

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 16

“Are you aware of what you’re saying? How could you think of Wei and I this way? It’s not because we...”

“That’s enough. I don’t want to hear anything else from you. You disgust me, Fu Xicheng. Get out of here right now. I don’t want my last impression of you to be completely ruined,” Shi Nuan said as she pushed Fu Xicheng away and glared at him. “Don’t come bothering me anymore.”

Saying that, Shi Nuan took out her keys and walked swiftly towards her apartment. She opened the door and went in. She felt like being with Fu Xicheng for even a second longer would drive her crazy.

Fu Xicheng continued to gaze at Shi Nuan’s back. He couldn’t understand why this was happening between them!

Even if they couldn’t be lovers, surely their feelings for each other still remained. He felt that as long as Shi Nuan had even an ounce of feelings for him, she would understand how he felt and grant his and Shi Wei’s wishes, especially since Shi Wei had once saved her life.

He figured that after this incident happened, he would compensate her in some way, then their relationship would stay the same. Shi Nuan would still be the caring, magnanimous and understanding woman she always was.

But now, everything had changed. It must have been because of that man in the car. Otherwise, there was definitely no way Shi Nuan would treat him like this.

Shi Nuan merely felt drained. The talk she just had with Fu Xicheng made her question her sanity.

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After remaining at home throughout the weekend, Shi Nuan picked herself up and headed to work. To her, no matter what happened, life had to go on and she certainly couldn't neglect her work. But clearly, Shi Nuan had overestimated herself and underestimated everyone else's abilities.

The moment Shi Nuan entered the lobby of her workplace, many people began pointing fingers at her. "That's her. How shameless can she be to steal her own sister's fiancé?"

"Yeah! I heard her sister even once saved her life."

"Oh god, how could someone be so treacherous?"

"Don't even talk about it. This woman's character was never that good to begin with. I'm guessing you guys don't know about this, but she's from my workplace. Do you know how many women have been sent away by her?"

"..."

In an instant, Shi Nuan's sharp glare landed on those few women. Due to either Shi Nuan's overly intimidating aura or her position in the company, those women quickly lowered their heads and scrambled. But they still muttered before running off, "Is she proud of being a homewrecker? We can't even speak the truth now?"

Shi Nuan had to take several deep breaths to calm down.

Her heart felt extremely bitter as she looked at those women walking away. She knew from the start that she'd face something like this when she came to work, but knowing it and experiencing it for real were two different matters.

Shi Nuan shook her head and turned to leave.

“Ms. Shi,” the receptionist, Yu, called out to Shi Nuan. She glanced at Shi Nuan rather awkwardly and said, “Almost everyone in the company knows about this. You’ll have to be prepared, Ms. Shi!”

“Thanks for the reminder, Yu.” She still had to get through this mess no matter what. “Do you trust me?”

“Ms. Shi, I don’t believe you’re that kind of person. Besides...” She had also seen Shi Nuan and Fu Xicheng together. The two definitely were lovers.

“Thank you. Alright, I’ll be heading up now. Carry on with your work!” Shi Nuan was grateful towards anyone who believed her.

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Chapter 17

In Fucheng, every Monday's morning meetings were used to summarize the past week's work. This was also Shi Nuan's first time attending the regular meeting ever since leaving Fucheng a year ago.

The company directors were surprised to see Shi Nuan. Some of them didn't know Shi Nuan had returned, while others were rather critical of her because of what had happened a few days ago.

Shi Nuan chose to ignore their glances. She walked directly towards her seat while carrying her documents, then scanned the audience. Since the chairman and general manager hadn't arrived, everyone was chatting away.

Some of the directors were older and naturally had more power than Shi Nuan, so they took advantage of these aspects and openly discussed the engagement dinner from that night.

Among them was a director who once clashed with Shi Nuan because of work and hated how strong-willed she was, so he looked forward to stirring the pot over this matter. "To think that there are those who still dare show up after bringing themselves so much humiliation."

Shi Nuan simply raised a brow at this comment. She initially decided to just ignore Chairman Li, but the man had no intentions of stopping there.

"I was even wondering how she had climbed the ranks so quickly despite barely contributing anything. Turns out it's because she's been working backstage! It's a shame there are such heartless people out there, trying to take over her own older sister's place."

“Really? That’s too immoral.”

“Exactly...”

Shi Nuan’s expression darkened. She pursed her lips, glared at Chairman Li and said scoffed, “I thought only girls would gossip, but it appears that anyone can do it regardless of gender or even age. If a child’s words mean no harm, then what about an old person’s?”

“You...” Chairman Li’s face reddened as he slammed his hands on the table. “You dare talk to me like this, Shi Nuan?”

Shi Nuan looked up to meet Chairman Li’s eyes directly, without any hint of surrender. She glared at him for a long time before finally letting out a laugh, asking, “Was I talking to you, Chairman Li?”

“You... you... Don’t think I don’t know you’re talking about me, you little brat!”

“Then I guess you’ve misunderstood me, Chairman Li. To me, you’re still so young – how could I call you old? You’d have to wait another ten, twenty years to be considered old! Was I referring to Chairman Li, everyone?”

How could anyone get mad at someone who looked so innocent? Besides, Shi Nuan had indeed never mentioned Chairman Li’s name.

If the man wanted to cause some trouble, he should have chosen a proper time and place to do so. Meanwhile, the other directors and executives chose to remain neutral amidst the tense battle between Shi Nuan and Chairman Li.

Chairman Li was so furious that he couldn’t speak. Right at that moment, the meeting room door was pushed open. Fu Yuqing walked in, followed by Fu Xicheng.

Fu Yuqing could tell something wasn't right the moment he walked in. He scanned the room and his eyes landed on Shi Nuan for a moment before averting them, as though he had not seen her.

Meanwhile, Fu Xicheng felt complicated after walking in and seeing Shi Nuan. He still vividly remembered what had happened that night. The words Shi Nuan had said to him were unbearable.

Shi Nuan quickly noticed the slight change in Fu Yuqing's attitude towards her and couldn't stop her lips from curving into a self-depreciating smile. She, too, acted like she didn't know him.

"Alright, let's begin our meeting. First of all, let's welcome Ms. Shi back! For the entire year, she was on a business trip to discuss projects on behalf of the company. Good job! Everyone, let's give her a round of applause and celebrate her triumphant return."

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Chapter 18

Shengyuan Group

27th floor, CEO's office

Zhou Zheng greeted Maggie before retrieving the project information from her hands, then knocked on the CEO's door.

"Come in!"

Hearing the cold voice from coming from inside, Zhou Zheng straightened his back and pushed the door open. The man inside there was reading a document with his head lowered, not looking up even when Zhou Zheng entered.

"Mr. Fu, this is last month's report. Mr. Liu of the finance department says the budget for the external communications department is too high. Please make your decision," Zhou Zheng quickly reported before handing the documents over to Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan's brow furrowed slightly as his fingers tapped his desk. "There's no need to report such trivial matters to me. Let them handle this on their own. Anything that's within a controllable range need not be reported to me," he said as glanced through the information before tossing the papers back to Zhou Zheng.

"Yes sir," Zhou Zheng sighed slightly before continuing. "Ms. Shi has gone to work today."

"OK," Fu Chengyan nodded. "Anything else?"

"Yes. Here is the information on Ms. Shi," Zhou Zheng said, remembering that Fu Chengyan had asked for every detail on Shi Nuan.

Back then, Zhou Zheng found it strange, wondering if it was because of the car accident that day. He wondered if his boss had fallen for someone. But when he saw how Fu Chengyan looked after Shi Nuan, Zhou Zheng realized that he may have been wrong.

Fu Chengyan took the information over and glanced at Zhou Zheng thoughtfully. Zhou Zheng immediately straightened his back upon realizing that he had actually spaced out in front of his boss. "I shall take my leave, Mr. Fu," he said.

"Wait," Fu Chengyan called out to Zhou Zheng and tapped the desk twice. Seeing Fu Chengyan's actions, Zhou Zheng knew the man had a task for him. "Is there something you want me to do, Mr. Fu?"

"Reduce the number of orders given to Fucheng."

With that one sentence, Zhou Zheng knew that his boss was about to make a move.

After Zhou Zheng left, Fu Chengyan continued to look at the document in his hands for a long while before finally picking up the information on Shi Nuan that Zhou Zheng had given him. The information was extremely detailed. Almost everything that happened from Shi Nuan's birth till present had been recorded in the document.

Fu Chengyan briefly glanced through the document, but his dark and deep eyes suddenly turned cold when his gaze landed on a photograph of Shi Nuan and Fu Xicheng from three years ago. He lifted his head and took out the photograph.

The corner of his lips curled slightly as his slender fingers touched the face of the delicate-looking girl in the photo. He traced the girl's eyes.

But he instantly turned cold when he saw how happily the girl smiled. Fu Chengyan ripped the photograph in half, separating the two subjects. He threw the photo of Fu Xicheng away and placed Shi Nuan's picture back into the file.

He continued to go through Shi Nuan's information. According to the document, Shi Nuan didn't have a very good relationship with her family. She had moved out to live on her own a few years ago, mainly due to Shi Wei and Jiang Yu.

Despite Shi Nuan having a poor relationship with Shi Wei and Jiang Yu, her grandfather treated Shi Nuan very well, to the point of pampering her. Aside from the head of the family, no one else was kind to her.

Fu Chengyan stroked his chin and closed the file. He then immediately rang Zhou Zheng up, saying, "I want Shi Wei's information. You have half an hour."

Zhou Zheng was in the midst of handling a project. Hearing Fu Chengyan's orders, his jaw fell to the floor. "H-half an hour?" He's kidding, right?

But before Zhou Zheng could even respond, Fu Chengyan had already hung up. Zhou Zheng was at the brink of a breakdown.

How would he get such information in just half an hour!? He hesitated for a moment before dialing a number. "Sir, can I borrow your assistant for half an hour?"

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Chapter 19

Li Heng squinted his eyes as he heard Zhou Zheng's cautious voice. "What's wrong? Did Chengyan just throw you another difficult task?"

"Ha-ha," Zhou Zheng laughed sarcastically. "Your assistant is a computer expert, right!?"

"Call him yourself," Li Heng said and hung up immediately. The monotonous beeps from the phone was like torture to Zhou Zheng. These two guys sure are brothers.

They both always talk so briefly. But soon, Zhou Zheng made a call to Li Heng's assistant, Liang Lin. "I'll give you half an hour to look up a girl. The second master wants this information."

Zhou Zheng received the information half an hour later. "You've saved my life, brother!" he said in gratitude.

Liang Lin scoffed, "Is the second boss into this woman?" This woman, Shi Wei, didn't have much background, but she was extremely ruthless. Liang Lin couldn't see how she and Fu Chengyan were connected, so he prodded for details.

"How is that possible? Alright, I'll talk to you next time. I have to report to Mr. Fu."

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Shi Nuan had been away for a year and could feel that Fucheng had undergone many changes. This included the fact that the company had vacated her position.

She noticed that many of the coworkers she used to be familiar with had now resigned and only the newbies remained. Someone else had also temporarily taken over her position.

Shi Nuan furrowed her brows. She wasn't a fool; she knew this was no coincidence. Looks like they've been planning this since a long time ago.

"Here is a list of projects that had been carried out in the past six months, Ms. Shi. I figured you may be relatively unfamiliar with the company's affairs since you had been away for so long, so I compiled this for you. Do have a look."

The person speaking was Yue Ling, who had been newly promoted to take Shi Nuan's place in the department. She spoke so openly and honestly, without a hint of vagueness.

Shi Nuan raised her brow slightly. She could tell that Yue Ling wasn't being friendly. But that was no surprise. After all, Yue Ling had thought this director's position now belonged to her, but she now had to give it back to Shi Nuan. How could she not be mad?

Throughout the past six months, Yue Ling had been in charge of the entire department. Seeing Shi Nuan immediately regain her position the moment she returned was certainly a matter no one would be happy about. Moreover, Yue Ling had caught wind of all the recent office gossip.

She knew that Shi Nuan was a shameless homewrecker who had managed to enter Fucheng and earn a director's position thanks to her own sister, Shi Wei's connections.

Yet, no one expected that Shi Nuan would rip her own sister off. How shameless could she be? Thinking about this, Yue Ling's attitude towards Shi Nuan worsened. "If there's anything you don't understand, feel free to come to me. I've been in charge of all the projects here for the past year, after all."

Shi Nuan frowned. Yue Ling sounded so arrogant and thought nothing of her. She strongly disliked the way Yue Ling spoke. But no matter what, they were in the same department, so Shi Nuan figured it was better not to sour their relationship.

“Then I sincerely thank you, Ms. Yue. These are all projects that you’ve handled, and I haven’t come to work for such a long time. Well, since you’re so thoughtful, then I graciously accept your information.”

Shi Nuan took the large pile of program lists from Yue Ling and looked at her, asking, “Is there anything else, Ms. Yue?”

Yue Ling didn’t expect Shi Nuan to be this tough. She had made herself so clear, yet the latter still looked so composed. “N-No, but it’s been so long since you last returned, so you may not be familiar with all the new coworkers around here. How about this? I’ll host a dinner tonight and we’ll have you get to know everyone.”

Shi Nuan glanced at Yue Ling coldly while gripping the documents in her hands. Shi Nuan’s stare chilled her, sending shivers down her spine. She touched her own face in discomfort and asked, “Is something the matter, Ms. Shi?”

“Oh! It’s nothing,” Shi Nuan shook her head. “Actually, I should be the one buying dinner. But I’m a rather busy these few days, so I’m afraid this will have to wait.”

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Chapter 20

Shi Nuan's head hurt as she sent Yue Ling away. For the past few days she had forced herself to remain strong, but when she saw Fu Xicheng and Fu Yuqing at the meeting room earlier today, she couldn't help but feel bitter.

Just a year ago, Fu Yuqing had even dined with Shi Nuan in private and hinted at how he sincerely hoped she would marry Fu Xicheng. Shi Nuan could have never anticipated that things would turn out this way.

"Ms. Shi, Mr. Fu is looking for you," Fu Yuqing's secretary called. Shi Nuan was stunned for a moment before responding, "Alright, I'll head over at once!"

Shi Nuan tidied her documents and headed towards the CEO office.

Shi Nuan knocked on the door and pushed it open after hearing a voice telling her to enter. There she saw Fu Yuqing sitting on the couch reading some financial news. Seeing Shi Nuan enter, he waved at her and said, "You're here, Nuan!"

"Hello, Mr. Fu." Shi Nuan certainly wasn't as broadminded as Fu Yuqing was. She knew that after everything that had happened, she had to maintain some distance from them. "Is something the matter?"

"You little..." Fu Yuqing shook his head as his smile vanished. "I was just thinking that we hadn't seen each other for over a year. How's work now that you're back?"

"Oh, it's going fine!" Shi Nuan said with a wry smile. "I haven't quite gotten the hang of it, but I'm sure I can manage. There's no need for you to worry, Mr. Fu."

The way Shi Nuan addressed Fu Yuqing showed that she had no intention of being close with him.

Fu Yuqing's eyes gleamed as he squinted. "That's good to hear," he said with a smile. "I called you over to talk about the matters between you and Xicheng. I'm sure you're also aware that he and your sister, Shi Wei..."

"We're at the office now and it's still working hours, Mr. Fu," Shi Nuan interrupted with a stiff look on her face. "Besides, there's nothing going on between Fu Xicheng and I."

Fu Yuqing was shocked to hear Shi Nuan speak like this. He stared at Shi Nuan meaningfully for a while before he finally grinned, "You're right. You're indeed a clever one, Nuan!"

Since Shi Nuan had answered him this way, Fu Yuqing was naturally relieved too.

Truthfully, he had always favored Shi Nuan as a potential daughter-in-law. Shi Nuan was capable and independent, and could also help Fu Xicheng with his business ventures. Unfortunately, she wasn't loved by the Shi family. Moreover...

Fu Yuqing narrowed his eyes and looked at Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan was brilliant, but there were more important matters to him.

Shi Wei was the apple of the Shi family's eye. If Fu Xicheng could marry her, then the Shi family's business would soon belong to the Fu family!

Even though they could rely on the big Fu family tree, the business could never belong to them. There was no way Fu Yuqing would ever choose to live at the mercy of others.

This was why he began targeting the Shi family. They may not be as powerful as the Fu family, but they weren't half bad.

“If that’s the case, don’t you think you should drop by to see your family, Nuan? I heard you haven’t gone back there since you returned. They’re still your family, no matter what. You may have moved out, but you still have to visit them, no?”

Shi Nuan immediately understood Fu Yuqing’s intentions. The man had begun to reveal his true colors. If Shi Nuan still didn’t understand this, then it’d have been a waste working for Fucheng all this while.

Shi Nuan laughed coldly inside. She clearly knew what Fu Yuqing was up to. Shi Wei was much more loved by the Shi family than she was.

When Shi Wei reached adulthood, Shi Jingzheng allocated her 15% of the company’s shares as a gift. As for Shi Nuan herself? The Shi family refused to even give her a small position in the company, let alone its shares.

When Shi Nuan graduated, she was asked by Jiang Yu to find a job on her own under the guise of building her up and teaching her to be self-sufficient. Everything she had been given was nothing compared to what Shi Wei had. At some point, Shi Nuan even wondered if she was a part of the Shi family!

“You’re right, Mr. Fu. I do intend to go back, but my grandpa told me not to at the moment.”