

“Miss Ji Yi, if you’re doing this to promote yourself, don’t you think this method is a little hard for people to accept?”

“Miss Ji Yi...”

Practically everyone chimed in, but aside from the very first question asked, Ji Yi couldn’t hear any of the questions clearly as the latter questions were all mixed in together. Ji Yi couldn’t hear what they were asking with all that chatter.

The reporters noticed that Ji Yi wasn’t replying, so they started to ask even more obnoxious questions.

“Miss Ji Yi, can we take your silence for a confession?”

“Miss Ji Yi, I want to ask, is this person next to you your mother? Then can I ask your mother a question? When you raised your daughter, did you not teach her the ethics of not plagiarizing?”

“Yes, Ji Yi’s mother, could you please tell us – don’t you feel ashamed of seeing your daughter completely plagiarize someone else’s performance?”

The reporter who directed his question to Ji Yi’s mum then pushed the microphone over towards her.

Following those earth-shattering questions attacking Ji Yi’s mum, Ji Yi snapped to her senses from the chaos caused by the group of people surrounding them.

Without thinking twice, she took a step forward and blocked them. “Sorry, I hope you can direct all your questions to me and not drag my family into this. Thank you.”

As Ji Yi said this, she wanted to take her mum back into the elevator and into the beauty salon again to call Zhuang Yi for some help to get out of this mess.

A reporter must’ve figured out what Ji Yi was thinking as she ran to block their way. Soon enough, Ji Yi and her mum were surrounded by them again.

“Miss Ji Yi, could you please answer my last question?”

Seeing Ji Yi speak, the reporter pushed the microphone even further out towards Ji Yi and her mum.

Entrapped by reporters all around her, Ji Yi and her mum had no path to retreat, so all Ji Yi could do was say the words at the tip of her tongue: “Excuse me, I’m not accepting any interviews today. If everyone could please move aside...”

Those reporters were never going to let Ji Yi go... As her voice fell, another wave of questions came pouring in.

News about her was blown up online for everyone to see, so it was normal for reporters to want to interview her. However, for them to know of her and her mum’s last minute plans to go to the beauty salon, they must’ve been followed. Yet, if that were true, only one or two would’ve turned up – there

definitely wouldn't be a whole crowd of reporters like this. There was just one possibility – someone leaked her whereabouts.

And for so many reporters to be contacted in such a short time, there could be no other person responsible but Qian Ge, who she bumped into at the salon earlier that afternoon...

Ji Yi knew she couldn't escape the group of reporters without an army of assistants.

She didn't have her phone on her, so she could only borrow her mum's phone.

After she unlocked her mum's phone screen, Ji Yi realized she didn't have Zhuang Yi's number memorized. In her mind, she quickly went over all the people who could help her get out of her situation right now, but aside from He Jichen's number, she had no one else's number memorized.

If what happened in the afternoon hadn't come to light, she wouldn't have hesitated to call He Jichen.

Chapter 562: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (22)

But now...

Ji Yi hesitated for a moment but didn't dial He Jichen's number in the end. She noticed the reporters had no intention of leaving, so after a moment's silence, she said, "I'll say it again. I'm not taking any interviews today. Everyone, please move aside."

Her words were like a pebble thrown into a vast ocean which didn't create a single ripple.

The reporters' questions were neverending.

"Apologies, my mother has nothing to do with any of this. If it's possible, I hope everyone can allow her to leave." Seeing as the reporters had no intention of negotiating with her, all she could do was plead with them to let her mum go.

"Miss Ji Yi, could you please answer my question?"

"Miss Ji Yi, are you avoiding the topic because you're guilty?"

"Miss Ji Yi..."

The two of them stood uncomfortably and unsteadily in the center of the group of reporters.

Trapped inside, they definitely couldn't get out, so the best way to leave was for someone to escape first and call the police or call the office.

Seeing as nobody cared about what Ji Yi said, Ji Yi's mum said, "I don't work in showbiz. Could you please make a path for me to leave first?"

Ji Yi's mum didn't get a response either.

She furrowed her brows and said with a more threatening voice, "Could you please move aside? I'm going to call the police on all of you surrounding me like this."

Those reporters still ignored what Ji Yi's mum said as they continued to surround Ji Yi and her mum with an impenetrable wall.

Ji Yi's mum didn't waste her breath anymore and immediately snatched the phone from Ji Yi's hand and dialed "110."

A sharp-eyed reporter saw this then immediately grabbed the camera and pointed it at Ji Yi's mum with her fingers on the phone. As he recorded her, he asked, "May I ask, Miss Ji Yi, are you asking your mother to call the police because you have a guilty conscience from plagiarizing Qian Ge's performance and want to run away?"

This group of reporters could truly twist the story and make good seem bad and bad seem good. Seeing that Ji Yi's mum was really calling the police, a wave of questions came flooding in after the first one.

"Ji Yi's mother, are you calling the police to avoid our questions?"

"Miss Ji Yi, why would you rather call the police than face our cameras and answer our questions?"

There were reporters on the scene broadcasting live who twisted the truth: "Hello everyone, we are on the first floor of SF beauty salon and we bumped into Miss Ji Yi and her mother. To decline our interviews, Ji Yi's mother has called the police here to threaten us. I would like to verify that those videos circulating online of Miss Ji Yi plagiarizing Miss Qian Ge's acting are, in fact, true..."

Before "110" could get through, Ji Yi's mum quickly lowered the phone from her ear. Even though she was slow to anger, when she heard the reporter, it was understandable for her to get angry. After she hung up the call, she headed for the live broadcaster and said, "This presenter here – how could you say that? When did I call the police to threaten you all?"

"I've been emphasizing I am not in showbiz and that I have my own freedom. I should be able to leave, but all of you won't let me leave!"

Chapter 563: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (23)

"Madam, Miss Ji Yi did something wrong. Why aren't you letting her in front of the camera to give everyone an explanation? Would you rather call the police and insist on leaving with Miss Ji Yi to protect her? Deep down, do you believe it wasn't an accident that your own daughter plagiarized other people's work?" The live reporter noticed Ji Yi's mother had opened her mouth and immediately aimed the camera right at her.

From the moment the reporters surrounded Ji Yi and her mum till now, it wasn't clear just how many times they heard the words "Ji Yi plagiarized Qian Ge's performance."

As a mother, it might've looked like she was blaming and yelling at her daughter, but in actuality, it truly hurt her heart.

Maybe she became a little impatient with the harassment from the reporters, or maybe she really wanted to fight for her daughter's justice, because when Ji Yi's mother spoke again, she sounded serious and stern. "On this matter, I don't believe those things online. I believe my daughter."

Ji Yi's mother's words piqued every reporter's interest and incited wave after wave of questions.

"Madam, are you saying you think your daughter didn't copy Miss Qian Ge?"

"Madam, the videos online clearly show your daughter plagiarized Miss Qian Ge's performance. What you're saying is that you're siding with the offender?"

"Madam..."

But before the reporters could finish asking their questions, a sudden loud clamor came from the main doors.

"It's true! The news was right; that little b*tch Ji Yi really is here!"

"Quickly everyone! Today, we have to force her to apologize to our queen, Qian Ge!"

About a dozen young girls and boys came rushing in.

"Little thief Ji, apologize to our queen!"

"Yeah! That b*tch is shameless to dare to steal our Qian Ge's act. Did you think that us 'Cornstarch' are timid?!"

"Wow, that b*tch's mum actually said she believes her daughter on live TV!"

"Well, sh*t... so that b*tch's mum turns out to be a b*tch too!"

Having caught that line, Ji Yi instantly turned her head and looked over at the group of young girls and boys rushing towards them through the reporters. Her voice turned serious as she cried, "How could you say that? How did your parents raise you all!? Apologize!"

"Apologize? You should be the one to apologize to our queen! Such a shameless person... are you even worthy of an apology?" retaliated the sharp-tongued girl in front. Then someone with an egg in hand reached out and prepared to smash it onto Ji Yi's head.

Ji Yi's mum was standing beside Ji Yi. When Ji Yi's mum saw this, she didn't hesitate at all to run in front of Ji Yi to shield her.

Following this, many more objects came flying at Ji Yi and Ji Yi's mum. As they threw things, they screamed, "Apologize to our queen!"

"For stealing our queen's things!"

The whole situation got out of hand, but the reporters had no intention of controlling the scene.

They took photos and continued to broadcast the whole scene live.

Ji Yi's mum hugged Ji Yi tightly in her arms so the objects didn't touch her.

But her fingertips were covered in something sticky. She instinctively glanced down and saw that it was blood.

Did they hurt mum?

Ji Yi instinctively cried, “Stop! Stop!”

Those young guys and guys showed no intention of stopping.

And none of those reporters showed any signs of coming up to help them.

In fact, the live broadcaster sounded just as lively and upbeat as before. “That’s right. These young men and women are all Qian Ge’s fans. They call themselves ‘Cornstarch’ and they came to get justice for Qian Ge...”

Ji Yi wanted to struggle out of her mum’s grip, but her mum held her even tighter.

Ji Yi couldn’t fight her mum’s strength, so her tears came pouring out in frustration.

Just when she was wondering when this nightmare would end, a stern voice was suddenly heard in the lobby doors: “Stop!”

Chapter 564: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (25)

Just as she was wondering when this nightmare would end, a stern voice was suddenly heard from the lobby doors: “Stop!”

As that voice fell, a heavy series of footsteps could be heard in the lobby.

Ji Yi’s head was pushed hard into her mum’s arms, so she couldn’t see anything around her. All she could do was use the sound of the footsteps to guess that the person was drawing closer to her and her mother.

“Stop!”

“All of you, stop now!”

It was the same stern voice, but this time, Ji Yi heard the sounds of girls screaming after the person finished speaking. Then she clearly felt the group of people surrounding her and her mum move away.

Is someone here to save me and mum?

After that thought flashed across Ji Yi’s mind, she quickly remembered that her mum was injured, so she tried to struggle out of her grip again.

Ji Yi’s mum sensed that someone had the situation under control, so she loosened her grip on Ji Yi enough for her to easily break free.

The first thing to come into view was the row of police officers who ushered the group of men and women called ‘Cornstarch’ against the wall. Each person had both their arms behind their heads while crouched on the ground. As for the reporters taking photos and broadcasting live coverage, they had their equipment packed away while they stood to one side.

Secondly, she noticed the messy floor all around her.

There was a phone, blades, cola bottles, broken egg shells, and even middle school textbooks... All those things were thrown at mum just now?

Ji Yi's fingertips trembled then she quickly turned to look at her mum.

Her mum had looked graceful after finishing her spa treatments, but now she looked like an absolute mess.

Her styled hair was covered in egg and coke. There were also blood stains slowly dripping from her temples.

Ji Yi opened her mouth slightly as her lips trembled like crazy. After a while, she softly cried, "Ma..."

When her mum heard this, she opened her eyes and looked over at Ji Yi. She scanned Ji Yi up and down to confirm she wasn't hurt then she spoke with a compassionate smile: "Mama's fine."

Those two words instantly made Ji Yi's tears fall.

"Xiao Yi, why are you crying... Mama is fine..." Ji Yi's mum reached her hand out and gently stroked Ji Yi's face to wipe the tears away.

Ji Yi held onto her mum's hand as the tears came crashing down like crazy. She moved her lips and was just about to say "sorry" when she heard a stern voice again. "Mr. He."

Mr. He... Ji Yi's body trembled gently for a moment as she stared at her hands around her mum's fingers. After some time, she slowly turned her head and looked over at the door.

He Jichen took big strides into the lobby in his long, black trench coat.

Behind him, Chen Bai walked at the same pace.

He nodded silently at the police officer who was talking to him then in the next minute, his gaze swept in the direction of Ji Yi and her mum.

When He Jichen saw Ji Yi's wet eyes, his hasty steps suddenly slowed down and he came to an abrupt halt.

Chen Bai also stopped. Seeing He Jichen and Ji Yi staring at one another for a long time with no reaction, he quietly called out "Mr. He" to get his attention.

Chapter 565: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (25)

He Jichen snapped back to his senses then his gaze fell on Ji Yi's mum. When he noticed the trickle of red by her temple, his fingers quivered for a moment then suddenly balled into fists. After about a second, he raised his foot and started walking again towards Ji Yi.

Earlier, when the police cried "Mr. He," Ji Yi and her mum immediately knew He Jichen was the one who called the police.

While Ji Yi's mum waited for He Jichen to walk over, she immediately smiled. "Jichen, thank goodness you called the police. If not, I don't know what Xiao Yi and I would've done!"

Ji Yi's mum's genuinely thankful smile was like a needle pricking He Jichen's eyes, causing him to avert his eyes to one side. He quietly replied, "Ji Bomu." He bent down, trying to help Ji Yi's mum up.

Then Chen Bai rushed over to He Jichen and he noticed Ji Yi was also crouched on the ground. He immediately reached out and grabbed Ji Yi's mum's arm first. "Ji Bomu, I'll take you to the hospital."

With that, Chen Bai carefully helped Ji Yi's mum up from the floor and walked over to the front door.

In the middle of all this mess, only Ji Yi and He Jichen were left.

He Jichen stared at the eggshells by his feet for a few seconds then he turned to look at Ji Yi for just a short second before looking away. Then he reached his hand out and silently pulled her up from the floor.

As he passed the police standing beside them, He Jichen came to a halt with Ji Yi beside him.

He didn't say anything but looked over at the police officer standing at the front.

The police silently understood what He Jichen meant as he politely said, "Mr. He, don't worry. Leave things with me; I'll handle this."

He Jichen gave a gentle nod then without saying anything, he took Ji Yi's arm and left.

Once they stepped out of the building, Ji Yi immediately saw He Jichen's car parked at the entrance.

Ji Yi's mum was already in the passenger's seat.

Chen Bai watched the two of them step out and immediately pulled open the back door.

On the way to the hospital, Ji Yi called her dad with her mum's phone.

Chen Bai called Dr. Xia in advance, so when they reached the hospital, he was waiting for them at the entrance.

As Ji Yi's mum entered the operating room, Chen Bai went downstairs to check her in. At the waiting area outside the operating room, Ji Yi and He Jichen were left alone once again.

Ji Yi was worried about her mum, but she also remembered He Jichen and Chen Bai's conversation at YC that afternoon, so she intended to stay silent.

He Jichen looked like he had something on his mind as he stood in front of the window not too far away. He stared out at the night sky with the same silent demeanor.

Not too long after, Ji Yi's dad arrived in a hurry.

After Ji Yi's dad asked how Ji Yi was, he chatted a little with He Jichen.

Ji Yi's mum was severely injured and the cut was a little deep. Dr. Xia gave her a few stitches then quickly came out of the operating room.

Ji Yi's mum could leave the hospital afterward, but He Jichen was worried there'd be problems down the line with the wound on her chest, so he asked Dr. Xia to prepare a room for her for the night to make sure she would be okay.

With Ji Yi's dad there, they didn't need so many visitors lingering at the hospital.

Originally, Ji Yi and her mum planned to go out to get their minds off recent events, but things ended up like this. Ji Yi's parents were worried about their daughter, so when they saw He Jichen there, they asked him to take Ji Yi home.

On the way to the hospital, the atmosphere wasn't so awkward because Ji Yi's mum and Chen Bai were present and shared a few words.

However, on the trip heading home, He Jichen and Ji Yi didn't say a word. Naturally, Chen Bai didn't dare say anything, so the atmosphere in the car felt particularly flat.

Chapter 566: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (26)

Chen Bai gradually felt his breathing growing unsteady, so to escape this stifled feeling, he drove faster.

Just as the car passed "China World Hotel, Beijing," He Jichen, who remained quiet all this time, finally broke the silence. "Stop the car."

Chen Bai slammed the brakes but because they were going so quickly, the car traveled for quite some distance before stopping.

"Head to China World Hotel, Beijing," ordered He Jichen in a flat voice, leaving the car to fall silent once again. But it was alright this time as the car turned around and quickly stopped at the entrance of China World Hotel, Beijing.

The manager for China World Hotel, Beijing happened to be seeing a guest off at the entrance and recognized He Jichen's car. After the customer left, he immediately ran over.

Chen Bai rolled the window down and the manager bent over to speak to He Jichen with a smile. "Mr. He, are you here to dine?"

He Jichen let out a soft "Mm" turned his head and looked over at Ji Yi. "You haven't had dinner. Let's go eat."

In three short days, the whole world had changed for Ji Yi. At this very moment, how could she have an appetite? When she heard He Jichen's voice, she didn't look at him but gently shook her head. "I'm not hungry."

She paused for a moment then wondered whether He Jichen and Chen Bai would try to persuade her, so she added, "I'm a little tired. I want to go home and get some rest. If you guys want to eat, I'll call a taxi from here."

He Jichen stared at Ji Yi's profile for a while then his eyes fell to the manager's face. "How about this? Ask the chef to cook us something to go."

"Alright Mr. He, what would you like?" After the manager grabbed his walkie-talkie and called the chef, he looked over at He Jichen.

He Jichen didn't even look at the menu and listed a few dishes.

Those dishes were Ji Yi's favorites.

Ji Yi knew He Jichen ordered them for her.

If this was yesterday, she would definitely be happy to receive this special treatment, but right now, she felt unspeakable pain and discomfort inside.

"Mr. He, is there anything else you'd like to add?" asked the manager as he noticed He Jichen had stopped listing dishes.

He Jichen shook his head.

The manager straightened up and was about to go back into the restaurant to relay the order when He Jichen suddenly remembered something. Then he cried, "Oh right! And a portion of hot spicy soup."

Hot spicy soup... Those three simple words made the rims of Ji Yi's eyes turn red.

When did it begin?

It might've been the day of the end-of-production party for "Three Thousand Lunatics" when she was forced to drink. He Jichen was afraid she drank too much, so he called her over to him and asked what she wanted to eat. She said she really wanted some hot spicy soup and from that day on, whenever they went to a classy restaurant or a Chinese restaurant together, he always asked them to make hot spicy soup...

But now, these things that once secretly made her happy now hurt her beyond measure.

Ji Yi was afraid to cry in front of He Jichen, so she kept her head down and pretended to look at her phone.

On her Moments, she saw the Weibo posts shared between classmates at B-film.

"I love eating mangoes" had a new post: "According to an insider on the set of 'The Tempestuous Grand Tang,' when Ji Yi had to shoot the scene where she watched the male lead fall in deep sleep, she made a lot of mistakes. In the end, the director asked her to get some rest, so she left on her own. When she came back, she filmed it perfectly, but it was the same as Qian Ge's scene in 'The Legend of Qingcheng'..."

Chapter 567: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (27)

The contents of this Weibo post was what she overheard Chen Bai mentioning to He Jichen in his office that afternoon.

Chen Bai said he was going to leak this to "I love eating mangoes." He said the post could trigger people online and cause a lot of commotion.

She never imagined Chen Bai would work so quickly. "I love eating mangoes"'s Weibo post was already out.

A few days ago, “I love eating mangoes” initially had several hundred followers but was now a verified user with several million followers all because of Ji Yi’s incident. Two hours after that Weibo post was up, there were already over a million comments. It was just as Chen Bai said – most netizens latched onto the news about her “disappearance on set” and started speculating what she was doing during that time. They suspected her of going away to copy Qian Ge’s performance again.

The netizens really did run with that idea and they went a little wild with it. There were infinite replies with a series of “hahaha,” but Ji Yi couldn’t laugh. Instead, her eyes ached like crazy and the urge to cry became stronger.

At this point, everything she heard was already online, but she still didn’t dare believe that He Jichen actually had a hand in all of this – in her being ridiculed and made fun of like this, and even hated, targeted, and cussed like this.

“What’s wrong?” He Jichen sat beside Ji Yi and grabbed her hand. He noticed her shivering gently. He furrowed his brows slightly and asked softly.

She was more than familiar with the crisp, pleasant sound of his voice. When he spoke, the uniquely clean scent from his body followed and wafted into her nostrils.

Clearly, his presence was just the same as before, but Ji Yi now thought that He Jichen, sitting next to her, was a complete stranger.

He Jichen caught the words on her bright phone screen and knew what Ji Yi was looking at.

Chen Bai leaked the news to “I love eating mangoes”... Is she in a bad mood because of that?

He Jichen’s fingers trembled as he didn’t dare to look at Ji Yi. The car was silent for a while before his lips moved a little. “Don’t read the stuff online. It’ll pass...”

Clearly, he was the only who put that stuff on Weibo, so how could he pretend like none of it had anything to do with him while shamelessly trying to comfort her?

Yeah, he’s right. It’ll pass. After all this commotion passes and the hatred gradually dies down online, what about us? Can we survive this?

Ji Yi really wanted to ask He Jichen: why did he do it? Didn’t he say that without YC, she would still have him? Didn’t he say, “I won’t swarm to you when you’re famous and I won’t turn and leave you at your lowest point?” Didn’t he say that if she was willing to trust him, come to YC...?

But when Ji Yi turned to look at He Jichen, she just couldn’t ask the questions at the tip of her tongue.

Compared to the things she heard while eavesdropping or what she saw with her own eyes, she was even more afraid he would give her an answer she couldn’t take.

She wasn’t really a timid person, but she lost her confidence when forced to face He Jichen over this issue for some reason.

Soon enough, the manager stepped out of the restaurant carrying a take-out box.

Chen Bai got out of the car and picked it up.

Chapter 568: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (28)

After he put down the takeout box, Chen Bai started the car again.

It was just as silent in the car as when they left the hospital.

“China World Hotel, Beijing” wasn’t far from Ji Yi’s house. Just around ten minutes later, the car turned into the neighborhood and stopped in front of Ji Yi’s building.

Chen Bai got out of the car and helped Ji Yi open her car door as he picked up the takeout box.

After Ji Yi got out, Chen Bai immediately handed the box to Ji Yi. “Miss Ji, here’s your takeout. You have to eat something for dinner.”

Ji Yi didn’t take it. “I don’t have an appetite. You guys take it back with you and eat it.”

“Even if you don’t have an appetite, you have to eat some. Otherwise, your stomach will feel unwell...” Chen Bai wanted to persuade her a little more when He Jichen pushed the other door open and got out of the car.

Chen Bai stopped speaking and waited for He Jichen to walk over to him and Ji Yi before he cried, “Mr. He.”

He Jichen didn’t say anything but reached his hand out towards Chen Bai.

Chen Bai knew what He Jichen meant and immediately handed him the takeout box.

After He Jichen took it, he turned around and faced Ji Yi. “Let’s go. I’ll take you upstairs.”

“No, it’s...” Before Ji Yi could say “fine,” He Jichen grabbed her wrist and walked into the building holding her hand.

He Jichen had been to Ji Yi’s house before, so he took her down a recognizable path and reached the door of her family’s house.

He Jichen wasn’t in a hurry to leave, so after Ji Yi pulled out the keys and opened the door, he pushed the door open and stepped in.

He put the takeout box down on the dining room table and checked the temperature. Then he told Ji Yi as she sluggishly removed her shoes: “Eat the food while it’s still hot.”

Ji Yi didn’t say anything. She walked into the house after putting on some slippers.

He Jichen took two steps towards her and said, “After dinner, take a hot shower and go to bed early.”

Ji Yi gently nodded. Her eyes were still a little sore and swollen. She averted her gaze from He Jichen to the television unit beside her.

“About your mum – don’t worry. Dr. Xia will take good care of her.” After a pause, He Jichen then said, “Chen Bai will handle the discharge papers tomorrow. You don’t have to go all the way back to take them home. I’ll ask Chen Bai to drive them back.”

The more meticulously attentive He Jichen was, the more Ji Yi's heart hurt. She was afraid she would lose it in front of He Jichen, so her fingers couldn't help but clutch onto her sleeve tightly.

The room was silent for a while when He Jichen spoke up again for the umpteenth time. "What happened today will never happen again. Later, I'll ask Chen Bai to get some people to watch over your family tomorrow. When you and your parents are out, they'll follow along..."

Ji Yi really didn't want to listen anymore so she interrupted He Jichen. "Thanks."

He Jichen fell silent.

He stared at Ji Yi unwaveringly for a while. When he was sure there was nothing else he needed to say, he bid her farewell. "I'll be off then."

Ji Yi let out a soft. "Mm."

He Jichen stood on the spot for some time before he walked over to the door.

Just as He Jichen was about to shut the door behind him, he turned to glance at Ji Yi.

Ji Yi didn't look at him, but she could sense he was staring at her.

She thought He Jichen would say something, but after some time, the entrance area remained silent.

After some more time passed, the door closed gently. He Jichen left without saying a single word.

Chapter 569: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (29)

As He Jichen emerged from the building, he was in no hurry to get into the car. Instead, he stood beside the car and lit a cigarette.

Through the smoke, he raised his head and glanced at the lights in Ji Yi's home.

After He Jichen finished his cigarette, he still showed no signs of getting into the car.

It seemed like Ji Yi went to her bedroom since the living room lights were off, yet he still stood motionlessly on the spot.

Waiting in the car, Chen Bai glanced at the time. It was almost one in the morning, yet Mr. He had been standing there in the cold night for over two hours now. If he stood there any longer, he would probably catch a cold!

With that thought, Chen Bai rolled down the windows. "Mr. He."

He Jichen looked like he hadn't heard Chen Bai and stayed still like a statue.

Chen Bai cried "Mr. He" again then pushed the door open and got out of the car.

When Chen Bai walked over to He Jichen's side, He Jichen turned his head slightly and glanced at him without uttering a word. Then he pulled another cigarette out from his pocket.

Chen Bai knew that the more silent He Jichen was, the worse his mood was. He didn't say anything more to disturb him and chose to stand beside him silently.

The scent of tobacco drifted in the chilly winter night.

The cigarette burned down halfway when He Jichen suddenly cried, "Chen Bai, I'm a little scared."

Really scared.

This was the first time in his life he was this scared.

That evening, he and Chen Bai meant to attend a dinner party, but then he got a message from Tang Huahua when he was about to leave. She told him Ji Yi and her mum were surrounded by live reporters at the beauty salon.

From that moment on, he became a little afraid.

He called the police as he ordered Chen Bai to head straight for the beauty salon.

On the way there, his gaze didn't leave the live coverage of the scene for one second. When he saw Ji Yi and her mum being pressured by the reporter; when he saw the group of young men and women named "Cornstarch" rushing towards her and her mum; when he saw the catastrophic aftermath of scandalous leaks online happening to her and her mother, the initial fear he had become heavier and deeper... When he arrived at the scene and saw her eyes all wet, he suddenly felt like it was over for him. At that very moment, he didn't dare walk up to her or face her.

Chen Bai had worked for He Jichen for a long time and knew him far too well. He understood the meaning behind his simple words. "Mr. He, what happened this afternoon was just an accident. Don't be so hard on yourself."

He wanted to protect her. He was already at his limit, while she had to take all those hateful comments. But now, her mum actually got dragged into this and got injured... How could he not blame himself?

He Jichen didn't say anything. He raised his fingers, put a cigarette to his lips, and took a hard drag.

"And Mr. He, Miss Ji doesn't even know you have something to do with this situation on Weibo, so you really don't need to think too much about it. What's more, you did this only for Miss Ji's well-being. Sometimes if you're not ruthless enough, it'll be impossible to reach your goals."

Yeah, Ji Yi didn't know he had anything to do with this. He Jichen wasn't sure if he was feeling guilty but deep down, he felt anxious.

"Mr. He, don't worry. Even if Miss Ji knew, she would understand your intentions," Chen Bai added.

Chen Bai's comforting words really made a difference as He Jichen's apprehensive heart slowly calmed down.

Chapter 570: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (30)

He Jichen didn't smoke, but he pinched the cigarette between his fingers and quietly stayed like that for a while. It was only after the cigarette burned down to his fingers that he put the cigarette out. He turned to look over at Chen Bai. "Have you called officer Wu yet?"

"Yes, the members of the group called "Cornstarch" have already been charged. Officer Wu, myself, and the lawyer we hired have talked it through. We'll settle this in court and follow legal proceedings." After Chen Bai said this, he didn't wait for He Jichen to ask him and he continued to report based on He Jichen's orders. "I also investigated those reporters thoroughly. They only stopped Miss Ji this afternoon because Qian Ge leaked Miss Ji's whereabouts. Tomorrow, I'll act according to your instructions and contact each and every one of those reporters."

He Jichen gave a slight nod but didn't say anything.

He stared at the dark windows of Ji Yi's house for a while then suddenly remembered something. "Did you do what I asked of you for Ji Yi's birthday?" he asked.

"It's all done. Don't worry, Mr. He."

He Jichen let out an "Mhm" and glanced at the window again before turning around and heading for the car.

Chen Bai knew this meant He Jichen was finally ready to leave, so he quickly reached out and pulled the door open.

Chen Bai got into the car and stepped on the gas. He drove on the familiar roads out of Ji Yi's neighborhood.

The car stopped when they reached He Jichen's apartment. Chen Bai was about to get out of the car to open the door for He Jichen when he suddenly remembered there was something he forgot to report to him. Chen Bai turned towards He Jichen in the passenger seat and said, "Ah, right! Mr. He, do you still remember what happened between Miss Ji and the screenwriter Miss Cheng in the alley last year?"

He Jichen didn't say anything but let his gaze fall upon Chen Bai's face.

Chen Bai knew what He Jichen meant by his gaze, so he hurriedly said, "When we first investigated, we didn't have any leads, remember? It was like someone purposefully covered their tracks, so I figured there was no way we could find out what really happened. But a few days ago, I got a lead. The details aren't clear, but I imagine that with time, we will find out the identity of the group that ambushed Miss Ji and Miss Cheng."

After Chen Bai finished his report, he got out and helped He Jichen open the car door.

After He Jichen got out of the car, Chen Bai added hesitantly, "Mr. He, those people who ambushed Miss Ji and Miss Cheng must've been a couple thugs, but there must be a mastermind behind it all. I suspect it had something to do with Lin Sheng, so Mr. He, should we continue to investigate further?"

Lin Sheng? He's close to Han Zhifan.

Han Zhifan once tried to get He Jichen and Lin Sheng to get to know each other, but because Lin Sheng ran with a bad crowd, didn't come from a clean background, and was easily irritable, He Jichen refused...

He Jichen knew what Chen Bai was worried about, but with no hesitation at all, he replied with just one word – “Investigate!”

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The day He Jichen left with lingering unspoken words while standing at the door for so long:

It wasn't that Ji Yi never thought about what He Jichen wanted to say but couldn't manage to say. However, those were just her speculations; in the end, she never asked He Jichen about it. It wasn't until the day of her birthday that she finally understood what he was hiding with his silence that day.