

BILLION STARS 571

Chapter 571: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (31)

It happened to be C city's annual television awards ceremony the day of Ji Yi's birthday.

She was nominated for the "Best Supporting Actress" award for her role on "Three Thousand Lunatics." Even though she didn't win, she still had to show face at events like this as she was still new to showbiz.

So before the year's end, Zhuang Yi booked a flight to C city for her. However, nobody could've predicted that such an earth-shattering scandal would happen to her over the new year. Her journey was canceled at the last minute.

Lately, Ji Yi hadn't gotten any rest. When she awoke on her birthday, she felt unwell. After taking a whole pack of herbal medicine, she spent the afternoon with her parents to celebrate a simple birthday then fell right asleep.

When she woke up again, it was already seven in the evening.

Maybe it was because she slept all afternoon, or maybe it was because of the herbal medicine, but Ji Yi felt a lot more energized.

The lights weren't on in the house, so it was pitch-black everywhere. She didn't know where her parents were.

Ji Yi turned on the lights and grabbed her phone. Just as she was about to call her parents, she saw a post-it note on the fridge with her mum's handwriting on it: "Xiao Yi, your dad and I went to the cinema. I made dinner for you – it's in the thermal lunch box."

Ji Yi threw the post-it note in the trash, lugged the thermos over to the dining table and took a seat.

At home all by herself, it was so quiet that she could hear the ticking of the clock on the wall.

Ji Yi was a little annoyed by the sound of it, so she turned the TV on in the living room and turned the volume up a little.

Tonight's coverage of C city's television awards happened to be on.

There was about half an hour until the ceremony started, so they were covering the celebrities entering the venue.

Because of her mood, Ji Yi had been avoiding showbiz as much as possible. Just as she was about to change the channel, she saw He Jichen on the screen.

He was in an all-black suit which perfectly fitted his tall, slender frame. He was with two actors, one who was voted the "beauty of the century" online, but he was obviously a little overshadowed in comparison.

Under infinitely flashing lights, not only did He Jichen not crack a smile, but he didn't even reveal a single emotion on his face. From beginning to end, he kept his gaze straight ahead and exuded his majestic charisma while he strode casually ahead.

Ji Yi suddenly hesitated before changing the channel as her eyes lingered on the television set.

It had been over ten days since he took her home that night. The two of them hadn't seen each other since and hadn't really contacted each other.

Well actually, they didn't completely stop contacting each other – he did contact her, but she just brushed him off.

After Ji Yi came back to her senses, He Jichen had already left the screen and in his place was Qian Ge being interviewed by a reporter.

The reporter asked questions about her work which Qian Ge replied to eloquently. But towards the end, a random reporter mentioned her. “Miss Qian Ge, have you been following the recent uproar online about the main actress of ‘The Tempestuous Grand Tang,’ Ji Yi, plagiarizing your performance on ‘The Legend of Qingcheng’?”

Chapter 572: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (32)

Qian Ge smiled slightly and gave a conservative answer. “I heard about it, but since I've been really busy with work, I haven't really been following the story.”

“So Miss Qian Ge, if you found out Miss Ji Yi really plagiarized your performance, may I ask if you would take any measures?”

The reporter's question seemed overly invasive, because Qian Ge hesitated for a few seconds before she showed a subtle smile and replied warmly: “If it was true, I would probably contact Miss Ji's company and if we can't get through to them, I would consider asking the company's legal department to handle the matter...”

Qian Ge stole from her and ruined Ji Yi's reputation to this extent. Not only did she not give up, she still wanted to take this up in court and put the final nail in the coffin?

Ji Yi's gaze turned cold as she stared at the television. To prevent her mood from worsening, Ji Yi viciously pressed the remote control and changed the channel.

Maybe she was truly affected by Qian Ge's words because after dinner, Ji Yi's chest felt overly stifled. She headed back into the bedroom, got changed and grabbed her phone to go on a walk to get her mind off of things.

The cold evening wind in the early spring eased Ji Yi's mind a little.

Ji Yi's parents hadn't returned and Ji Yi didn't particularly want to go back home. She remembered the cream puff store by the mall near her house that she wanted to try yesterday, so she thought she might as well go buy some cream puffs.

There was a giant TV screen in front of the mall which happened to be showing the C city Television Awards ceremony.

Ji Yi glanced up just before she stepped into the mall and noticed that the award for best-supporting actress had already been given out.

After she bought the cream puff and came out of the mall, the presenter's voice was heard from the big screen above her head. "This year's C city Television Award's Best Leading Actress goes to Qian Ge. Please welcome Qian Ge——"

Ji Yi didn't look at the big screen, but she could imagine from the sound of the warm applause that it was definitely Qian Ge climbing up onto the big stage.

Just as Ji Yi's speculations formed, the presenter's voice came out from the big TV screen. "Hello, Qian Ge. Long time no see."

"Long time no see," said Qian Ge.

After they greeted one another, the presenter and Qian Ge started to chat casually.

The female presenter: "Qian Ge, this is the second time you received the award for the best leading actress at our ceremony, is that correct?"

Qian Ge: "Yes, yes, I'm honored."

"But your acting skills have improved and everyone has personally seen that for themselves." After the male presenter finished praising Qian Ge, he initiated a hot topic of conversation: "Before we get to the award's speech and ask you a few questions, let's first watch the classic scenes from Qian Ge's award-winning performance on 'Three Thousand Lunatics'."

As the male presenter's voice dropped, Qian Ge and the female presenter replied: "Mhm." Then the big screen instantly fell silent.

After about ten seconds, no sound came from the screen. Instead, she heard passersby stopping in front of the big screen just to watch Qian Ge receive her award. With a confused expression on their faces, they let out a "Huuuh?"

Then Ji Yi heard the female presenter say with a confused voice: "What is this? Is this some mistake?"

The moment the presenter's voice fell, Ji Yi heard her own voice coming from the big screen: "Sorry, I can't answer that..."

Ji Yi was just about to reach the road when she instinctively stopped. She turned her head with a confused look on her face as she nibbled on her cream puff and looked at the big screen.

Chapter 573: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (33)

These weren't Qian Ge's best scenes from "Three Thousand Lunatics"! These were clearly the scenes of Ji Yi in "The Tempestuous Grand Tang."

But the camera wasn't pointed at Ji Yi. It was pointed at a woman standing outside the set with her phone raised.

Even though that woman had her back to Ji Yi, she recognized her as her assistant Li Yaoyao right away.

Why was Li Yaoyao recording me while I was shooting my scenes?

Doubt flashed across Ji Yi's mind as the image on the big screen changed.

It was Li Yaoyao still, coming out of the hotel in the middle of the night. She stood at the hotel entrance, looking left and right a few times to confirm there was nobody around then she hurriedly ran over to the back of the fake mountain prop near the hotel.

This video was probably shot by someone accidentally. After Li Yaoyao entered the fake mountain, there was no one in the picture and aside from the sounds of insects and birds, nothing else could be heard.

After about three seconds, a voice was heard. Other people probably couldn't tell who the voice belonged to, but Ji Yi could tell it was Li Yaoyao by just one word. "The videos of Ji Yi's scenes today are on this phone."

Behind the fake mountain, there was another person present aside from Li Yaoyao. That person was checking a video on the phone as the audience could hear the sound of the director cry "Action" every now and then. After about thirty seconds, another sound was heard. Even though that voice was very low, the voice was delicate and soft enough for everyone to recognize it as Qian Ge's voice. "Were you seen on your way here?"

"No, Qian Jie. Don't worry, I'm always very careful." If people couldn't tell who it was by the voice, then surely with Li Yaoyao addressing the stranger as "Qian Jie," everyone watching the awards now knew the person behind the fake mountain was Qian Ge.

The video on the big screen suddenly stopped.

The camera returned to the live awards ceremony where the male and female presenter looked evidently stunned. After hosting this show for almost ten years and witnessing all the drama throughout the years, the two of them were still shocked by this video.

With both hands on the mic, Qian Ge stood motionless with her head still turned towards the big screen.

There was a wall of silence below the stage.

This kind of silent, eerie atmosphere stayed like this for a whole minute before the people below the stage snapped back to their senses. They started to secretly whisper amongst themselves.

Since there wasn't a microphone around, bystanders couldn't hear what they were saying, but they could sense the commotion live at the scene.

The male presenter snapped back to his senses. He had never thought about how to de-escalate the situation, so he sounded a little stiff as he spoke: "That err, apologies. Perhaps we are experiencing some technical difficulties as we showed the wrong video."

The female presenter heard what the male presenter said and snapped back to reality then immediately tried to fix the situation. “Can our staff please play Qian Ge’s best scenes from ‘Three Thousand Lunatics’ —”

As the female presenter’s voice fell, another video played on the big screen.

They weren’t sure what kind of technical difficulties were going on, but the video still wasn’t of Qian Ge’s best scenes from “Three Thousand Lunatics” – it was still the video they just played of Li Yaoyao.

hapter 574: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (34)

If people hadn’t quite recovered from the shock of the first video then after playing the second video, everybody who was late to react at the awards ceremony finally came to.

Before the video could finish, the scene erupted and the sheer volume masked what Qian Ge and the other woman said in the video.

Some people were rather close to the cameras, so their voices were clear enough to be heard during the live broadcast for millions of people tuning into the television awards ceremony.

“What the hell’s going on? Who’s the woman in the recording?”

“That woman recorded Ji Yi’s scenes and secretly gave them to Qian Ge?”

“The recent incident about Ji Yi plagiarizing has gotten so big. If Ji Yi really did it, shouldn’t someone be giving her recordings of Qian Ge’s scenes? Why’s it the other way around?”

Not only were the people below the stage in heated discussion, but the two presenters on stage both had looks of confusion and doubt on their faces.

Ever since the first video played, it was like Qian Ge’s pressure points had been hit. She blinked a few times before her mind finally started to churn again.

How could this kind of video get leaked? Who did this? Was this premeditated?

This ain’t right... I can’t be thinking about this now. The awards are live! C city’s television network has always had high ratings and tonight, all the stars are gathered here. Who knows how many people are in front of the TV right now, and after seeing this kind of video, it’ll undoubtedly pique everyone’s suspicions.

It took me so much work just to push Ji Yi into a dead end like this. I definitely can’t let it all be for nothing!

So I have to now turn the tables in front of everyone in the entire nation!

Qian Ge’s mind quickly tried to think up a plan as she analyzed the situation in her mind.

Li Yaoyao was someone who worked for her. She spent a lot of energy to plant her by Ji Yi’s side just to sabotage Ji Yi with this whole plagiarizing incident... Li Yaoyao came today, and she even saw her just now... She wasn’t shown in the video now, but her voice was heard...

With those scattered thoughts flashing across Qian Ge's mind, she suddenly calmed down as she just thought of an escape route.

For the video to be leaked, it must've been done by someone at YC to save Ji Yi's image.

Alright then... I'm going to play it by ear and cut off all chances of Ji Yi ever making a comeback!

At that thought, a cold smirk flashed in Qian Ge's eyes. Then she said into the mic: "First, I don't know who's playing a prank on me."

"I know that person in the video – she's Ji Yi's assistant, Li Yaoyao."

"I believe everyone has heard about the recent situation surrounding the leading actress for 'The Tempestuous Grand Tang' plagiarizing my performance in 'The Legend of Qingcheng.' Being involved in such a nasty scandal could undoubtedly ruin someone's future. Yet, no normal person is willing to helplessly watch their future being ruined, so it's no wonder that some people would try to frame other people to save themselves!"

Qian Ge sounded very vague, but the viewers weren't stupid. Everybody knew what she really meant. She was implying that Ji Yi was the one who played the video to slander her!

Chapter 575: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (35)

"And... You didn't see me in the video – you only heard my voice."

"When I came in, a reporter friend asked me how I felt about this whole plagiarizing issue."

"Honestly speaking, my manager told me about it the day it happened, but I didn't pay attention to it or care about it because I thought that since we all work in showbiz, there are some things we don't need to be so cutthroat about."

As Qian Ge said this, she sounded a little hurt. "But now I realize I was wrong. I wanted to keep the peace but that doesn't mean others feel the same as well. I'm really sorry that this mishap happened on the Television Awards, but I still hope this whole thing will both begin and end here at the awards. As for today's video, I hope the show's production team can give me some time to investigate and prove my innocence!"

As she finished speaking, Qian Ge even gave a deep, sincere bow.

When she straightened up, she spoke again with a serious, stern, and even righteous voice: "You can plagiarize my performance, but you can't insult my character like this. I didn't want to be so ruthless, but I think the kind of person who would do that isn't worthy of staying in showbiz!"

"On my way into the Awards, I happened to bump into Ji Yi's assistant who was also the woman in the video. Could the cameraman please help me do a sweep of everyone here at the Awards?"

As Qian Ge's voice fell, the cameraman pointed down to the far left and swept across each and every person there.

He Jichen was sitting in the first row. Though his company's artist was involved in this fiasco on stage, he didn't look the least bit concerned. He had his head tilted, listening to an old artist next to him talking.

It wasn't clear what the old artist was actually saying, but it made He Jichen's lips raise slightly, making his cold facial features look a little gentler.

The camera quickly panned over to He Jichen then to the center. Suddenly, Qian Ge cried, "Stop for a moment. I see Li Yaoyao."

As she said this, Qian Ge raised her microphone and rushed down the stage.

But just as she walked over to the edge of the stage, a man in a navy suit suddenly rushed up on stage before she could reach the steps.

Even though Ji Yi couldn't clearly see the man's face, she could tell who it was by his silhouette.

It was Chen Bai. He walked swiftly in front of the presenter and whispered a few words then the male presenter handed Chen Bai the microphone.

After Chen Bai took it, he immediately spoke with a polite voice: "I'll first introduce myself. I'm Chen Bai, the senior assistant of YC's CEO."

At the mention of YC, the cameraman pointed the camera once again at He Jichen.

He had the same expression as before, sitting casually in his seat while calmly and elegantly listening to the old artist next to him as though the person up on stage wasn't Chen Bai, his assistant.

"Terribly sorry to come up on stage so rudely, but YC's artist is implicated in this situation, so I hope everyone can please forgive me." After Chen Bai finished and gave a deep bow, he straightened up and looked over at Qian Ge. "Miss Qian Ge repeatedly said that the video was an insult, but may I ask Miss Qian Ge to please listen to the recording I have in my hands?"

Chapter 576: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (36)

After Chen Bai said this, he didn't give Qian Ge any chance to react as he pulled out a recording pen from his pocket. He turned it on and put it by the mic.

At first, there was a short swishing sound "sha sha sha." After about ten seconds, a man's voice was heard. "Yes, that's right. I'm a reporter for Tangerine. I only found out that Miss Ji Yi was at SF Beauty Salon because Qian Ge's assistant called me to leak that info."

After the man's voice dropped, a woman's voice was heard a few seconds later. "I'm the reporter for WF. Qian Ge and I have worked together a few times, so I'm rather close to her assistant. I rushed right over as soon as Qian Ge's assistant called to tell me that Miss Ji Yi was at SF Beauty Salon. After all, this whole thing got so big; everyone wants to be the first to get exclusive insider news."

Following that, a few more testimonies were heard from other reporters, all stating that they found out Ji Yi was at SF Beauty Salon from Qian Ge's assistant or from a friend of a friend of Qian Ge's assistant.

The final recording wasn't of a reporter, but it was a rather young-sounding voice. They sounded frightened because their voice was trembling like crazy. "I'm not from the 'Cornstarch.' Qian Ge's assistant is a big sister of mine. She gave me two thousand RMB to take all my friends to SF Beauty Salon and surround Ji Yi. I really never imagined things would get so bad. Mr. police officer sir, you won't really put me in jail, will you?"

When the recording ended, Chen Bai raised the mic to his lips again. "I got these recordings from the police. The incident that happened at SF Beauty Salon has been all over Weibo. I believe you don't need me to repeat it. I just want to ask Miss Qian Ge – if you repeatedly insist the video was meant to slander you, why did you leak Ji Yi's whereabouts to the reporters after you bumped into her at SF Beauty Salon? You also asked a few young kids to surround Miss Ji Yi and her mother, which even ended in her mother getting injured?"

Faced with Chen Bai's questions, Qian Ge's mind instantly froze.

That day at the SF Beauty Salon, she was pissed off at Ji Yi's arrogance, so she did ask her assistant to leak her whereabouts to reporters. She even asked her assistant to make as much trouble for Ji Yi and her mum. However, she never imagined her assistant would be dumb enough to ask a group of rude school kids to make the situation so serious... But luckily, regarding Ji Yi's scandal and the fans causing trouble, she wasn't implicated even though the situation blew up.

At first, she thought it was over, but who knew that Chen Bai would get up on stage with a recording and make the truth public like that?

Qian Ge felt the calmness of the room she achieved with her quick-witted response once again become chaotic.

She knew that this wasn't looking good for her.

However, as long as she stood with Li Yaoyao and said the video was just part of Ji Yi's scheme to slander her, Chen Bai's big reveal would look a lot weaker than her claim. Even if it did affect her, it wouldn't be fatal. But, who was to say there wouldn't be a lot of people despising Qian Ge's way of thinking or believing that Qian Ge deserved it after learning what Chen Bai revealed about her!

With that thought, Qian Ge spoke out. "Mr. Chen, I'll answer your question in a moment. Let's please resolve my problem first. Thank you."

Having said that, Qian Ge trotted over to the row of seats in her high heels and stopped in front of a young woman. "May I ask – are you Ji Yi's assistant, Li Yaoyao?"

Perhaps Li Yaoyao was frightened by this kind of scene because she just stared at Qian Ge for a while before nodding gently.

"Were you the person in the video just now?" asked Qian Ge again.

Li Yaoyao continued to nod but this time, she hesitated for a moment then cried, "It was me."

"I'm sorry Miss Li, you and I are not close. Could you explain to me for a moment what actually happened in the video?" After Qian Ge said this, she put the microphone out in front of Li Yaoyao.

Chapter 577: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (37)

Li Yaoyao looked frightened by the microphone pushed in front of her mouth and she timidly glanced at Qian Ge then swiftly lowered her gaze. She seemed stumped by Qian Ge's question as she bit her bottom lip for a long time without saying anything.

Seeing that Li Yaoyao didn't say anything, Qian Ge was confused for a second but almost immediately understood what Li Yaoyao meant.

Li Yaoyao must've only chosen to hesitate because she wanted to avoid arousing suspicion.

After all, if Li Yaoyao immediately confessed that the video just now was meant for Ji Yi to frame her and she had no choice but to participate in it, it would actually make everyone suspicious.

Qian Ge praised Li Yaoyao's intelligence as she put the microphone to her mouth and spoke again. "Miss Li, if everything in that video was true and I really asked you to help me record Ji Yi shooting her scenes for 'The Tempestuous Grand Tang,' that would mean we're really close. Your phone would have my number saved in it, and also, even if you deleted many of those videos, you couldn't have deleted them all. Your phone must still have them saved, so could you please take your phone out and show everyone?"

Qian Ge only made such a request because she was certain that when she sent Li Yaoyao to be Ji Yi's assistant, she made sure to erase all ties with Li Yaoyao long ago. When Li Yaoyao helped her take those videos, Qian Ge didn't let Li Yaoyao send them to her online. Instead, she took Li Yaoyao's phone, copied all the videos, erased everything off her phone then gave it to someone to return it to Li Yaoyao.

If Li Yaoyao gave her the phone and put it up on the big screen for the world to see, everyone would be able to clearly see that Li Yaoyao didn't have her number on her contacts, they weren't friends on WeChat, and there weren't any videos of Ji Yi in her photo album. Then she could confidently question Li Yaoyao. By then, as long as Li Yaoyao pretended she had nowhere to go, she could answer that Ji Yi made her do it. Then she would clear her name completely and stomp Ji Yi to death!

With her phone in hand, Li Yaoyao heard Qian Ge's question and hid her hand behind her back.

Having noticed her little move, Qian Ge praised Li Yaoyao even more inside. Clever! I made a good choice in choosing her! That move incidentally told everyone she was guilty and was afraid of Qian Ge looking at her phone.

"Why are you hiding your phone behind you? Miss Li, what are you afraid of? Perhaps you're feeling guilty over something?" Assuming Ji Yi didn't have a way out, Qian Ge purposefully emphasized Li Yaoyao's move.

Faced with Qian Ge's questioning, Li Yaoyao's fingers gripped her phone tightly, causing her to tremble.

"Miss Li, may I please borrow your phone for a moment? Thank you." After Qian Ge said this to Li Yaoyao, she happened to look over at Li Yaoyao and secretly gave her a look to say she could give her the phone now while reaching her hand out.

People not familiar with Qian Ge wouldn't have noticed the look she gave.

But Ji Yi was different. She knew Qian Ge very well – while others wouldn't think much of her actions, Ji Yi knew the truth. Qian Ge was giving Li Yaoyao a signal.

Chapter 578: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (38)

As the party currently under scrutiny, she knew she wasn't a plagiarizer, and she also knew the video played earlier was genuine.

Li Yaoyao was a spy sent by Qian Ge to work by her side, so the signal Qian Ge sent to Li Yaoyao was secretly telling her to confess that Ji Yi asked her to record those videos...

If that happened, Ji Yi really had no way of bouncing back!

Ji Yi's heart was in her mouth. She stared at Li Yaoyao on the big screen who was currently hiding her phone even further behind her.

Li Yaoyao's doing this on purpose, right? The more she acted this way, the more guilty she looked, so when she slandered Ji Yi later, it'd emphasize how truthful and believable her words were.

Qian Ge waited a while, but seeing as Li Yaoyao still wasn't willing to hand over her phone, she furrowed her brows. Then she reached out to touch Li Yaoyao's hand.

Qian Ge's fingertips barely touched Li Yaoyao's phone when Li Yaoyao cried out in panic like she was extremely upset. "Qian Jie, I'm sorry. I can't give you my phone!"

I already gave her the signal to say she can give her phone to me. Why's she still acting this way?

Qian Ge grasped Li Yaoyao's phone. She thought to herself that this woman still had a lot to learn.

When Qian Ge forcefully grabbed Li Yaoyao's phone, Li Yaoyao also forcefully pulled it back in hopes of holding onto it. "Qian Ge, you can't do this! You can't take my phone! Qian Jie——"

In the end, Li Yaoyao was no match for Qian Ge as the phone fell into Qian Ge's hands.

The corners of Ji Yi's lips ran cold when she saw this.

That whole scene between Li Yaoyao and Qian Ge was acted well!

With Li Yaoyao's phone in hand, Qian Ge said "Sorry" then turned around and walked back up to the stage.

Li Yaoyao followed Qian Ge in a panic and grabbed the corner of Qian Ge's dress. "Qian Jie!" she cried pitifully.

But Qian Ge ignored Li Yaoyao and handed the phone to the presenter while asking him to pass it to their staff to connect it to the big screen.

Standing at the foot of the stage, Li Yaoyao looked worried sick as she fidgeted endlessly with her hands. Even the expression on her face as she glared at Qian Ge looked like she was pleading.

Qian Ge stood on stage with a smile like she couldn't see Li Yaoyao and waited for the staff's response.

On the big screen, Ji Yi could feel the confidence radiating from Qian Ge's body.

The camera ran back and forth between Qian Ge and Li Yaoyao while incidentally brushing past He Jichen.

He wasn't in conversation with the older artist like before. He had his legs crossed, casually resting back into his seat with his head down, playing on his phone. From the way his fingers moved, it looked like he was playing a casual little game.

At a time like this, he still had the same unconcerned look on his face.

Ah right... If he wanted to protect me, he wouldn't have boosted the rumors of me copying Qian Ge, and he wouldn't have caused me to be surrounded by reporters and subsequently hurt my mum...

Ji Yi suddenly felt unbelievably cold. Her lips pursed gently and she lowered her eyes to prevent herself from looking at the big screen.

Soon after, the female presenter cried out, "The phone is connected to the big screen. Our staff will now open the contacts list..."

Chapter 579: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (39)

"...Her contacts list doesn't have Qian Ge's contact info... Our staff then opened WeChat to find that she didn't have Qian Ge's contact info there either. She didn't even have her manager or assistant's info either... It looks like Li Yaoyao and Qian Ge really aren't too familiar with one another..."

"... There's also the photo album, right? Can the staff open the photo album? Woah, there are so many photos and videos..."

Even though Ji Yi wasn't looking at the big screen, she could tell by the words of the presenter alone what was happening.

"Can the staff check to see if there are any videos of the scenes shot on 'The Tempestuous Grand Tang'... Huh?"

The presenter suddenly stopped speaking.

Women's intuition told Ji Yi that the situation had a sudden twist on the big screen.

Out of curiosity, Ji Yi looked up to see a selfie of Qian Ge and Li Yaoyao together on the big screen.

Ji Yi suddenly froze. She didn't find it odd that Qian Ge and Li Yaoyao knew each other long ago. If they didn't know each other, why would Qian Ge arrange for Li Yaoyao to work by her side as a spy? Since Li Yaoyao was working for Qian Ge, she was definitely going to help Qian Ge. However, her phone had a photo of them together, which was incidentally a slap in the face for Qian Ge.

It wasn't just Ji Yi, but the presenters were also stunned in addition to Qian Ge, who wore a slight smile on her face.

With her eyes opened wide, she looked like she was looking at something unbelievable.

The staff backstage quickly exited out of the photo on Li Yaoyao's phone, but one after the other, more selfies of Qian Ge and Li Yaoyao popped up... Later on, there were even a couple photos of the two of them together in the same pajamas.

The atmosphere below the stage became restless again.

Like before, the conversations closest to the cameras could easily be heard on the big screen.

"Didn't Qian Ge repeatedly say she didn't know Li Yaoyao? How come there are selfies of them together on Li Yaoyao's phone?"

"From the photos, Qian Ge and Li Yaoyao look very close – like good friends actually!"

"They must be good friends! Look, they're wearing the same pajamas. They live together, so if they're not close, then what is this?"

"What the hell is going on? Qian Ge was clearly full of confidence just now. She was so confident that I believed Ji Yi was trying to slander Qian Ge..."

With all the commotion, the scene grew noisier and noisier. Qian Ge, who was staring straight at the big screen, finally snapped back to her senses.

How could this happen? Why does Li Yaoyao have so many photos of us together?

Isn't she trying to help me get rid of Ji Yi?

As Qian Ge thought about it, she slowly looked down at Li Yaoyao on the left, below the stage.

As her gaze met Li Yaoyao's eyes, Li Yaoyao looked away, avoiding her gaze.

After the staff opened the next photo on the big screen, it was no longer a photo but a video clip.

When they played it, it turned out to be completely black. There was no one in the video, but there was a voice.

"Qian Jie, why do I have to be Ji Yi's assistant? How can she even compare to you? Why do you have to scheme to beat her?" There was no need to guess. At this point, everyone could tell the voice belonged to Li Yaoyao.

"Because I hate her! As long as she's in showbiz, I can never let her become famous!" This time, it was Qian Ge's voice.

Chapter 580: Unexpectedly, Deeply in Love with Him (40)

Her voice wasn't as sweet and gentle as usual and there was a hint of viciousness.

The video was silent for a while before Qian Ge's voice was heard again. In comparison to how stern she sounded before, her voice now sounded softer and closer to her usual voice. "Yaoyao, my success or failure this time depends on you. You have to record all of Ji Yi's scenes from 'The Tempestuous Grand Tang'."

“Qian Jie, don’t worry. I’ll definitely do what I promised,” replied Li Yaoyao.

“Thank you, Yaoyao.” The two of them were probably drinking because the faint sound of glasses clinking was heard. Then Qian Ge’s voice started to sound even more cold and calculative. “This time, I have to make sure that b*tch Ji Yi has no hope of ever making a comeback. I want her to fully understand that never in her lifetime could she ever compare to me, Qian Ge!”

Many people present rooted for Qian Ge to get justice in the past as she always left everyone with the impression she was well-educated and kind. Now, with her completely changed tone of voice, shocked expressions were caught on camera as the camera swept over the majority of faces on the scene.

Even the two presenters on the stage looked at one another in dismay.

Qian Ge was still staring at Li Yaoyao, but the confusion in her eyes was gradually breaking down.

Her fingers couldn’t help but tighten around the microphone.

This was the conversation we had over drinks the day before I arranged for Li Yaoyao to work by Ji Yi’s side as a spy. Why did she record it?

Before the suspicions on Qian Ge’s mind settled, another short clip played on the big screen behind her.

It was the set of the variety show. Ji Yi was there and so was Qian Ge. One of the female presenters happened to also be the presenter for that night.

Seconds after the video played, the female presenter said, “I know this one. It’s a clip from last year, when Ji Yi and Qian Ge were recording together on our variety show. At the time, Ji Yi got injured...”

Before the female presenter could finish speaking, the close-up on the video turned to Qian Ge. She had a pearl bracelet in her hand, but when the director adjusted the camera, she bent over fixing her shoe. When she got up again, the pearl bracelet was gone.

Soon after, the director called Ji Yi up to receive her prize. Just as Ji Yi turned around to step down from the stage, she unexpectedly tripped over.

The picture in the video was suddenly chaotic as everyone surrounded Ji Yi, including Qian Ge.

That was when the camera closed in again on Qian Ge. She looked like she was picking something up from the ground.

Everyone was so focused on Ji Yi that no one noticed her.

After someone took the injured Ji Yi away, Qian Ge turned around and walked off stage. From start to finish, her hands were balled into fists. She probably didn’t even notice it herself, but on her last step down from the stage, an object fell from her fingers and rolled onto the stage. After rolling around for a long time, it finally stopped. It was a single shimmering white pearl.

The camera stopped at the pearl then the video came to an abrupt end.

The female presenter who had been fully focused on the big screen looked as though she had seen the most unbelievable thing. With a gaping mouth, she blurted, “Oh god! The day Ji Yi got hurt... It wasn’t because she was careless – she slipped on a pearl?”

