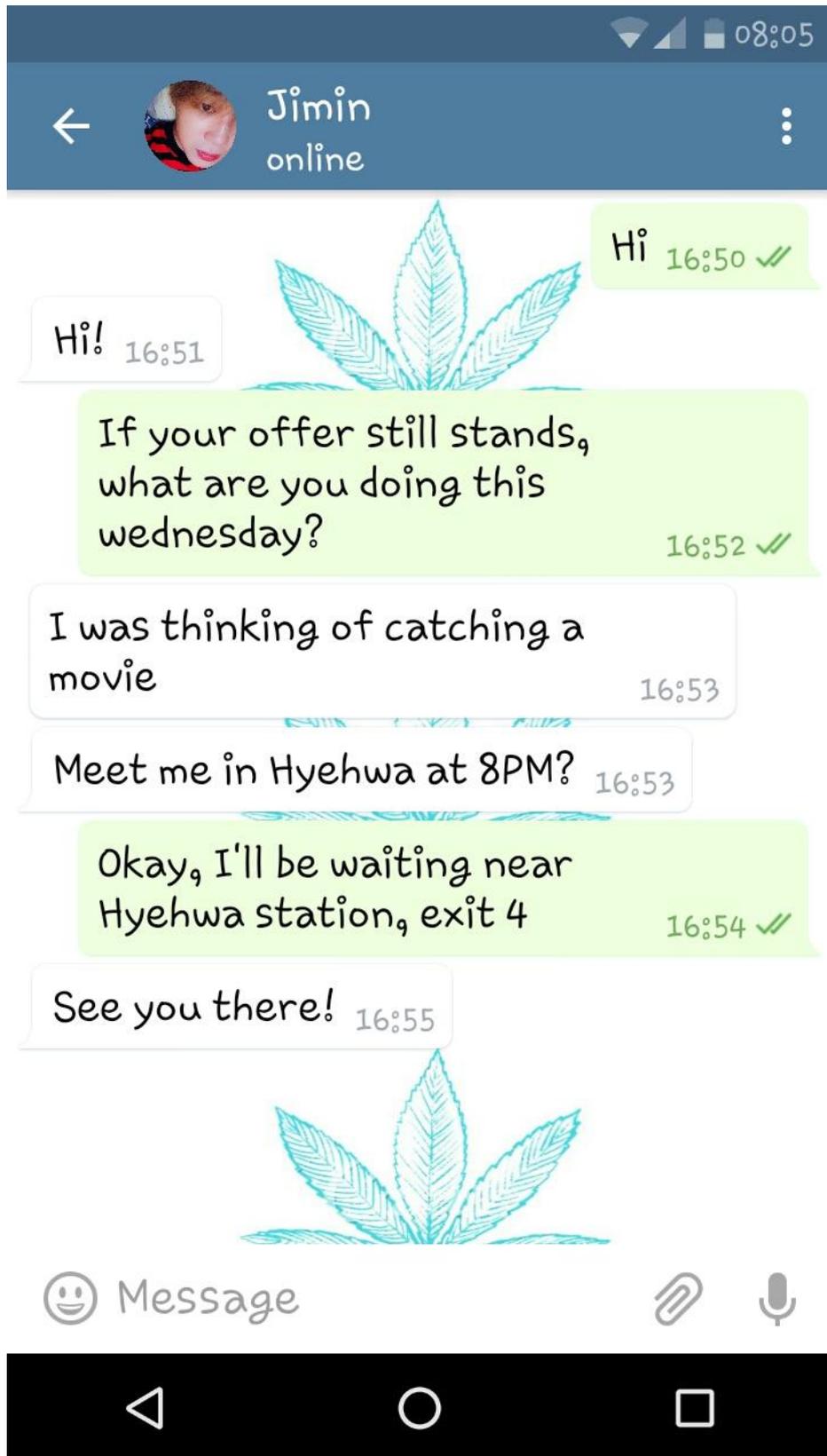


The thoughtful one



Ah, HyeHwa. This district held such a deep meaning for Lilah. Before setting foot in Seoul, she has never even heard of the place, but it only took one glance to know that this was her home abroad.

“Lilah-ssi?” a peculiar figure in a black and white striped oversized T-shirt with a black shirt underneath and hiding his hair under a cranberry beanie stood in front of Lilah while she was busy tucking her large burgundy velvet blouse inside her ash gray shorts.

“Oh, you must be Jimin!” she lifted her head the minute she heard her name. “Nice to meet you!”

“Likewise, are you ready to go?” he ushered her forward.

“Sure,” she took a step. “What’s playing tonight?”

“It depends on your taste.” Jimin enumerated, “There is action, romance, horror-”

“Ouh, horror! I love horror!” she jumped. “Sure, let’s go with that!”

Jimin eyed Lilah with curiosity. He was probably surprised that she picked this genre, especially on a first date.

“Annabelle 2 is playing,” he checked the schedule on his phone.

“Perfect! I already saw the first one,” she replied.

“But there is a catch,” he pouted. “The next session won’t be playing until midnight, is that okay with you?”

“No worries, I live just across the street, so it’s not a problem,” she assured him.

“Alright!” he sighed in relief. “So, what do you want to do until then?”

“We can grab a cup of coffee and talk until movie time,” she suggested.

“That sounds like a plan.” He opened the door to the movie theater, “After you.”

The café was a bit crowded, but tables started clearing once the next movie was on.

“So Jimin, do you enjoy horror movies?” Lilah wondered.

“Yeah, yeah, they’re cool. I like the suspense that comes with,” he elaborated. “Do you watch Korean movies?”

“Of course, Train to Busan was truly amazing!” she excitedly stated. “I also watch K-dramas, I like how intense the storylines are. Also, the plot twists are to die for! Plot twists are my weakness.”

“What have you watched so far?” he curiously asked.

“Hmm, let’s see ...” she started reminiscing, “Kill me, heal me is an all-time favorite, Healer is a close second. Recently, I watched Goblin and Weightlifting fairy Kim Bok Joo. Overall, whatever role Ji Sung and Ji Chang Wook play, I religiously watch.”

“That’s quite interesting! I also enjoy Lee Sung Kyung’s work. She’s landing some attractive roles lately.”

“Ah yes, I see,” Lilah low-key tried to hide her disinterest in the actress.

An awkward silence suddenly roamed. Luckily, only 30 minutes were left until the movie started.

“Shall we go get the tickets?” Jimin announced before heading to the ticketing booth.

“Ah yes,” Lilah picked up her bag and followed him. “You know, I don’t mind going dutch.”

“Oh no, it’s alright,” he said, “Consider it my welcoming gift to Korea.”

“That’s so sweet of you, thank you!” she timidly smiled.

The movie was about to start, so the pair rushed inside and took a seat right in the middle of the auditorium to face the screen.

The first scene was pretty disturbing. It caught Jimin off guard to the point of holding Lilah’s hand, which was resting on the armchair. Lilah smiled slightly and wondered if he did it on purpose.

The next scenes were no better. Lilah ended up jumping from her seat every now and then, accidentally hitting Jimin with her elbow in the process. After the third time, she crossed her arms and hoped his side wouldn’t bruise the next morning.

At some point, there was a scene of fingers breaking, something that Lilah could never tolerate. She ended up closing her eyes and turning her head to face Jimin, and she buried her face in her palms just in case she’d take an accidental glimpse. Her gesture made Jimin slightly chuckle.

After two hours of full suspense, the movie ended at 2AM. The two of them waited for the room to clear a bit before they got up to leave as well.

“Ouah, that movie was really frightening!” Jimin initiated.

“I know, right? I didn’t expect it to be that hardcore,” she agreed.

“At some point, you spoke in your native language,” he pointed out.

“Oh, I did?” Lilah suddenly felt embarrassed, “I have no idea what I was mumbling back then.”

Jimin comforted her, “Don’t worry, I myself closed my eyes at so many scary scenes.”

Jimin’s sudden confession lightened up the mood as the pair laughed it away. Upon leaving the cinema, it was pouring outside. The pair shared an umbrella and walked in Lilah’s guesthouse direction, when her date abruptly stopped at the crosswalk.

“Ah-” he awkwardly blurted, “I think I left my phone at the movie theater.”

“Oh, you’d better hurry before the places closes,” she advised him.

“Yes I should,” he replied. “Are you going to be okay on your own?”

“I’ll be fine,” she assured him. “My guesthouse is literally across the crosswalk. You should go.”

“I really had a good time, I’ll text you when I’ll get home!” Jimin said as he ran back to the cinema.

“Sure, you will” Lilah thought to herself as she started crossing, totally missing the red light.

“LOOK OUT!” said a voice from behind, still watching her.

The sudden shout made Lilah immediately stop. When she looked back, a worried Jimin was still looking after her before he made his turn. She gave him her thumbs up and nodded to reassure him.

“Okay, maybe he will text me.”

a few hours earlier

