

Chapter 531: From Here on Out, You Are the Only One in My Heart (31)

He knew her leg just recovered, so if she hurt herself again, he was afraid he'd have to immediately call Dr. Xia to urgently stop by Beiyang Hall.

The journey to Beiyang Hall that normally took forty-five minutes took He Jichen just fifteen minutes.

When he rushed over, the commotion between her and Qian Ge had already calmed down. He was just about to park when he saw Ji Yi and Zhuang Yi through his windshield.

The more Ji Yi was confused by He Jichen's silent treatment, the more panicked she felt. Her fingers bent slightly as she thought about how she lied to He Jichen that night. Thinking this was the reason why he was angry, she said in low voice, "He Jichen, are you angry? Angry that I lied to you...?"

When He Jichen heard what Ji Yi said, the ball in his throat rolled up and down.

Yes, I'm angry.

But I'm not angry because she lied to me.

I'm angry because she actually used such stupid methods to defeat Qian Ge.

Even though she wasn't hurt like last time, he was still mad.

Ji Yi noticed that He Jichen still hadn't said anything and figured she guessed right. Ji Yi pursed her lips and couldn't help but lower her head and quietly say, "Sorry He Jichen, I didn't mean to lie to you..."

Before Ji Yi could finish speaking, He Jichen's head shot up and looked at her. "Did you know just how dangerous it was for you to do that tonight?!"

Because he was mad, He Jichen's tone was stern. He was so fierce that Ji Yi's voice instantly disappeared.

"If you didn't adjust your weight when you fell, you could've seriously sprained your ankle and then what? Do you realize your leg only just recovered after an entire's month of rest?!"

The more He Jichen spoke, the angrier he became. "And Zhuang Yi, what was with her? You made trouble and she was willing to join you?!"

Ji Yi wasn't stupid; she knew that behind He Jichen's fury, he was mostly worried about her.

Even though she was being yelled at, her heart actually felt warm. She wasn't scared of him like she was when he was angry with her in the past. In fact, as his anger grew, she hurriedly spoke with a cute voice, "Am I not okay though?"

"But what if? What if something happened? You'd continue to sit in a wheelchair for another month?!"

Faced with He Jichen's fury, Ji Yi shot him a sweet smile.

He Jichen wanted to continue talking, but all of a sudden the words wouldn't come out. He glared fiercely at Ji Yi then looked away, out the car window.

The car instantly fell silent.

Ji Yi knew the anger in He Jichen's chest hadn't subsided, and she knew he only had her best interests at heart. After some time, she softly tried to sweet-talk him. "Okay okay, don't be angry..."

He Jichen ignored her.

Ji Yi reached her arm out, tugged on He Jichen's sleeve, and gently shook it. "I'll treat you to dinner, yeah?"

Her touch warmed the cold air around He Jichen and curved his tightened lips.

"He Jichen..." Seeing as He Jichen still wasn't willing to look at her, Ji Yi let out three chirps in the lovable way she usually messaged him on WeChat. "chirp chirp chirp!"

The anger in He Jichen's chest instantly disappeared. He turned his head to glance at Ji Yi and after some time, he finally spoke. "Don't do that ever again."

Such simple, ordinary words, yet somehow, they touched the deepest, softest part of Ji Yi's heart.

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Don't ever do that again... Don't use yourself as a weapon to protect yourself.

Ji Yi's mind was scattered with a million feelings. After some time, she let out a soft "Mhm" to He Jichen.

Upon hearing her reply, He Jichen's brows relaxed and he started the car up again. He followed the road and drove straight ahead.

In comparison to how silent he was before, he still didn't speak much but he did start to talk to her again.

"Didn't you say you wanted to walk around the city to see the night view?"

"Where do you want to go?"

"Chang'an Street?"

Ji Yi let out another soft "Mhm."

He Jichen took that as agreement, so he turned left at the road up ahead and drove to Chang'an street.

Ji Yi felt truly warmed by He Jichen's words "Don't ever do that again." She stared outside the window and watched the endlessly retreating neon lights for a while. Without realizing it, Ji Yi naturally told He Jichen the thoughts on her mind that she never planned to tell anyone. "He Jichen, I didn't actually lie to you on purpose..."

Deep down, I never cared about her lying to me... He Jichen instinctively wanted to tell Ji Yi, but before he could, the sound of Ji Yi's soft voice traveled into his ears. "...I wanted to give you a surprise."

Surprise?

He Jichen's fingers quivered around the steering wheel. He chose to stay silent as he waited for Ji Yi to finish.

Ji Yi probably had a lot she wanted to say in her heart as she stared out the window for some time before speaking again. "Well... in the beginning, I never wanted to go to the BL Charity Gala, but I wanted to return to the road you paved for me. I wanted to regain the popularity you generated for me after you spent so much time and money on me in the past..."

I want to not let you down after everything you did for me.

I don't want all the work you put in to go to waste. I didn't want your decisions to fire Director Lin and go against the board of directors to go to waste. What's more, I don't want you to lose your bet with the board of directors.

I wanted to use my own abilities to tell YC that I'm not a total failure. I wanted them to know I'm worth your protection.

With those thoughts, Ji Yi continued to move her lips.

The atmosphere in the car thinned out. Aside from her low, delicate voice, there were no other sounds.

"... I really do hate Qian Ge; I hate her so much that I want to step on her, but He Jichen... Though I let my anger out on Qian Ge tonight, that wasn't my main goal. My main goal was to give you a surprise."

My main goal was to give you a surprise...

Her final word revolved around He Jichen's heart for who knew how many times before he realized that his heart didn't dare believe that what she said was truly meant for him to hear.

The things that I did for her, the things I sacrificed, and the things I lost for her... They were all done willingly by me.

He never imagined that she would pay him back, but at this very moment, she was telling him that everything she did tonight was to give him a surprise.

He Jichen thought about it; this had to be the most beautiful thing he had ever heard in his life.

The surprise came so suddenly that He Jichen lost the ability to speak.

After Ji Yi finished speaking, she stayed silent for some time before she realized exactly what she said.

She sensed that the atmosphere in the room had turned a little odd.

To ease the atmosphere, she half-jokingly said, "What's more, I signed onto YC with great difficulty that I can't let YC shut down now... I still hope YC can support me. What if YC becomes bankrupt..."

Ji Yi wanted to say "What if YC shuts down, then wouldn't I be finished?" but before she could finish, He Jichen suddenly broke his silence. "Without YC, you'll still have me."

Without YC, you'll still have me...

Those few words replayed in slow-motion. Each and every word echoed in Ji Yi's head and unbelievably softened her whole heart.

At that moment, a sudden line came to mind: "The glorious Spring fell into the Autumn waters, the Summer days shine on the Spring mud. From here on out, you are the only one in my heart."

The glorious Spring fell into the Autumn waters, the Summer days shine on the Spring mud. From here on out, you are the only one in my heart, He Jichen.

No matter how she tried to stop her emotions from deepening, she couldn't deny that in her heart, his name, "He Jichen," was there.

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That night, He Jichen's heart softened when Ji Yi said, "I wanted to give you a surprise," lightening the atmosphere. Without reading the atmosphere, he said seriously, "With YC gone, you'll still have me," suddenly making the atmosphere feel even more strange.

In their hearts, they both had their own apprehensions.

He Jichen was afraid to take one step forward – not to get closer to Ji Yi, but he was afraid of pushing her even further away.

Upon realizing that her feelings for He Jichen had turned to a faint sense of joy, she suddenly remembered He Yuguang.

So, the two of them stayed quiet and didn't say a word to each other. Later, when they came back to their senses, they both tactfully brushed over what they said.

That night, Ji Yi and He Jichen still went to Chang'an street to see the night view and ate crayfish down the night market full of street food. By the time He Jichen drove Ji Yi back home, it was already two in the morning.

That night, Ji Yi laid in bed, tossing and turning, unable to go to sleep. Her mind drifted over to He Jichen's words, "With YC gone, you'll still have me."

After He Jichen drove Ji Yi back home, he started catching up on some work. He rubbed his sore shoulders and lit a cigarette. He walked up to the tall windows and stared out at the billions of lights as Ji Yi's dainty yet resolute voice suddenly came to mind: "The main point was that I wanted to give you a surprise."

After that night, Ji Yi's days went by smoothly.

"Three Thousand Lunatics" was still broadcasting and Princess Qing Yang garnered more support from the fans than Empress Chunyi, especially in the explosive second half of the show. As the series drew to a close, Weibo often had clips of Princess Qing Yang on its top searches. Whereas Empress Chunyi, played by Qian Ge, was rarely mentioned by anyone.

Qian Ge's reputation took a big hit from the BL Charity Gala fiasco. After it all blew over, although she still had endless jobs lined up, her reputation was still sullied; every time she posted on Weibo, there were always quite a few people hating on her.

When Ji Yi's Weibo account reached over 500 million followers, she went to Hengdian studios again to join the production team for "The Tempestuous Grand Tang."

At the same time, Qian Ge's new drama "The Legend of Qingcheng" was also filming at Hengdian studios.

That meant she and Qian Ge were both filming at Hengdian studios. According to Zhuang Yi, they both stayed at the same hotel too, but neither of them ever bumped into each other.

The director for "The Tempestuous Grand Tang" wasn't He Jichen, but He Jichen still dropped by often in the two months or so of Ji Yi's filming to represent the production company.

"The Legend of Qingcheng" and "The Tempestuous Grand Tang" started filming on the same day, but "The Legend of Qingcheng" finished ten days earlier than "The Tempestuous Grand Tang."

It was already November when she returned to Beijing after leaving the set of "The Tempestuous Grand Tang."

It wasn't winter break yet at school, so with no jobs lined up, Ji Yi studied to make up for missed classes and tackle the end-of-term exams just like she did after "Three Thousand Lunatics" was over.

Time flew by and in the blink of an eye, it was already the new year. On the fifth of January, "The Legend of Qingcheng" started broadcasting.

January fifteenth was the day of Ji Yi's end-of-term exams. After they were over, "The Tempestuous Grand Tang" started broadcasting the day after she went home for winter break.

Five whole months passed between Ji Yi mercilessly retaliating against Qian Ge at the BL Charity Gala and the start of broadcasting for "The Tempestuous Grand Tang."

In those five months, Ji Yi's life could really be described as serene and monotonous.

If Ji Yi really had to describe something interesting that happened in the past five months, it was that YC arranged a new assistant to work with her.

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The new assistant was called Li Yaoyao. The week before Ji Yi started on the set of "The Tempestuous Grand Tang," she had already been trained under Zhuang Yi to start taking care of Ji Yi's everyday needs.

Aside from this, if Ji Yi had to name something else interesting that happened, it'd be the time she got a penta-kill while playing with Tang Huahua the day before the end-of-term exams.

Having gone through a great rise and fall, betrayal, and even near-death experience, these peaceful days were a blessing for Ji Yi.

But later on, Ji Yi realized she was wrong. She thought her life was serene and uneventful, but it was actually the calm before the storm.

This storm came unusually suddenly, without any warning whatsoever.

The day before the storm, it was Lunar New Year eve.

Casting for the leading actress for “The Tempestuous Grand Tang” wasn’t hard, but compared to the leading actress for “The Legend of Qingcheng,” Ji Yi was a weaker choice than Qian Ge. From the very beginning, ratings for the “The Legend of Qingcheng” were slightly higher.

But after the first week of broadcasting “The Tempestuous Grand Tang,” the story picked up and the ratings started to rise slowly. As the end of the Spring festival approached, the ratings actually became on par with “The Legend of Qingcheng.”

Seeing that the ratings for “The Tempestuous Grand Tang” weren’t bad, Ji Yi’s mood also improved. On the morning of new year’s eve, she casually glanced at the rating report right after she got up and discovered that the ratings for “The Tempestuous Grand Tang” actually managed to beat “The Legend of Qingcheng” by 0.1.

Even if it was just 0.1, Ji Yi’s mood became exceedingly good. While freshening up, she couldn’t help but hum a song.

After breakfast, Ji Yi went shopping with her mum in preparation for new year’s. On their way back, they passed a flower shop. An impulse came over Ji Yi and she asked the driver to stop the car. She ran over to the flower shop and carefully picked out some flowers after a while. Hugging a big bouquet, she left and got back into the car.

After they arrived back home, Ji Yi spent over two hours putting colorful, fresh flowers in each room.

Ji Yi admired her finished product and didn’t forget to take a photo. She opened the Meitu app, adjusted the lighting and color, then posted the photo on Moments with the caption: “Fresh flowers to welcome the new year.”

The nanny of the house was back in her hometown, so her mum was single-handedly preparing new year’s dinner.

After Ji Yi arranged the flowers, she was called in to help wrap dumplings.

By the time the dishes came out, filling a large dining table with new year’s food, it was already six in the evening.

With her phone in hand, Ji Yi saw that there were a dozen likes and messages under her casual photo of fresh flowers. Most of the comments read: “Happy new year.”

Zhuang Yi’s reply was unique: “Remember to choose a good one to post on Weibo.”

Ji Yi took over a dozen photos of her new year’s dinner then she ran over to the bathroom. After turning on the lights, she took a selfie under the warm glow then chose the best photo from her new year’s dinner photos and her selfies. She posted them on Weibo with the caption: “Happy new year everybody!”

As “The Tempestuous Grand Tang” began to be broadcast, Ji Yi got over a billion fans. After the photo was successfully posted on Weibo, there were over a thousand likes in a short minute.

Ji Yi read fans’ comments for a while before her mum called her down to eat new year’s dinner.

After new year’s dinner was over, the new year’s special on TV started.

Ji Yi wasn’t particularly interested as she purely watched it to spend time with her parents.

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Tang Huahua was eating at her granddad’s house and hadn’t returned yet, so there was no way she could play with Ji Yi. Ji Yi didn’t want to play on her own, so she figured she would cuddle up on the sofa and browse Taobao on her phone.

At around eight, she got a WeChat message on her phone. It was Bo He sending her new year’s blessings and a red envelope.

After Ji Yi accepted it, she sent one back to Bo He then remembered she hadn’t given blessings to her friends yet. She drafted a message and sent it to all her friends on WeChat.

After the photo was successfully sent, she started receiving endless new year’s blessings from her friends.

Fatty sent a voice note: “Happy new year, great demon!”

Since she and Fatty had dinner at Lou Wailou after shooting “Three Thousand Lunatics” and he told her that he used to secretly call her “The great demon,” he’d been calling her the great demon in their conversations.

After Ji Yi finished listening to the voice note, she was about to reply to Fatty when he sent her another voice note: “Great demon, I watched your new drama. Your acting’s not bad!”

Fatty sounded like he was outside because it was a little noisy and there was a faint sound of singing.

The first time she read “great demon,” Ji Yi wanted to make a comeback but she changed her mind when she heard Fatty compliment her new drama. Instead, she changed the message she was going to send to: “Where are you? It’s so noisy.”

This time, Fatty didn’t reply with a voice note. Instead, he sent a video. The first person to appear on the video was Fatty with a cigarette in his mouth. He mumbled out the words: “Class reunion party!”

After he spoke, he turned the camera around for Ji Yi to see that he was in a karaoke room with a group of guys and girls who were drinking.

Because the lighting was dim, she couldn’t clearly see a lot of people’s faces. However, Ji Yi could tell that they were the group of friends He Jichen hung out with during senior high school.

Ji Yi figured that He Jichen was there too, so she looked carefully for him but wasn't able to catch sight of him by the end of the video call. She quickly sent Fatty a message: "What about He Jichen? How come I didn't see him?"

"Chen Ge?" Fatty's message was sent as a voice note again, but his voice sounded a little shocked this time. "He didn't come back to Sucheng. Didn't you know?"

He Jichen's not back in Sucheng?

Two days ago, when she bumped into He Jichen at YC and when they had dinner together, she asked him if he was heading back to Sucheng for new year's. He only replied with "Mhm."

Ji Yi thought Fatty was messing with her, so she continued to type: "Fatty, stop messing around. Hurry, send me a secret video of He Jichen."

"I'm really not messing with you. Chen Ge really didn't come back to Sucheng." This time, Fatty's voice sounded a lot more serious.

Ji Yi furrowed her brows when she realized Fatty wasn't joking around. But she still wasn't so sure, so she hesitantly replied: "Two days ago, he told me he was going back to Sucheng for new year's."

"Chen Ge lied to you, silly! He'd spend new year's anywhere but Sucheng."

Ji Yi's heart dropped when she understood the meaning behind Fatty's words and typed a single word: "Why?"

After waiting some time, Ji Yi was about to send another message but then Fatty finally replied.

This time, Fatty didn't send a voice note. Instead, he sent a long string of words.

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"At the time, Chen Ge was so adamant on dropping out of his prestigious school that he went against his family's wishes and moved to Beijing. His family always hoped he'd take over He enterprises, but he insisted on becoming a director and started his own company. In the end, things got pretty messy with his family. Three years ago, when he came to Beijing, his family didn't give him a single jiao 1 since Chen Ge was still determined to go to Beijing. His dad was so pissed that he said he didn't have a son. That year, He Jichen came back to Sucheng for new year's and his dad told him he was only allowed to step foot in the house if he was willing to take over the family business. Chen Ge didn't agree, so his dad really didn't let him enter. The next day, when Chen Ge came to see me, I realized Chen Ge really didn't have any money on him whatsoever. He didn't even have money to buy a flight back to Beijing. I had to buy the ticket for him! Later, I went to Beijing and learned Chen Ge was living in a basement there. His mattress was soaked because of a leak in the ceiling. Don't assume anything based on how big Chen Ge's company is now – he actually single-handedly built it from the ground up. Last year, Chen Ge came back for new year's because his granny felt sorry for him so she let him in, but he didn't even touch his chopsticks for new year's dinner when his dad came back home. After the two of them had an argument, he walked out the door. I'm telling you... Chen Ge would never come back to Sucheng because if he comes back, he can't even go home."



Ji Yi knew He Jichen wasn't in a good place with the He family because he left for Beijing, but she never imagined their relationship was this bad.

"Xiao Yi, eat some fruit," said Ji Yi's mum softly, waking her up. She had fallen asleep from staring at Fatty's message on her phone.

Ji Yi raised her head and gently replied to her mum. Then she put her head down and scanned over the wall of text on her phone again.

"This one's sweeter. Try this one."

Her mum spoke again. Ji Yi turned her head and looked over to find her mum feeding a piece of watermelon on a toothpick to her dad.

The picture of them together was affectionate and sweet, but it hurt her eyes, so she couldn't help but avert her gaze out the window.

Several units in the building opposite didn't have their curtains shut, so she could clearly see inside their homes with their bright lights on.

The family inside the window with red floral paper cuttings was watching the new year's show on TV too, and they had a child playing happily in the living room... The picture of their family was about the same as her own just now.

What's He Jichen doing on such a day filled with family unity and happiness?

If things are really as Fatty described and He Jichen didn't return to Sucheng, then is he spending new year's eve all alone right now?

For some reason, Ji Yi's chest felt stifled. "Xiao Yi, why aren't you eating any fruit?" her mum asked again. She turned her head and replied with "I'll eat some later" then got up and headed back into her room.

After the door closed, Ji Yi found He Jichen's number and called him.

It rang a few times but no one answered.

Ji Yi ended the call then called Chen Bai.

Chen Bai picked up the call at lightning speed. When he heard her question, Chen Bai was completely confused. "Mr. He? I don't know where he is. I'm back home..."

After hanging up, Ji Yi called He Jichen again. Just like before, no one answered.

She paced twice around the room then darted over to the wardrobe. She picked out an outfit and quickly changed.

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Sitting in the living room, Ji Yi's mum heard rustling and looked up at Ji Yi. She realized Ji Yi changed out of her loungewear and she immediately asked curiously, "Xiao Yi, are you heading out?"

“Mhm,” responded Ji Yi then she walked over to the entrance and opened the shoe cabinet.

Her mum got up and walked over to Ji Yi. “It’s new year’s eve. What are you going to do outside?”

“I have something to do. I’ll be back later.” Ji Yi changed into a good pair of shoes, walked over to her mum and waved. Without giving her mum a chance to ask more questions, she quickly bolted out the door and into the elevator.

The streets on new year’s eve were particularly empty and the floor was covered with ashes from all the fireworks.

Under the arctic north wind, Ji Yi shivered for a while before she finally got into a taxi.

Ji Yi first went to He Jichen’s house near B-Film.

Before she headed into the building, Ji Yi first looked up at the pitch-black windows of He Jichen’s apartment.

Ji Yi knew full well that He Jichen probably wasn’t at home, but she still asked the taxi driver to please wait for her. Then she headed into the building.

Ji Yi pressed the doorbell for a long time before she headed back into the taxi and asked the driver to take her to YC Corp.

Before the taxi came to a stop, Ji Yi looked through the car window and saw that there was a light on at the top floor of the building.

Ji Yi paid the taxi fare then walked up the stairs and ran into the company building.

Normally on holidays, the company had security personnel on guard, but it was completely empty on new year’s eve. There wasn’t a soul in sight.

The areas Ji Yi stepped on with her high heels had sensory lights, so one after the other, they started to light up.

After she took the elevator up to the highest floor, Ji Yi noticed with just one look that the tea room lights were on. There, with his back turned to her, stood He Jichen.

Ji Yi’s footsteps instinctively stopped on the spot.

In the entire building, there wasn’t any other person there besides the two of them.

The sound of water boiling in the tea room could be heard unusually clearly.

There was a spark between He Jichen’s fingers, and every now and then, he raised it to his mouth.

Ji Yi knew he was smoking.

She knew the water was done since the boiling sounds stopped. He Jichen held the kettle up and poured the water out in front of him.

Ji Yi heard the splashing sounds of running water and came to her senses. She walked over to the tea room and cried, “He Jichen.”

He Jichen thought he was just hearing things, so he didn't turn his head but loosened his grip around the kettle handle.

Ji Yi took steps towards him. "He Jichen."

As the sound of her voice fell again for the second time, she clearly saw He Jichen's back stiffen up. The sound of flowing water instantly stopped.

After about two seconds, He Jichen turned his head and met Ji Yi's gaze.

Ji Yi's footsteps stopped again.

He Jichen's lips gaped a little as though he had just seen something unbelievable. His half-smoked cigarette slipped from his lips and crashed to the ground.

The two of them looked at each other for some time before He Jichen came to his senses and hurriedly stomped on the burning cigarette by his feet. Then he put down the kettle on the marble table and asked, "Why are you here?"

Hearing He Jichen's voice, Ji Yi blinked quickly. She raised her feet again and walked into the tea room.

As she got closer, she clearly noticed the steam from the instant cup noodles in front of He Jichen.

So he was boiling water for instant noodles? This is his new year's dinner?

Ji Yi furrowed her brows.

"Xiao Yi?" He Jichen spoke again.

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When Ji Yi heard this, her gaze upon the instant noodles shifted to He Jichen's face. She knew he was waiting for her to reply to his question, but instead, she asked a question in return: "You're eating instant noodles for new year's?"

At Ji Yi's mention of instant noodles, He Jichen thought back to his improvised new year's dinner. He turned his head, put the lid on his cup noodles and carried it back into his office.

Ji Yi followed behind him silently.

Just as she took one step into He Jichen's office, she almost immediately stepped back out again.

The shroud of cigarette smoke was so heavy inside that the sofa and coffee table were filled with packs of empty cigarettes.

Documents were tossed messily over the desk, and the ashtray by the computer was filled with cigarette butts of various sizes.

He Jichen put the instant noodles down onto the table, walked over to the windows and opened them.

The cold wind that entered the room was a little strong as it quickly blew away a large portion of the smoke along with the documents on the desk onto the floor.

When Ji Yi bent down to pick them up, she caught a glimpse of many circled scribbles in black ink.

The scribbles on the sheets of paper looked familiar – they looked exactly like how her textbook looked many years ago when she woke up to find her books filled with circled key points.

Ji Yi's gaze couldn't help but linger on the papers. Before she could figure it out, He Jichen returned from opening the window and was no longer leaning against the desk. "You haven't replied to my question yet," he said flatly.

He Jichen's voice abruptly interrupted Ji Yi's thoughts, causing her to glance up at him. She walked over to him and put his documents on the desk. Just as she was about to tell him that Fatty told her the truth of how he hadn't returned to Sucheng so she came over to look for him, the words couldn't seem to escape from her mouth. She glanced over at He Jichen's keyboard and saw a single photograph laying on top.

She recognized all the people inside.

It was a family photo of the He family.

The words she wanted to say suddenly stopped in her throat and a sense of indescribable sadness instantly filled Ji Yi's heart.

Is he spending new year's eve in the office doing overtime because he wants to let work take his mind off his family issues?

But even so, he smoked so many cigarettes because he couldn't mask the sadness deep down?

With that thought, Ji Yi's gaze swept over the cigarette butts and empty packs of cigarettes in different areas of the room. The more she looked, the more upset she got.

He's already pretty upset; if I mention that he didn't go back to Sucheng now, I'm afraid it would be like picking at his scabs...

With that thought, Ji Yi took a hard gulp and pushed her words back down. Then she twitched her lips and spoke a white lie: "I just dropped off my mum at her friend's to play mahjong. On my way back, I happened to pass by the office and noticed the light was on, so I came to check it out."

If things were like before, Ji Yi would definitely ask He Jichen why he was doing overtime in the office on new year's eve.

But knowing the truth, she chose to avoid the topic. Without waiting for He Jichen to reply, she moved her head from left to right and scanned the room all over again. Then she stared at the instant noodles He Jichen casually put on the desk and changed the subject: "Your noodles look like they're about ready."

He Jichen let out an "Mhm" and removed the lid.

The smell instantly permeated every corner of the office.

There were restaurants open for business on new year's eve, but they only served guests with reservations made half a month in advance. It'd be odd for two people to spontaneously go out to eat

now. Other people spent new year's eve back home having a family reunion dinner, but He Jichen was eating alone... Ji Yi paused for a few seconds and said, "Is there more?"

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He Jichen didn't understand what Ji Yi said. He turned his head and asked "Mhm?"

Ji Yi raised her chin and nodded at He Jichen's instant noodles. "I'm hungry too. You got any more cup noodles?"

"Oh," said He Jichen with realization. He pointed at the cabinet by the office desk and was just about to get up and help Ji Yi retrieve it when she walked over first and opened it herself. She chose her favorite flavor and headed out to boil some water.

He Jichen finished eating and put down his chopsticks. He sat back on the sofa and stared at Ji Yi taking small bites of her noodles. "I'll take you back home later?" he suggested in a flat tone.

Ji Yi came especially for He Jichen, but after she saw the family photo on his keyboard and spoke a white lie...

She never imagined that the white lie would be kind to He Jichen but would dig a hole for her.

Ji Yi was stunned by He Jichen's question for two seconds then she lowered her head and shoved noodles into her mouth. With the excuse of food in her mouth, her eyes shifted to think of an excuse. She couldn't go back home and she couldn't let He Jichen find out that she just spoke a white lie.

With her eyes on the noodles, Ji Yi chewed until it was gooey. Before her anxious fingers could snap her chopsticks because she couldn't think of a good excuse, she suddenly heard fireworks outside the window. All of a sudden, Ji Yi's eyes lit up like she just found her last hope. She swallowed the gooey noodles that had long lost their flavor. She looked up then told He Jichen, "I'm not going back home. I told my parents I was going to Houhai to watch the fireworks."

He Jichen furrowed his brows. "With someone?"

She probably said too many lies as He Jichen's question rattled Ji Yi's confidence. She was afraid He Jichen would find something fishy, so she first nodded and hurriedly suggested, "Want to go together?"

A flash of surprise crossed He Jichen's face as he never imagined Ji Yi would ask if he wanted to go with her. With a gentle nod, he raised his wrist to check the time. It wasn't quite half past nine, so there was still time before twelve. He thought about how he smelled completely of cigarettes and said, "It's still early. I'm going to take a shower."

The second after He Jichen stepped into the lounge in his office, Ji Yi immediately put down her chopsticks and rubbed her exploding stomach. Then she got up and cleaned up by chucking the two cup noodles into the trash can.

While waiting for He Jichen, Ji Yi was bored and happened to see Tang Huahua's game invitation, so she found a comfortable position on the sofa and entered the game.

The match quickly finished.

While waiting for Tang Huahua to add her into her room, an in-game chat box popped up from “Young Windchaser.”

Ji Yi kind of recognized this ID. They were auto-matched teammates in the game.

Ji Yi tapped “decline,” but “Young Windchaser” continued to send invites and Ji Yi continued to tap “decline.” Then Tang Huahua invited Ji Yi. After Ji Yi entered the game, her phone rang and vibrated non-stop which severely distracted her from the game. After her fourth death, Ji Yi exited the game and glanced at the screen to see that it was a reminder from the game.

Once she tapped it, Ji Yi realized that the messages were all from “Young Windchaser.”

“Biaomei, let’s play!”

“Biaomei, I’ll lead you in the King of Glory.”

“Biaomei...”

Ji Yi saw that she already respawned, so she didn’t finish reading this person’s messages and returned to the game.

Chapter 540: From Here on Out, You Are the Only One in My Heart (40)

In five seconds, the hero Ji Yi chose respawned. Having just come out of the healing springs, another series of alerts and vibrations started again.

And so, under a minute after she respawned, Ji Yi died before a new wave came, even before she could get a kill or receive assistance.

Even though Ji Yi knew this was just a game and was just for fun, she got really mad. She was killed repeatedly from being harassed by a stranger, so deep down, she was extremely upset!

Ji Yi forced herself to calm down. After the game ended with a “0-8-2” loss, Ji Yi saw an in-game message saying she had been reported by her teammates and had five credits deducted. Even more pissed than before, Ji Yi tapped the game assistant without a second thought.

“Young Windchaser” sent her two whole pages of messages.

“Biaomei, I’ll lead you. I’m last season’s King player!”

“Biaomei, you want to Chu CP?”

“Biaomei...”

Chu f\*cking CP!

Ji Yi, who rarely swore, secretly cursed inside as she angrily raised her fingers, about to send a few words to this “Young Windchaser.”

But just as she typed a few words, she realized it wasn't worth getting angry over a complete stranger, so she forcefully stabbed at the screen to delete what she typed, word-by-word.

After his shower, He Jichen dried his hair and walked out of the lounge. He glanced at Ji Yi's angry little face, stabbing hard at the screen.

He Jichen suddenly stopped patting his hair dry. "What's wrong?"

When Ji Yi heard He Jichen's voice, she looked up and glanced over at him and complained like she usually did to He Jichen. "Just met this crazy person in the game. When Huahua and I were playing, he sent me messages non-stop and got me killed eight times! Pissed me off!"

Before Ji Yi finished speaking, He Jichen was already standing by her side.

He Jichen towered over Ji Yi's screen. He casually glanced over then caught the message: "Biaomei, you want to Chu CP?"

He Jichen's brow creased as a stern look flashed across his eyes.

Not having sensed the change in He Jichen's expression, Ji Yi deleted her own words and tapped "Young Windchaser"'s name. Just as she was about to drag his name onto the blocked users list, He Jichen's fingers suddenly reached out and grabbed the phone from her fingers.

"What's wrong?" Ji Yi instinctively raised her head and looked over at He Jichen.

He Jichen casually threw his towel onto the sofa and sat next to Ji Yi. He flatly replied "Pissed!" as he quickly typed a reply to "Young Windchaser": "Alright, let's play."

Soon enough He Jichen and "Young Windchaser" were matched into a game.

He Jichen had never played this game before, but when he was in the hospital, he watched Ji Yi play and was familiar with the game rules.

When choosing his character, He Jichen casually scrolled through a few and read over their abilities then chose an archer.

When he was young, he skipped classes like it was nothing and spent practically every day in the internet cafe playing games, so these kind of phone games were easy to pick up for He Jichen. Once he was in the game, He Jichen was familiar with the wild beasts' abilities then he started to kill minions for money.