

Chapter 761: Taking Back My Favored Consort! (11)

The shop assistant hurriedly said, "Ladies, it's like this. How about you take a look at other pieces? The ones you just picked out happen to have been reserved by someone half an hour ago."

All reserved?

Ji Yi and Tang Huahua looked like they heard something unbelievable then they looked at one another with bewilderment in their eyes.

Porcelain wasn't cheap and the seven to eight pieces of the ten they were interested in came up to several tens of thousands of RMB, yet they all happened to be reserved?! Wasn't that too much of a coincidence?

At that thought, Tang Huahua added, "Excuse me, who reserved it?"

The shop assistant turned around and walked around the store, pointing at the old wooden chair in the distance. "That lady with the face mask reserved them."

Ji Yi was the first to look over there. Even though the shop assistant pointed the person out, she was wearing a face mask and hat, so she couldn't see her face. However, with just a glance at her body, Ji Yi could recognize that it was Qian Ge, who she hadn't seen for two months.

Even though Ji Yi didn't personally know what Qian Ge was doing, when she found out it was Qian Ge who reserved them all, she knew what happened. Ji Yi was certain that Qian Ge must've seen them come in and paid attention to every piece they liked then stole them all right in front of them!

Of course, buying porcelain was just an act. What she really wanted to do was give her more trouble!

The light in her eyes instantly turned colder. She didn't say anything but shot Tang Huahua a look.

Tang Huahua immediately understood what she meant and smiled at the shop assistant right away. "Sorry to be a bother. We'll look at others."

"Alright ladies, if there's anything you need, please call me at any time." The shop assistant smiled and bowed then respectfully retreated.

After the shop assistant had walked quite a distance away, Ji Yi walked right up to Qian Ge, who was sitting on the chair while playing on her phone.

Before Ji Yi reached her, Qian Ge could sense someone drawing closer. She raised her face and looked over at Ji Yi and Tang Huahua.

Ji Yi wore a face mask just like Qian Ge, but Qian Ge recognized Ji Yi at a glance too. Because of the face mask, Ji Yi couldn't see the expression on Qian Ge's face, but she could sense that her lips were smiling in delight. It wasn't until she walked over to her that Qian Ge put her phone away and sluggishly leaned back in her chair then whispered, "I stole all the ones you picked out to gift to Director Yilu. Don't you feel especially sad and crushed?"

“That’s about right!” chuckled Qian Ge. She didn’t bother waiting for Ji Yi to open her mouth when she softly added, “I’m telling you, I did it on purpose! From the moment you stepped into the shop, I spotted you and followed you in. I asked the shop assistant to reserve all the ones you picked out. You wanna get Director Yilu a gift? I won’t allow you to get your way!”

After she said this, Qian Ge ignored Ji Yi and turned her head to look over at her assistant behind her. “Say, we picked so many porcelain pieces out. Which one should we give to Director Yilu?”

Qian Ge tilted her head as she said this and repeated what she heard while eavesdropping on Ji Yi. “How about this azure vase?”

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“The craftsmanship is really intricate and you can tell with just one look that it’s high class. Also, director Yilu said that he loves azure vases the most...”

“You!” blurted Tang Huahua in anger as Ji Yi cut her off. How could Tang Huahua not know that Qian Ge was deliberately using Ji Yi’s own words to piss her off?

Qian Ge ignored Tang Huahua’s protests and continued to slowly repeat what Ji Yi said to her assistant. “That tall vase isn’t bad. Director Yilu just so happens to have bought a new house, so he can put this in his living room...”

The shop assistant gradually brought out the ceramic pieces Qian Ge reserved and placed them on the table in front of her.

Qian Ge picked up a rather small vase and stroked it in her hands as she cranked it up a notch by adding, “...This one’s not bad. He can put it in his home office as an ornament and the painting on top implies great fortune and longevity, making it a suitable birthday present...”

“She’s just too over the top!” Tang Huahua couldn’t help interjecting.

Ji Yi didn’t say anything but stood on the spot, calm and composed. She stared at the table of ceramic pieces with something on her mind.

The shop assistant worked quickly to sell the pieces. “Miss, could you please inspect the piece you would like? If there isn’t a problem, I’ll wrap it up for you and give you the total.”

Qian Ge turned her head when she heard this and glanced at Ji Yi with a boastful expression. She deliberately raised her voice, “Wrap it right up for me. Thanks!”

After she said this, Qian Ge thought that wasn’t enough to express her anger. “Actually, we can give director Yilu all these pieces. After all, he’s a lover of ceramics...” said Qian Ge as she turned her head towards the assistant.

Before Qian Ge could finish speaking, Ji Yi suddenly bent over and picked up a vase. Without even taking a glance, she smashed it to the ground hard.

The vase shattered on the floor with a “Crash!” Qian Ge jumped up from the chair. “What are you doing?!”

Ji Yi ignored Qian Ge and reached out to pick up another piece then violently threw it to the floor.

“Miss, what are you doing? I’ll call the police!” said the shop assistant.

This time, Ji Yi reached out and pushed the ceramics off the table, smashing them all into small pieces on the floor!

She straightened up and without a single glance at Qian Ge, she walked right over to the tall vase. She raised her foot and kicked the vase hard to the floor, shattering it into countless pieces.

After Ji Yi confirmed that the ceramics were all smashed, she ignored both the fuming Qian Ge and the panicking shop assistant. She turned to look over at Tang Huahua and replied in a cold voice, “Huahua, go pay for all the smashed items!”

“Yes!” exclaimed Tang Huahua as she pulled out a card from the bag then handed it to the shop assistant.

All the ceramics were smashed to pieces, so naturally, they couldn’t be sold. Seeing that Ji Yi was willing to pay, the shop assistant didn’t shout for the security and the police. Instead, she immediately brought Tang Huahua over to the cashier’s desk.

After everyone left, Ji Yi glared coldly at Qian Ge.

Qian Ge never imagined that Ji Yi would do that as the expression on her face looked stunned.

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Ji Yi stared at Qian Ge for a few seconds then took one step at a time towards her.

Maybe the light in Ji Yi’s eyes was far too cold and gave off an incredibly hostile feeling as Qian Ge’s assistant thought she was going to do something. She instinctively took a step forward. “What are you gonna do?”

When Ji Yi heard this, her eyes swept over Qian Ge’s assistant and before she could utter a word, Qian Ge’s assistant took a step back in fear from her domineering aura.

A cold smile emerged on Ji Yi’s lips as her chilling gaze fell on Qian Ge’s face.

The expression on her face looked a lot calmer than before. Her assistant’s shrill voice probably helped her return to reality.

She looked at Ji Yi drawing closer, step by step, then she took a small step back just like her assistant.

Ji Yi seemed to have guessed she would do that, so while Qian Ge was taking a small step back, she suddenly sped up and took big strides right over to Qian Ge.

Ji Yi was a little taller than Qian Ge since she had a dinner date with a fan that evening, so she was wearing a pair of five-inch heels.

Stepping out of the house today, Qian Ge probably just wanted to go window shopping since she was wearing a small pair of white shoes. Her choice in footwear made it so that Ji Yi towered over Qian Ge by half a head. "Didn't you want to buy all these ceramics for director Yilu? And didn't you say he was a ceramics hobbyist? Would you like me to pick up these shattered pieces, put them in a box, and send it to director Yilu with your name on it?" asked Ji Yi as she looked down at Qian Ge with superiority.

After Ji Yi said this, she remembered she forgot to mention an important point, so she added, "Oh, don't worry. I'll still kindly add a card for you. On it, I'll even write 'Happy birthday director Yilu, from Qian Ge!'"

Hearing this, Qian Ge suddenly lifted her head and met Ji Yi's eyes with anger. "Quit talking all high and mighty here. Even though you settled on those ceramics, I reserved them first. You've already gone too far by smashing them. Don't push it!"

Ji Yi looked as though she heard something hilarious and let out a chuckle then glared even more coldly at Qian Ge. "You were the first to reserve them, so it doesn't matter if I saw them first. Even if you used your own money to buy them first, I'd still dare to smash them just to see you pissed!"

"As for 'taking things too far,' I couldn't possibly compare to you. You fully showed me the meaning of that a long time ago. But me? What I did today was barely a fraction of how far you took things. Am I not right?"

"Did you think it'd be easy to steal the things I want? Let me tell you – if there's something I want but I can't get it, it'll be destroyed before you can ever get it! Even if I wanted it at first and didn't want it later but you did, I would never let you have it!"

"Like..." Ji Yi leaned forward then spoke with gritted teeth: "...that drama, 'Consort Ning.' The director begged me, using all kinds of methods to get me to take the job, but I didn't. Instead, I would rather invest money to recommend a rookie to take the role than give you a chance!"

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"Today, I'll say it right here and now. Between us, I will always steal your roles and it'll never be the other way round!"

"Don't tell me I'm taking things too far or going overboard, because I never bullied anyone. Even if I did, they couldn't be human!"

Qian Ge stared at Ji Yi's eyes with her face flushed with anger.

Ji Yi didn't give her any chance to speak and continued to say, "Don't glare at me with those eyes. You were only picked on today because you were asking for it! For over a year now, you must've spent your days pissed. I stole commercial after commercial from you and sabotaged one television series after another. I even stole your site traffic from your live broadcasts..."

"...Let me make this clear, the past year or so is just the beginning. As long as I live, don't ever count on having a good day's work. On days when I'm pissed, I'll take it out on you!"

“So, I suggest that from now on, don’t try to mess with me. If you see me, it’s best for you to hide far away. Who knows – if I’m in a good mood, maybe I’ll let you breathe a little!”

Ji Yi was so angry that she held her breath throughout her entire rant. Without even so much as a glance at Qian Ge, she straightened up, turned around and walked over to Tang Huahua.

After taking just two steps, Qian Ge said with a trembling, angry voice: “Don’t think that I don’t know why you’re picking on me. Isn’t it because I ruined him?”

Even though Qian Ge didn’t mention his name, Ji Yi knew she was talking about He Jichen.

Her footsteps came to a sudden stop.

“Even if you shattered a floor full of ceramics, so what? He won’t come back to your side. Don’t think I don’t know that you have feelings for him now. Last year, I came across you crying over his photo!”

“You say you’re making life hard for me because you’re pissed, but what I did back then never gave you a single day’s happiness. Am I right?”

“So do you really think you beat me? Between us, you’ve always lost to me. Haven’t you?”

With her back to Qian Ge, Ji Yi slowly turned around after hearing her words and looked back at her.

Ji Yi looked far calmer than her righteous, domineering self earlier. In fact, her voice even sounded a lot more composed as she said, “I may not be happy every day because he left, but so what? At the very least, he loves me. He gave up his prestigious university and his duty to take over the family business just to come to Beijing. He created YC for me and to defeat you, and he left for me.”

“Even if he isn’t by my side now, I know he’s the person I hated, I avoided, I liked, I gave up on, and now, he’s still someone I remember. I’m someone he deeply spoiled, got angry over, argued with, sacrificed for, and now, someone he really loves.”

“I can wait for him. As long as I wait for him, we’ll be together someday. But for you? You loved him so much. You used both good and bad methods, yet you were never able to have him. Even if you waited ten years for him, twenty years, or even a whole lifetime, he’ll never be with you!”

“Between us, who do you think won?”

As Ji Yi’s questions escaped her lips, Qian Ge’s arrogant gaze became embarrassed after thinking she had the upper hand.

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As Ji Yi’s questions escaped her mouth, Qian Ge’s arrogant gaze became embarrassed after thinking she had the upper hand.

Ji Yi wanted to turn around and leave, but she suddenly remembered the past. Then she brutally stabbed Qian Ge again with her words. “If I remember correctly, you’ve always wanted to speak with him casually your whole life, and the only time he ever did was because of me. You told me before that you dreamed of being alone with him, and the only time that ever happened was when I helped you

meet him in the grove during senior high. That was also because of me and back then, after he saw you instead of me, he looked pissed and left without saying a word, right?"

The old saying was right: Don't hit people in the face and don't point out someone's weaknesses in an argument. (There are limits to hitting and belittling others.)

But with Qian Ge, she kept on bringing up other people's weaknesses, so Ji Yi figured it would be best to retaliate with where it hurt most!

As Ji Yi thought, after she said what she said, Qian Ge's gaze became unsettled.

She knew she seriously pissed Qian Ge off, and she knew there was a limit to Qian Ge's temper. They were in a public area but if she continued like this, Qian Ge would go crazy and it would be troublesome if people recognized them.

Ji Yi appropriately stopped while she was ahead then walked off with Tang Huahua without even sweeping a look at Qian Ge. Seeing as there wasn't a problem with the ceramics bill, she signed for it and left the store.

It was still early and there was still over two hours until dinner.

After bumping into Qian Ge, Ji Yi lost the temptation to go window shopping. Instead, she figured she might as well go to the cafe on the first floor with Tang Huahua to play games, killing time.

The two of them started chatting as Tang Huahua suggested some games to play.

After Ji Yi agreed to play one game and opened it, she realized there was an unread message. After clicking it, she read the message sent by "Young Windchaser": "Who are you? Do I know you?"

In actuality, Ji Yi forgot about "Young Windchaser" but after suddenly reading his message, she remembered playing a few matches with him two years ago on Chinese new year.

At the time, he tried to hit on her in the game. He Jichen grabbed her phone and pissed him off so bad that he didn't bother her ever again.

Thinking about the past, a smile crept up on Ji Yi's lips.

"Xiao Yi, I dragged you into the group chat. Accept it," said Tang Huahua, who couldn't help but rush her since she invited Ji Yi a few times.

Ji Yi snapped back to reality and exited the message room. She clicked "confirm" after receiving another pop up for Tang Huahua's room invitation.

He Jichen, do you know? When you were here, I never knew how important you were to my life. After you left, I finally noticed the shadow of your existence on every little thing in my life.

...

Her dinner date with her fan was at half-past six.

Ji Yi didn't want to be late, so she left SKP at six to wait for the fan and headed to Lilac.

When she arrived, it wasn't even a quarter past six yet.

Ji Yi didn't want to seem like a diva in front of the fan, so she didn't ask Tang Huahua to go into the private room with her. Beforehand, she took the gift prepared for the fan from Tang Huahua and walked into the restaurant alone.

Ji Yi thought the fan might not have arrived yet. As the waiter lead her into the elevator and up to the first floor, Ji Yi learned that the fan for her dinner date had already arrived at six.

As she emerged from the elevator, Ji Yi wasn't sure what was wrong with her but her heart suddenly hastened. She had the faint feeling that something was going to happen.

After following the waiter for a bit, her heart randomly raced as they walked closer to room No.1. Just as she walked over to the doors, her breathing started to grow unsteady.

How strange... I'm just meeting a fan, so why am I so nervous?

Just as Ji Yi had that thought, the waiter pushed the door open. "Miss Ji, here we are."

Ji Yi smiled back at the waiter then raised her head and looked all around the room. Then her eyes saw a familiar silhouette.

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There stood a silhouette of someone dressed in a simple shirt and black trousers in front of the open window with his back to the door.

There was a cigarette between his fingers, which followed the night breeze through the window and scattered both the cloud of smoke and strands of his hair.

After Ji Yi heard what the waiter said and before she could even raise her feet, all the pressure points in her body seemed like they had been pushed. She stood frozen on the spot, motionlessly staring at the figure ahead of her.

Even though over a year had passed, even though he had his back to her and she couldn't see his face, it took just one second for her to recognize the person she yearned for night and day, the person she had been searching and waiting for – He Jichen.

It was no wonder she felt completely strange after stepping out of the elevator. She thought something big was going to happen... But it wasn't just something big – the most anticipated event of her entire life was finally going to happen. It had been a year and seven months now, so almost six hundred days and nights later... She finally saw him again.

Ji Yi didn't know how to describe her emotions right now; she was excited, delighted, moved... All in all, there were all kinds of emotions coursing fiercely through her entire body, wave after violent wave.

With red eyes and curved lips, she stared transfixed at He Jichen's back.

She wasn't sure if she wanted to cry or laugh, but the corners of her lips curved even wider as the tears flowed from her eyes.

Time has treated me well. My lover, I finally get to see you after waiting so long for you...

Ji Yi revealed a toothy smile as her entire face was covered in tears.

After the waiter finished speaking, he took a step inside the room first then realized that Ji Yi wasn't following behind. He stopped, turned his head and said, "Miss Ji..."

The waiter only managed to get those two words out when his eyes landed on Ji Yi's crying, smiling expression on her face. The waiter's prompting words to welcome Ji Yi into the room instantly disappeared from his lips.

With his back to the door, He Jichen stood in front of the window, staring out at SPK and thinking about how he once went window shopping with Ji Yi in that very mall. The second the waiter spoke, he stopped reminiscing and brought himself back to the present.

Having not clearly caught what the waiter said, He Jichen brought the cigarette up to his lips as he slowly turned his head and looked back. Then without any emotions in his eyes, he met Ji Yi's direct gaze.

The fingers he raised to his mouth stopped in mid-air and his tall frame visibly swayed for a moment. Like a statue, his entire body was instantly petrified and his reaction was just as stupefied as Ji Yi's.

The two of them stared at each other for two minutes before the completely confused waiter added, "Miss Ji, are you alright?"

The second time the waiter spoke, Ji Yi snapped back to reality. Without allowing her gaze to part from He Jichen in the slightest, she shook her head at the waiter. "I'm fine."

Without bothering to wait for the waiter to speak, she walked into the private room.

When she reached the waiter's side, her footsteps stopped and said, "You may leave" while her eyes were still glued to He Jichen.

"Yes," replied the waiter in a soft voice as he swiftly left the room.

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After the waiter softly closed the door, the room instantly flipped into a wall of intense silence.

Ji Yi's eyes were glued to He Jichen's face as her tears couldn't stop flowing.

They continued to stare at one another for a while then Ji Yi finally said, "He Jichen..."

Ji Yi's crying made He Jichen's fingers quiver violently as a big chunk of ash burnt off. While it rustled to the floor, some ashes fell on the back of his hand and burned him slightly.

He Jichen hadn't moved an inch since he saw Ji Yi. He finally blinked gently and removed his hand from the corner of his lips.

After putting the cigarette out, he froze for two seconds before turning to look back at Ji Yi.

"You're finally back..." the tears in the corners of Ji Yi's eyes fell violently. "...Do you know that I've been looking for you non-stop for over a year now, and I've been waiting for you to come back all this time?"



He Jichen looked as though he hadn't quite returned to his senses since their sudden reunion. His eyes stared unwaveringly at Ji Yi without any hint of looking away.

"How could you be so silly? Why didn't you tell me about so many things while quietly carrying the burden on your own..."

"Why did you just leave and where have you been for over a year?"

Every day and night for the past year or so, Ji Yi had been longing to reunite with He Jichen. Every day and night, she'd also been thinking about what she was going to say to He Jichen if they ever really met one day.

She recited this script countless times and played out that scene in her dreams a million times. However, now that it really came down to it, she completely forgot what she wanted to say. Her delighted and excited mind went blank and the words that came out of her mouth were incoherent.

"How have you been the past year or so? And when did you get back? After you returned, why didn't you call me first? You were at TE cafe on Chinese New Year, weren't you?"

On her own, Ji Yi asked many questions and only stopped when she realized that He Jichen hadn't said a word.

Ji Yi stared at the silent He Jichen for a while and figured she could find a day to slowly ask him in more detail.

Now that she got to see him after so much difficulty, she couldn't ruin the mood...

With that thought, Ji Yi walked over to He Jichen.

As she drew closer, she realized that aside from his dark eye bags, he was no different from how she pictured him in her dreams. After over a year, he hadn't really aged.

After Ji Yi walked over to He Jichen, she raised her head. Looking at him up close, she smelled the unique yet faint scent of his body.

Her throat tightened as she stared at him for a short while before forcing herself to say, "Look at me, babbling non-stop. I forgot about the most important thing. What would you like to eat? I'll call the waiter over to take our order."

With that, Ji Yi raised her menu, flipped through the pages, and handed it over to He Jichen. "Let's get set A. When you ate here before, you always chose A."

After Ji Yi decided, she flipped through the drink menu. "What would you like to drink? Red wine, just like before?"

Seeing as He Jichen didn't have much of a reaction, Ji Yi decided on her own to call the waiter over to place an order for the set she just suggested.

After the waiter left, Ji Yi pulled out a dining chair. "He Jichen, sit down and let's talk slowly."

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He Jichen didn't utter a word or move an inch, just like his old self.

Seeing how unconcerned he seemed, Ji Yi walked over to He Jichen, reached out and gently tugged on his sleeve. "Come, sit."

Ji Yi's touch snapped He Jichen out of his daze. He stared deeply into her eyes with a glimmer of light as though he was pleasantly surprised. The glimmer in his eyes lasted for ten short seconds then gradually dimmed before they returned to their deep and dark state. Then without any emotion at all, he said, "How come it's you?"

Those were the first words he said after their reunion.

How come it's you?

Cold and indifferent words. That cold and indifferent tone of voice.

It was as though they were two complete strangers.

It felt like Ji Yi had a bucket of cold water thrown over her. The heat from her burning heart from finally seeing him again slowly turned cold. "This is my event. Didn't you anonymously pay to take part in my event?"

He Jichen furrowed his brows. "Anonymous?"

"Yeah..." Ji Yi nodded then said the anonymous name He Jichen used. "...Aren't you Ning Ning?"

When He Jichen heard the two words "Ning Ning," he instantly understood. This was set up by Ning Ning.

Her father really was sick and she did need the money, but for the past few days, she'd been asking for a bunch of money. She didn't use it for her father. Instead, she used it to take part in Huan Ying Entertainment's Pre-New Year event for Ji Yi...

Don't tell me that's why Ning Ning used every method possible to stop me from going back to France lately. Deep down, she already had this plan in mind!

A sliver of anger crept into He Jichen's eyes.

At that moment, the waiter happened to push open the door to the room and placed dish after dish onto the large marble dining table that Ji Yi ordered.

Even though He Jichen didn't say anything, Ji Yi took the initiative to say, "He Jichen, the food's here. Let's have dinner."

As Ji Yi said this, she pulled He Jichen's arm and dragged him over to the dining table. "There's so much I want to say to you. Let's eat and..."

Her final word "chat" never escaped her mouth because He Jichen suddenly pulled himself free from her grasp.

Ji Yi turned her head in confusion and looked over at He Jichen.

Her gaze hadn't met his eyes when he bent over and picked up his jacket from the sofa. Then he walked around her and strode over to the door.

"He Jichen!" cried Ji Yi instinctively.

He Jichen didn't slow down, acting as though he hadn't heard what she said. He walked out of the private room.

Ji Yi instinctively raised her feet and chased after He Jichen.

He Jichen took big strides with his long legs. Although Ji Yi ran after him, by the time she reached the elevator, he had already gotten into an elevator and started to head down.

Ji Yi hurriedly pressed the button for the elevator beside her, but because it was the peak time for diners, the elevator was very slow. Ji Yi was afraid to lose He Jichen, so she ran over to the emergency exit, pushed the door open and ran down the stairs.

Because her heels were so inconvenient for her to walk in, she took them off and ran barefoot down the stairs.

Tang Huahua was in the first-floor lobby, waiting for Ji Yi while playing on her phone. She didn't pay attention to anybody walking in or out.

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Tang Huahua thought she was hearing things when she heard Ji Yi hurriedly saying, "Sorry, excuse me" from behind. After hesitating for two seconds, she turned her head to see Ji Yi running to the door while holding her heels in one hand and raising her dress in the other without a care about her image.

If someone took a photo and uploaded it online, wouldn't there be some kind of uproar?

Tang Huahua bolted up from the sofa without even bothering with her bag and ran over to Ji Yi's direction.

"Miss, Miss, Your bag!" cried the waitress carrying out her bag when she noticed that Tang Huahua left it behind.

After running for about five meters, Tang Huahua heard the waitress' voice then instinctively stopped running. She turned around and headed back to the waitress then hurriedly said, "Thanks." She took her bag then quickly ran out of the lobby.

After some distance, Tang Huahua caught glimpse of a barefoot Ji Yi looking left and right, walking back.

She looked like she was searching for something.

Tang Huahua instinctively thought that Ji Yi's old sickness was flaring up again and she was hallucinating again, looking for He Jichen like she did on New Year's Eve. She felt a dull pain in her heart and slowed down. After a few seconds, she waited for the pain to subside then sped up and walked up to Ji Yi. "Xiao Yi."

When Ji Yi heard someone calling her, she abruptly turned around as though she was pleasantly surprised by something. Without waiting for Tang Huahua to finish, she leaped over to her and grabbed her arm. "Huahua, do you know who I saw?" Ji Yi asked in excitement.

"You won't believe me, but I saw him!"

"Back then, in room number one, I saw him! I really saw him! He Jichen's back! He's really back!"

As Ji Yi went on, she cried excitedly with her head up, revealing the mess on her face. She was so ecstatic that she completely jumped up. "I'm not lying, Huahua! It's true! He's Ning Ning. He's Ning Ning!"

When Tang Huahua heard this, she realized Ji Yi wasn't hallucinating, but she didn't dare to believe it. All she could do was change the topic and comforted Ji Yi: "Xiao Yi, put on your shoes first. People are watching you and it'd be bad if they took photos."

"Oh, oh," said Ji Yi two consecutive times. After she swiftly put on her shoes, she grabbed Tang Huahua's arms and said, "Huahua, he's finally back! Do you know how hard it was waiting for him? He's finally back! This time, I definitely won't let him leave me!"

"Xiao Yi, be reasonable. Don't get so worked up. You say you saw He Jichen, but where is he?"

Tang Huahua silenced Ji Yi with her question.

Ji Yi saw how happy He Jichen was, but he said just a few cold words in an indifferent tone then left...

A bleak look surfaced on Ji Yi's face as she looked down and softly replied, "He's gone."

"Gone?" Tang Huahua furrowed her brows.

"He didn't even eat dinner with me and left," said Ji Yi softly.

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"I know he's only doing this because he's afraid to drag me down. When he saw me, he didn't even stick around to chat and just left..."

Ji Yi spoke with a soft and gentle tone like she was speaking to herself.

"But it's fine. He's liked me for so many years and has done so much for me, so I'm not going to be mad... I've waited over a year for him, so it's really fine. I can wait twice the time, or even ten times that for him to be with me."

Ji Yi was quiet like before, but there was some certainty in the tone of her voice. "Yeah, it took me so long to wait for him to come back. I can't be defeated or give up just like that. I have to find a way to find out where he lives and find out how to contact him..."

As she said that, Ji Yi looked like she had slipped deep in thought to think of a plan.

About a second later, her brows started to furrow impatiently.

Just as she was about to speak and ask Tang Huahua what she should do, the corners of her eyes caught the words “Lilac.”

She was supposed to meet Ning Shuang there for dinner tonight, but He Jichen was the one who actually turned up. It didn’t matter if He Jichen was or wasn’t the winner, because at the very least, she knew someone named “Ning Shuang” left her phone number, so she could be contacted. If He Jichen entered with his name, he would’ve had to use his phone number. Since it wasn’t under He Jichen’s name, the person with that phone number would definitely know He Jichen...

With that thought, Ji Yi secretly cursed herself for being stupid then hurriedly asked Tang Huahua, “Huahua, what’s Ning Ning’s phone number?”

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As He Jichen stepped out of Lilac, he hailed a cab without hesitation and headed back to the hotel.

He took the elevator up to his room. When He Jichen stepped out, he didn’t head back to his own room. Instead, he stopped right in front of the door next to his room. He reached out and forcefully pounded the door.

The voice from inside sounded unusually crisp: “Coming!” However, He Jichen continued to pound the door viciously as though he hadn’t heard the voice from inside.

“Who is it?!” came an annoyed voice from inside the room. The door opened to reveal Ning Shuang with messy hair. When she saw He Jichen, the annoyance on her face from having been woken up by the knocking at the door disappeared and in its place was a confused look. “Huh? Why are you here? Aren’t you supposed to be eating at Lilac?”

He Jichen ignored Ning Shuang’s questions and looked right into her eyes with two dancing flames and said with a cold, angry voice, “Who allowed you to take matters into your own hands... to go and do that?!”

Ning Shuang, who wanted to ask what happened when he met Ji Yi, gaped at He Jichen’s yelling as she swallowed back her questions.

“When did you have the right to meddle in my business? Do you really have nothing better to do?!”

The more He Jichen spoke, the more he took things too far. As Ning Shuang listened, the more it started to irk her and she quietly started to explain herself. “Wasn’t I just doing it for you? I did it because you like her so much, and I couldn’t watch you like this anymore. I wanted to get you guys to see each other just once...”

“If I wanted to see her, I wouldn’t have left her in the first place! Why don’t you get that? Do you know just how much trouble you’ve given me by blindly stirring things up?!”