

Chapter 51: Shut Your Mouth (1)

Ji Yi sat right next to her mum. She could hear He Jichen's polite voice through the phone over the sound of the television, "Hello Ji Bomu."

Ji Yi wasn't sure if she was hearing things, but He Jichen's voice sounded slightly hoarse, a little weak.

Her mum noticed it too as she said worriedly, "Jichen, what's wrong? You don't sound too good. Are you sick?"

"No, I just woke up." He Jichen cleared his throat and reverted back to his usual elegant and polite voice.

"Oh that's good..." Her mother let out a sigh of relief then cut to the chase. "...It's like this, Jichen. Your Ji Bofu 1 went on a business trip a while back and bought some nutritional supplements. We figured that since you're in Beijing, we wanted to give you some. Ji Yi happened to come back home today, and since she lives close to your house, I'll have her bring some over for you. What time is most convenient for you?"

Maybe it was because it was her mum instead of her speaking, but He Jichen didn't reveal any annoyance or hatred about Ji Yi coming over. In fact, his tone of voice was still as elegant and polite as usual. "Anytime is good for me."

When Ji Yi's mum heard He Jichen say this, she decided to set a time. "Then, how about later tonight? The supplements have expiry dates and since Xiao Yi has class tomorrow, she might not have time later on when she gets busy."

"Thank you, Ji Bomu."

"You're welcome." Ji Yi's mother was left grinning from ear to ear by He Jichen's politeness. Before she hung up the phone, she suddenly remembered that she didn't have his address and said, "Jichen, text your address to this number. It's Ji Yi's number."

After hanging up the phone, the tone "ding-dong" was heard through Ji Yi's phone.

It was a text from the same eleven digits that her mother just dialed. Aside from the name of the residential area and apartment number, there were no words accompanying the address. That was just He Jichen's style.

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Had her mum not called him, Ji Yi would've undoubtedly eaten the supplements in private. Now after that call, there was a chance He Jichen and her mother would bring it up if they bumped into each other. Her mother would definitely tear her to pieces if she didn't pass the supplements on to He Jichen, so no matter how unwilling Ji Yi was, she had to force herself to take a trip to the address He Jichen sent her.

He Jichen lived in a classy residential area and his property management services were exceptional. After Ji Yi reached He Jichen's estate, she took a turn into the property management center in hopes of just leaving the pills there so He Jichen could pick them up himself.

However, they had a rule where the homeowner had to give prior consent before things were dropped off. After hearing Ji Yi's explanation, the attendant gave He Jichen a call, but after a few rings, nobody picked up the home phone or cell. Eventually, the attendant apologized and refused to let Ji Yi leave the package there.

Ji Yi carried the supplements out of the center and contemplated for a while before eventually heading over to He Jichen's apartment on the sixteenth floor.

Chapter 52: Shut Your Mouth (2)

When Ji Yi reached He Jichen's floor, she hesitantly stood in front of his door for a while, then raised her hand to press the doorbell.

The doorbell rang for a long time without any answer until it stopped automatically.

He Jichen's not home? That can't be right. Mum clearly told him that I'd be coming over tonight... Ji Yi furrowed her brows and raised her hand to press the button again.

Just like the first time, it rang till the end and the door didn't open in the slightest. Nor did it look like it was going to be opened by anyone.

Maybe something urgent came up, so he had to leave at the last moment?

Ji Yi thought hard about it for a moment and figured this was great. She came and he wasn't home, but she could tell her mum that she tried. Then she could tell her mum that she was busy with class, and she didn't have time to go a second time...

At that thought, Ji Yi carried the supplements and headed back to the elevator doors. She reached her hand out, but just as she was about to press the button, a "ka-cha!" was heard from behind her.

Ji Yi's entire body tensed up. After two seconds, she turned her head and looked over.

He Jichen's door was shut tight earlier, but there was now a crack at the door. Someone had pulled it open.

She didn't know why he was so late to come to the door, but it was completely open a short while later.

He Jichen was dressed in sky-blue pajamas and his hair was a complete mess. It was just as he told her mum over the phone—he had only just woken up. She wasn't sure if it was because he was under the corridor lights, but his face looked pale.

He saw her but didn't make a sound.

After what happened four years ago, Ji Yi always felt weird about seeing He Jichen. She stood there nervously on the spot for a while before she calmed down and walked over to him, carrying the supplements.

She didn't get too close. When she was about a meter away, she stopped and raised the bag to his face without even looking up at him. She quickly said, "My mum wanted me to give these to you."

Seeing as he didn't take them after about a minute, she bent over to put them on the floor. "So er... it's getting late, I'll be heading out now."

As she said that, Ji Yi turned around and rushed towards the elevator.

Because He Jichen was behind her, she was a little tense as she pressed the elevator button.

As she watched the red numbers change on the elevator, she prayed for it to go faster. Just when she saw that it had arrived at He Jichen's floor, she suddenly heard a "dong!" from behind her.

Ji Yi instinctively turned her head to find He Jichen, who had been standing at the door, had now fallen to the ground...

That was when Ji Yi saw his face clearly. His face wasn't pale because of the corridor lights—it was really drained of blood.

His brows and eyes were shut tight. He looked completely exhausted and his whole body looked unwell.

So he didn't sound weak over the phone because he'd just woken up; it was because he's... sick?

"Ding-dong!" Ji Yi averted her attention from He Jichen and turned to look at the elevator. It coincidentally opened at that exact moment.

Chapter 53: Shut Your Mouth (3)

Ji Yi stared at the elevator for some time before she glanced back at He Jichen, who laid lifelessly on the ground. She struggled for a long time as though she'd been hurled into the trap of making a difficult decision. Seeing as no one entered, the elevator doors closed again. She suddenly reached her hand out to stop the doors.

The elevator doors opened again. She gritted her teeth, raised her legs and walked into the elevator.

She avoided glancing over at He Jichen on the floor, in fear that she'd get soft-hearted and change her mind. She stared straight ahead at the elevator doors closing.

The elevator went all the way down. When it reached the first floor, the door opened and Ji Yi couldn't wait to run out. She didn't slow down and only let out a sigh of relief when she exited He Jichen's apartment block.

For a long time, they had nothing to do with each other. What's more, he said he never wanted to see her face again, so even if he was in such bad shape, it was none of her business.

With that thought, Ji Yi shook her head vigorously to shake off the image of pale-faced He Jichen on the ground.

He said it before, he never wanted to see her face again. He also said that he never wanted her to talk about him, so there was no need for her to avoid him or embarrass herself, yet she still turned up

tonight... But just the day before yesterday, she fainted on the streets because of her stomach pain and he was the one who brought her to his house...

Ji Yi almost made it to the gates of the residential area when she suddenly stopped.

She tightly pursed her lips and stared straight at the road ahead with firmly balled up fists.

She learned from Tang Huahua that Lin Ya and He Jichen weren't actually in a relationship, so naturally, this meant that He Jichen hadn't brought her back to his home to apologize on behalf of Lin Ya... She couldn't figure out the real reason, and she didn't want to think about this anymore, but she didn't want to have to owe him a favour either...

At that thought, Ji Yi took a hard gulp and decided to turn around and go back to He Jichen.

As she got out of the elevator, Ji Yi took a deep breath and walked over to He Jichen's door. She bent down. As she dragged He Jichen's arm up, she felt the heat from his body through his shirt. Her fingers quivered for a moment before she used all the strength in her body to drag the unconscious He Jichen into the apartment.

He Jichen's apartment had two floors. From the last time she was there, she learned that his bedroom was on the second floor. However, she wasn't strong enough to get him up there.

The ground floor didn't have a bedroom, and Zhang Sao, who she met last time, wasn't in. Ji Yi scanned the surroundings and noticed there was an exercise room with a clean yoga mat, so she figured she may as well leave He Jichen there.

Ji Yi first picked up the supplements from outside the door and brought them into the apartment. She closed the door behind her and went upstairs.

He Jichen's bedroom door was left open, so with just one glimpse, she saw the contents of a medicine box scattered on the ground.

He Jichen must've tried to reach for some medicine when he felt sick... Ji Yi grabbed the duvet and carried it out of the bedroom. On her way out, she also put all the medicine back into the box and carried it downstairs with her.

Chapter 54: Shut Your Mouth (4)

Ji Yi first pulled the covers over He Jichen, then sat casually on the floor. She pulled out a thermometer from the medical kit and put under He Jichen's armpit.

Her fingers accidentally touched his chest. It was just as firm as it was four years ago, and it still had the ability to make her feel all warm inside.

Ji Yi instantly thought back to that night so many years ago, and the image of their bodies intertwining caused her entire body to shiver. She swiftly pulled her hand back and repeatedly pinched herself. She only stopped when the pain completely masked the feel of He Jichen's skin.

As Ji Yi checked He Jichen's temperature, she searched the medicine kit for fever medication.

The medicine kit was unused. She figured that He Jichen must not have had enough time to take the medicine before he heard her ring the doorbell.

Ji Yi read the instructions carefully. Then she got up, went to the kitchen, and returned with a cup of hot water.

She put the cup on the ground. To avoid touching his skin again, Ji Yi pulled out the thermometer far more carefully than before.

He Jichen's temperature was nearly forty degrees.

Ji Yi put down the thermometer and hurriedly gave He Jichen medicine. Thankfully, in his hazy feverish state, he still instinctively knew to swallow. Even though quite a bit of water seeped through his lips, the medicine made its way in.

The instructions clearly said that if the patient's fever didn't subside in the next four hours, take another dose.

Ji Yi really didn't want to be in the same room as He Jichen, but luckily he was asleep, so she felt a lot more comfortable.

Night slowly fell.

Ji Yi stared at her phone for a long time; her eyes were a little exhausted. She then shifted her gaze to look out the window.

The lights were on in the room, so the floor-to-ceiling windows became a mirror. She could clearly see the reflection of her and He Jichen in the window.

She stared unwaveringly at his face for a long time before she looked down. Her facial expression barely changed, yet there was a faint hint of sadness in her eyes.

Ji Yi set an alarm for four hours later. He Jichen's fever hadn't subsided yet, so all she could do was give him another dose of medicine.

She woke up early that morning. Since she had to go to director Liang's office, she wouldn't get any time to rest in the afternoon. After it hit twelve in the afternoon, she started to feel sleepy.

She considered waiting for his fever to subside before leaving, but when she reached her hand out to check his forehead one more time, his temperature was still frighteningly high. Unable to contain her sleepiness, she couldn't help but slump to the ground against the wall. As she started to doze off, she groggily stroked his forehead again. It didn't feel so hot. She let out a sigh of relief before she drifted off to sleep.

As Ji Yi slept, her body wavered unsteadily before falling to the ground. However, the anticipated pain didn't come. Instead, she felt a warmth from underneath her. She shifted into a comfortable position and slipped into a deep sleep.

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While drowsy, He Jichen felt like there was someone snuggled in the crook of his arm. A familiar scent from the soft body drifted into his nostrils.

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He couldn't count just how many times he dreamt of this over the past few years. It was only in his dreams that he ever dared to imagine her by his side.

He didn't dare move recklessly, fearing that this wild dream would disappear without a trace, just as it had happened countless times before.

He slept with his body tensed up in the same position for an indefinite amount of time. His dreams suddenly became convincingly real as the woman in his arm shifted in her sleep.

He wasn't sure if it was because she was cold and seeking warmth or if it was because she was uncomfortable, but every now and then she changed positions.

As she tossed back and forth, she edged increasingly close to him. Eventually, she snuggled up right against his body. Her hand hugged his waist.

The air was filled with her scent. Her face happened to face his neck, resulting in her gentle breath flowing over his skin, inciting waves of numbness in him. Like in his dreams, his body started to unconsciously respond to her.

Every now and then, she kept tossing around, igniting a flame inside of him. In a sleepy haze, he felt his body temperature gradually start to increase. He tried to lower it with much difficulty.

His breath hastened a little as his heartbeat sped up out of control. He instinctively turned and trapped her in his embrace.

The position felt so sensual as her back pressed closely against his chest. He couldn't handle this level of intimacy.

In the long years since they parted, it wasn't like he hadn't had similar dreams before, but whenever he reached the climactic moment to kiss her, he always ended up kissing empty space.

Even though it was painful to hold back his desires, he wanted to treasure the time he had with her, so he tensed up his body and forced himself to lay still.

Even though he was engulfed in sadness from not being able to be with her, he could hold her close as long as he had dreams like this. Although he knew he'd be devastated when he was ruthlessly awakened from his beautiful dreams, he couldn't bear to not have these dreams at all. That was just how sad he was.

Maybe he wasn't embracing her properly, but Ji Yi felt a little uncomfortable in her sleep. She struggled gently for a moment, and as she shifted, he was tempted to push her body back into place. He moved his arm away from hers, then drew close to her ear and mumbled the words, "Don't move, or I can't guarantee your safety."

She didn't move.

Because he used all his strength to hold her, their bodies were pressed tightly together. Through his thin clothes, he could feel the evident shape of her soft curves and the smoothness of her skin.

Chapter 56: Shut Your Mouth (6)

He couldn't hold it together. His fingers, which held her tightly, involuntarily started to caress her waist.

Her body shivered for a moment, just like that night four years ago. He slowly stroked her neck with his fingers.

His train of thought was interrupted by her reaction. He couldn't tell if he was really dreaming or if this was real. He just knew that this gentle touch couldn't satisfy him. He needed more.

As that thought crossed his mind, his hand ran up her shirt and reached her breasts.

It seemed like she was fighting back, but then again, maybe not. His mind was so filled with the urge to have her that he couldn't think about anything else. He followed his urges and let his hands explore under her shirt.

This was the same as that night so many years back. Her skin was so unusually soft that it tempted him to no end. He couldn't help but stroke her skin faster, with some desperation. His breath became ragged, and before he could come to his senses, his lips fell to her temple, then to her forehead. His kisses shifted to her closed eyes, before eventually falling on her lips.

He didn't dare use too much strength in fear that it was all an illusion. He gently rubbed against her, and a strong shock of electricity came over him. Just as he was about to go deeper, she suddenly turned her face and avoided his lips.

Could this be real? This never happened in his dreams. He suddenly flipped around, pressed himself on top of her, then lowered his head and kissed her hard on the lips.

He kissed her passionately and eagerly, and as his hands slipped down her collar, he started to unbutton her shirt.

She reached her hand out to try to stop him in every way possible, but she wasn't strong enough. He kept her hand away with ease and unbuttoned her shirt even faster.

She struggled even harder. Her legs started to flail, and her head swayed erratically as he kissed empty air.

Even in my dreams, she's avoiding me?

He Jichen's heart suddenly felt pained and angry. He gave up unbuttoning the rest of the buttons and hastily grabbed her collar. With one hard tug, he ripped her clothes right in two. With one hand, he held her chin and kissed her mouth again, hard. He then started to recklessly explore her exposed skin.

In a daze, he thought he heard a teary crack in her voice. He assumed it was just his imagination, so he didn't pay much attention to it. She wriggled around endlessly, harder and harder. Her resistance

annoyed him a little and it only made him want her more. He clenched his jaw harder and left deep, uneven marks, one after another on her white skin as punishment.

Chapter 57: Shut Your Mouth (7)

Just as he was about to go in, he felt an intense, piercing pain from his ear.

The pain stunned him into stopping everything he was doing.

He felt the immense pain had subsided, but then he realized his shoulders were also in incredible pain as though someone dug their fingernails into him. He furrowed his brows, then heard the familiar, panicked shriek of a voice, "Let me go! Let me go!"

He Jichen held his pose, stopped in mid-movement.

The sound of her fighting back still rang in his ears. Her fingers didn't loosen up, but in fact, she tightened her grip. He faintly felt a sticky liquid trickle from his shoulders. The pearls of blood dripped down his skin and slowly slid down his body. He trembled as the flowing of blood tickled his body. He slowly looked down at the woman underneath him.

As the sight of Ji Yi's deathly pale face gradually came into view, he then realized that everything wasn't a dream after all.

The significance of that thought dawned on He Jichen. His eyes circled Ji Yi twice. Maybe he kissed her too hard, since her lips were so red that they were flushed with blood. There was a different kind of appeal to them. Her fair neck was filled with hickeys, and her hair clung to her skin sensually as her hair was drenched in sweat from struggling against him.

His line of sight stopped on her chest for quite some time before he slowly looked down. When he caught sight of their positions, his lips twitched.

I... I actually almost raped her while half awake...

He Jichen hadn't completely woken up from it all. From underneath, Ji Yi felt him stop moving, so she abruptly reached her hand out and forcefully pushed him away.

She escaped his clutches without a moment's hesitation and pulled on her clothes that had been ripped in two. She tried to cover her body up and inched back to put some distance between them.

He Jichen swayed as Ji Yi pushed him away. That's when he realized where he was—it was the gym in his house. Under him were the yoga mat and the duvet from his master bedroom.

He remembered he got a call from Ji Bomu last night to say that she wanted to give him some supplements. He was in pain, so he didn't hear her particularly well, but he got the general idea. The more he slept, however, the more unconscious he fell. He could tell he had a fever, so he pushed himself to search through his medical kit until he heard the doorbell. He used all his strength to go down the stairs and open the door. Before he could see who rang the bell, he couldn't take it any longer and fainted...

So last night, she was the person at the door?

As He Jichen gradually came to his senses, his eyes fell again slowly on Ji Yi.

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Her face was pale white and her body was trembling, probably because he had just frightened her. With her lowered, wet eyelashes, she looked so pitiful. She must've just been crying.

A sharp pain crept into He Jichen's heart like it had been struck hard by something.

He instinctively wanted to apologize to her, but after a few attempts, the words wouldn't come out.

Maybe it was because she'd just cried, but she hiccuped. A few stray tears seeped from her eyes and caught onto her eyelashes. The build-up of water formed a large teardrop that crashed to the ground.

He Jichen's beating heart felt like it completely shattered as those tears crushed his heart. He gulped. Then, he bent over to pick up his clothes, swiftly threw them on, and walked over to her.

Before he could even take two steps forward, a flash of defensiveness came across her teary eyes as she watched him draw closer.

Why's he coming over to me? He can't say this time that I was the one who initiated things. He said he didn't even want me to utter a single word about him... While he was asleep and groggy, he almost had me... Flashes of what happened that night four years ago flickered across Ji Yi's mind. My first love that was shattered before it even started, and the humiliation of having my clothes ripped off in the alley... He doesn't want to embarrass me again, does he?

At that thought, Ji Yi didn't hesitate to let slip, "Don't come any closer!"

He Jichen's footsteps slowed down slightly, but two seconds later, he rushed over to her.

"I told you not to come any closer!" As He Jichen drew closer, Ji Yi grabbed a nearby magazine and threw it at him. "Mr. He, let me tell you! If my mum didn't have me drop something off for you, I would never have come to see you voluntarily. The only reason I stayed last night was because I didn't want to owe you anything since you saved me two days ago. So now we're even. Please stay away from me!"

The magazine hit He Jichen's leg, stopping his footsteps once again.

Mr. He, we're even... she can at least use simple words to prick my heart and anger me.

He Jichen gritted his teeth and forced himself to ignore her words. Then he took a big step forward.

He crouched down and reached out his hand to wipe her tears away, but she pounced at him like a tiger before he could do so. She raised her hands and smacked his hand. "Don't touch me!"

She hit the back of his hand hard, but he felt the pain in his heart.

He tried to suppress his churning emotions and willed himself to be patient. He started to raise his hand again, but this time, she said in a stern tone of voice, "I told you! Don't touch me carelessly!"

“Mr. He, you know full well what I said to you that night, four years ago...”

What I said to you that night four years ago...

As though his pressure points had been hit, that simple sentence instantly froze He Jichen.

His deep and tranquil eyes narrowed.

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Before he could reach her, his fingertips suddenly curled into fists. The strength of his clench made his veins protrude from the back of his hand.

“...Whether it’s now or four years ago, you know very well that from the start, I ...”

Ji Yi’s soft lips pursed as she didn’t see any change in He Jichen’s face. She attempted to continue but suddenly He Jichen snarled, “Shut up!”

Ji Yi paused momentarily at He Jichen’s roar.

He had a shockingly tough aura about him. Her eyes were filled with fear as she lightly pursed her lips. After a few seconds, she spoke again with less confidence, “Why won’t you let me finish? You should know that night four years ago I had too much to drink...”

“Shut your fucking mouth!” He would’ve been fine if she hadn’t mentioned what happened four years ago, but as soon as she did, He Jichen was unable to contain his anger; he was like a monkey with static hair. He now appeared ruthless and cold.

Ji Yi didn’t stop but spoke a little quieter, “...I said...”

“Shut your mouth! Shut up! Do you hear me? Shut up!” roared He Jichen with his body trembling. He Jichen couldn’t tell if he was actually mad, or if he was just afraid... afraid that he’d hear the same words she said four years ago. Since she refused to stop, he lost all reason. Suddenly, he raised his hand and mercilessly hurled it towards her.

Ji Yi instinctively shut her eyes in fear and stopped speaking.

There was an intense wind from his fist as it brushed past her ears and smashed into the wall.

With the sound of a “dong!”, blood dripped from his fist and fell onto her shoulder. The sticky liquid made her skin crawl and left her silent.

The room was silent for just a second before He Jichen clutched her with his bloody hand and lifted her face up, forcing her to gaze at him.

His eyes were practically dyed a frighteningly bloody red.

He spoke through gritted teeth and an intensely angry expression, “You’re not worthy of talking shit to me! Who do you think you are? If you hadn’t laid next to me, do you think I would’ve even bothered to touch you?”

“Let me tell you, it was just a natural physical male reaction!”

After all was said and done, she couldn't escape it. She still had to hear his humiliating words.

However, it was fine since she could leave and it wasn't like she hadn't heard it all before...

On one hand, Ji Yi was telling herself not to care about what He Jichen was saying. On the other, she was holding her breath in an attempt to keep a calm expression on her face.

No matter what he said to belittle her or make her lose face, he hadn't reached her limit. She didn't allow herself to show any hurt or suffering in front of him.

Her emotionless face only served to rile He Jichen up. As he clutched her chin, he spoke even more harshly than before and emphasized every word.

“But I'm pretty lucky; I'm glad I woke up at that vital moment. If I really did fuck you in a daze, that'd be disgusting!”

“After all, it was stomach-turning enough to have done such nasty things with you four years ago!”

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Nasty, dirty, stomach-turning...

The cutting words felt like invisible, flying knives that stabbed Ji Yi's heart, one after the other.

Her face looked a little pale, and her fingers trembled uncontrollably as she clutched her clothes.

After everything, she'd made a miscalculation. She figured that if she pretended not to hear anything he said, she wouldn't be hurt by him. Who would've thought that the things he said could actually hit her weak spots?

Even so, she still refused to let him see her suffering.

Ji Yi swiftly lowered her head to hide the emotions surfacing in her eyes and forced herself to not be affected by his words.

Everything was the same as when she ran over to confess to him that night four years ago; she wore this exact same impassive look.

Her apathetic response affected him deeply, making him lose it and hurt her in a crazed frenzy.

“But luckily, that night four years ago was your first. If it wasn't, not only would I resent how disgusting it was, but also how dirty it was. Then again, even if it was your first, I...” He Jichen deliberately emphasized the word “first”—he knew this would hurt her deeply. Since he'd been hurt so badly, he wanted her to join him in his misery. Her fragile body started to tremble frantically as he repeatedly spat out that brutal word. On the third time he said “first,” her face turned so pale it was practically translucent. A line of tears hung on her lowered eyelashes as though they were about to gush out. He suddenly stopped. The room became unusually silent.

The sounds of their breaths were crystal clear.

He Jichen stared at her beautiful complexion up close. Now, he felt like his body and heart were completely hollowed out that instant. He lost all of his strength.

He knew that he'd spoken out of turn.

He'd been saying all the wrong things since that night four years ago when she confessed to him.

He also knew that even if he said something wrong, she wouldn't care.

He slowly loosened his grip on her chin until his hand released her skin.

With his head lowered, he gradually got up and stared at her for a while. She was still balled up on the floor, hugging her clothes. Then he silently averted his gaze.

Outside the window, the sunshine beamed brightly and made his eyes a little sore.

An unprecedented exhaustion suddenly overcame him, causing him to crash. With an intense tiredness, he said, "Get out!"

She was more stubborn than he imagined. Her clothes were even ripped, but when he commanded her to leave, she refused to budge.

He Jichen didn't even have the strength to get mad. Without so much as a glance back at her, he strode right out of the gym.

He understood her well. He knew that even if he wasn't around, she wouldn't want to stick around in his house for too long. So in a strange twist, he locked her in the room behind him on his way out.