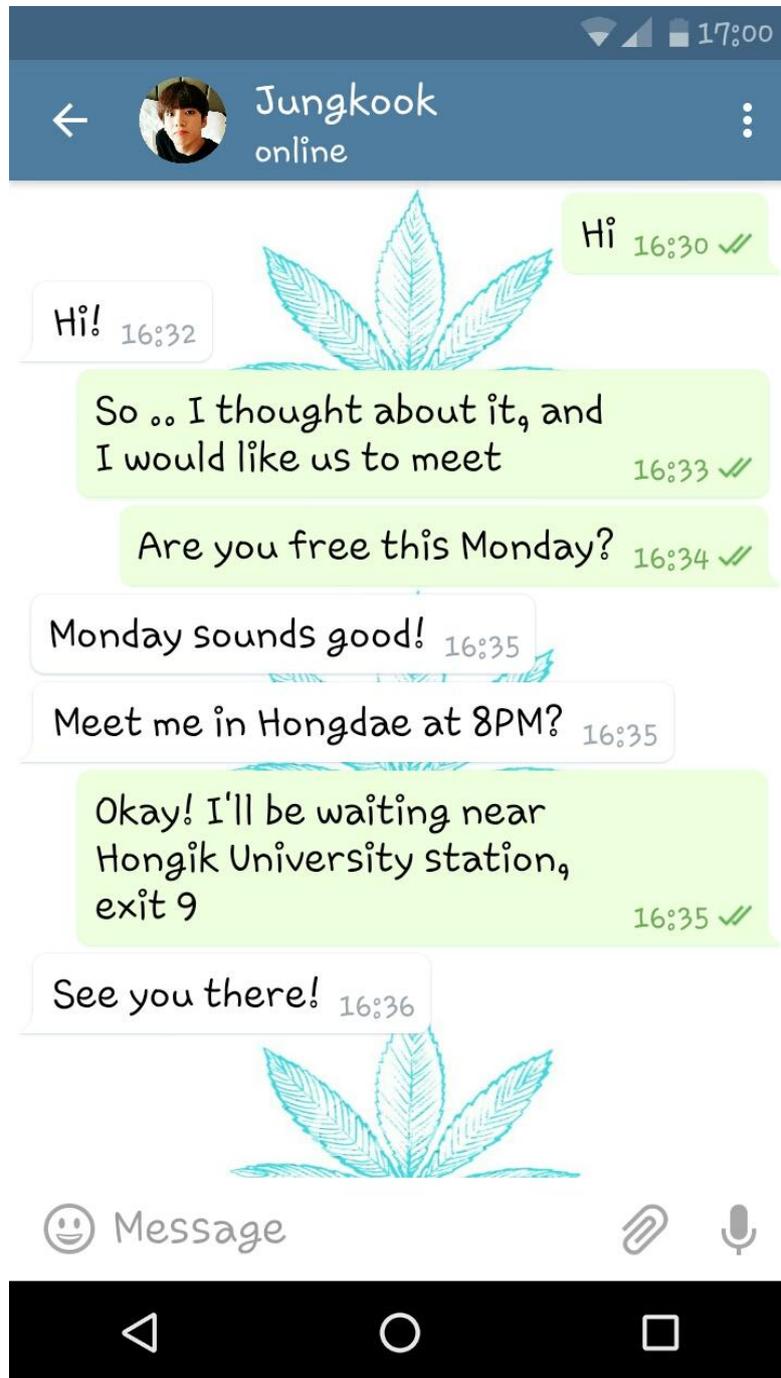


The feisty one



Hongdae has always been a busy district that never runs out of energy. Lilah made it to the meeting point, and kept looking around her to see if her date made it as well.

“Lilah?” a honey voice called behind her.

“Yes, you must be Jungkook. Nice to meet you,” she tried to hide her nervousness.

Jungkook’s profile photo surely did him no justice, as he was much bulkier in real life. It intimidated Lilah to some extent, but she tried to keep calm. He was dressed in a black leather jacket and dark jeans, hiding his handsome features under a baseball cap, which contrasted with her vivid mustard yellow shirt tucked in light wash ripped jeans. Both of them were rocking all black converses.

The pair stood there awkwardly for a few minutes, exchanging smiles in-between. Ultimately, Jungkook decided to speak up, “Do you want to go for a walk around the area?”

“Sure,” Lilah obliged. “Lead the way.”

The two got acquainted with each other as they walked through the crowded area. They stopped every now and then to witness some amazing performances of people basking on Hongdae street, and she could see Jungkook’s eyes sparkle as he watched these aspiring artists perform.

“Do you sing?” Lilah asked.

“As a matter of fact I do,” Jungkook instantly responded, “Well as a hobby, that is.”

“Do you want to go for a Karaoke session? I’ll be your audience,” she suggested.

The pair headed to Su luxury Karaoke. The line was crazy, so they caught up on their respective lives while waiting for their turns.

“So, are you seeing anyone?” Jungkook suddenly asked.

“Yes,” Lilah wittily responded, “I’m seeing you right now.”

Making Jungkook shyly chuckle, she recapitulated “No, I’ve been single for about a month now.”

“What happened?” Jungkook’s curiosity was piqued.

“Let’s just say that I spent the last five years of my life living an oppressive lie. It was time for me to move on,” she commented.

Jungkook felt bad about asking in the first place, “I’m sorry about that.”

"I'm not. It was necessary," she smiled. "What about you?"

"I'm free as a seagull, for about a year now," he responded.

"Did it end on bad terms?" she inquired.

"Well, she was way too demanding and I couldn't keep up with her so I broke it off," he revealed.

"Wow, it looks like my ex and yours might be able to make it work," her comment made Jungkook chuckle.

"Are you looking for a new relationship?" Jungkook inquired.

"Not really. I haven't been on my own for quite some time, so I would like to stay that way for a while and explore my options." By the time she finished her sentence, the Karaoke room was vacant.

"Our booth is ready," Jungkook announced, "Let's get it!"

Lilah wasn't going to go near the microphone, but she surely enjoyed Jungkook's soulful voice. After a warm-up session with Charlie Puth's "We don't talk anymore," he later switched to more vocally strong songs.

♪ *Baby baby, don't be shy, girl*

Down for you, everything, my girl

Hold me tight ♪

The mood inside the Karaoke booth suddenly became suggestive, putting Lilah in quite an uncomfortable mood. She didn't understand much of the Korean lyrics, but the sensual tune and the few English lyrics here and there were enough for her to understand what the song was about. Still, she couldn't hide that she was mesmerized by his honey vocals.

Up next was a song that almost triggered her inner fangirl. She wasn't looking when Jungkook chose the song, but she knew the instrumental by heart, all it took for her was to hear the first 5 seconds to put her on her toes.

♪ *Why, why are you shaking up my heart?* ♪

Needless to say, Lilah was on cloud nine, since “Boy In Luv” was one of her all-time favorite Bangtan songs. She moved to the rhythm and couldn’t help but show her excitement as Jungkook delivered quite an outstanding performance, which he finished with a slight bow, to her amusement.

“That was amazing, your voice is truly something!” Lilah complimented him.

“Ha, thanks,” Jungkook shyly nodded, “I haven’t sung in a while, so I don’t control my voice as well as I used to.”

“What’s stopping you?” she inquired.

“School and work, I can barely juggle between the two so I don’t really find time to train my vocals,” he explained.

“I’m sure that once you’ll get back to it, you’ll retrieve your voice in no time! I’m truly a fan,” she complimented him further.

The pair left the Karaoke room to find a still-packed Hongdae. As they crossed through the heavy crowd, they almost lost sight of each other, so Jungkook gave his hand to Lilah in order not to lose her amidst the crowd. Lilah was hesitant at first to take his hand, but she knew this wasn’t the time to be a prude and just went along with it.

Once they evaded the mass, Lilah let go of Jungkook’s hand while he still held on to hers until he loosened his grip slowly.

“Your hands are soft,” he commented.

“Ha thanks,” she shyly replied, “My job kind of depends on them.”

“You must be really good with your hands then.” He further said.

Lilah didn’t know how to respond to that, so she just chuckled nervously and played with her hands.

“Do you have anything else in mind that you want to do?” Jungkook asked.

“I don’t know, I think we practically covered the entirety of Hongdae today,” she stated.

“Would you like to ... hum ...” he hesitated for a second.

His stuttering made her even more nervous, “Yes?”

“No, never mind,” he brushed the thought away.

“Go on, I’m listening,” her curiosity got the best of her.

“I was wondering ... maybe you’d like to come home with me? I don’t mean anything by it, we can just hang out and watch Netflix or play video games.”

“Sure, Netflix,” she thought to herself before replying, “I don’t know, I’m already worn out. I think I should go home.”

“Oh, of course. I understand,” he quickly realized what he’s done, “Let me walk you back to the station.”

a few hours earlier

