known him for so many years, Chen Bai had rarely seen him drink. I can't believe he actually drank himself to this state... With that thought, Chen Bai told the waiter, "Got it. Thank you."

Without waiting for the waiter to speak, Chen Bai strode over to He Jichen.

Before Chen Bai drew close to He Jichen, he smelled a strong, pungent smell of cigarettes and alcohol.

Chen Bai instinctively held his breath. After some time, he slowly inhaled and adjusted to the horrid smell. Then he tried to rouse He Jichen: "Mr. He."

In a complete ruin, He Jichen slumped back into the back of his seat with a cigarette in one hand and some alcohol in the other. He was staring straight ahead without reacting in the slightest to Chen Bai's words.

Chen Bai furrowed his brows and cried “Mr. He” again. Seeing as there was no reaction, he took the cigarette and alcohol from He Jichen’s fingers. Then he lifted him up from the sofa and put his arm around his shoulders. Chen Bai supported him out of the bar.

Chen Bai shoved He Jichen into the car then drove to He Jichen’s apartment.

Traffic was particularly smooth since it was the dead of the night; the car reached the underground parking lot in under ten minutes.

Chen Bai stopped the car, got out, and pulled the passenger side door open. As he reached his arm out to grab He Jichen, he heard him mutter, “She doesn’t want me...”

Before Chen Bai’s fingers touched He Jichen’s arm, he suddenly stopped and heard He Jichen say in a weak voice, “I even willingly pretended to be him, yet she still doesn’t want me...”

What does he mean by “willingly pretended to be him”? “She doesn’t want me”? What’s Mr. He saying?

Completely confused, Chen Bai furrowed his brows and dragged He Jichen out of the car.

As Chen Bai supported He Jichen up and walked into the elevator, He Jichen repeatedly muttered those two sentences.

When they reached the floor of his place, the elevator opened and Chen Bai couldn’t wait to walk over to He Jichen’s door.

Chen Bai found the keys in his pocket, opened the door, and carried He Jichen straight to the restroom. He grabbed the shower head, but before he turned it on, he heard the trembling man in the bathtub cry out: “I really love her, the woman I can’t be with...”