

I Want a Lifetime with You

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Shi Nuan kept her attention on Pei Jingxiu and extended her hand for a handshake.

Pei Jingxiu gently nodded and greeted her with a very quick but polite handshake. "I heard Chengyan had gotten married but just couldn't find the right time to pay you all a visit. Hope you understand."

"Don't worry about it." Shi Nuan drew her hand back. Suddenly, she remembered what Fu Chengyan did to her earlier, and she gave him a murderous stare and pinched him back.

Fu Chengyan, who gave you the permission to pinch me?

Shi Nuan's childish act was obvious, and it drew Pei Jingxiu's and Su Shaoqing's attention. Their eyebrows waggled. While Su Shaoqing had gotten used to their interaction, Pei Jingxiu was surprised how Fu Chengyan tolerated her behavior.

Pei Jingxiu pondered and looked at Shi Nuan for a moment before talking to the rest, "Come on, let's go."

"A few days ago, I've asked people to tidy up your villa. Since it's has been vacant for quite some time, I'm not sure if you'll feel comfortable staying in it."

"No worries. It's just a temporary place for me to stay, and I won't be here for long." Pei Jingxiu said while walking in front with Fu Chengyan by his side.

As a medical doctor, Su Shaoqing had no interest in their business discussion, so he retreated to the back and walked behind them.

Shi Nuan, too, was alert enough to leave the two men alone. She walked beside Su Shaoqing and asked, "Is Jingxiu a powerful person? The three of them seem to respect him a lot."

Su Shaoqing's forehead puckered for a bit, but he eventually responded with a smile, "Not as powerful as Chengyan, I guess? But if they were to engage in a fight, even two Chengyan's' would be no match for Jingxiu."

"Really?" Shi Nuan was shocked to hear that. She had always thought Fu Chengyan was already a powerful man though she had never seen him fight. During their first encounter, Fu Chengyan rescued her from the balcony where she was drugged, and he managed to carry her single-handedly. It was at that time Shi Nuan thought he was a powerful man with great strength.

Now Su Shaoqing told Shi Nuan, even two Fu Chengyan's' might not defeat Pei Jingxiu? How is it possible?

"Let me put it this way. Jingxiu will have no problem defeating Chengyan and Li Heng if he engages in a fight with the two at the same time. That's how powerful he is. If you're interested in his background, try asking your husband. He knows him more than I do!"

Su Shaoqing was constantly in awe of Pei Jingxiu when he was talking about this man. "Jingxiu has even saved my life once!"

Su Shaoqing sighed, "By the way, don't tell me you're in love with him? His standards are exceptionally high, I'm telling you. Over the last three decades, he has never come across any woman he thought is worthy of his attention."

Shi Nuan rolled her eyes at Su Shaoqing, "What on earth are you thinking? I'm Chengyan's wife, for goodness sake! I just felt he looks extraordinary and would want to know more about him."

Just when Shi Nuan thought he had misunderstood her, Su Shaoqing raised his brows and said sarcastically, "Yeah, right. I wonder who kept staring at Jingxiu when he walked out of the airport. It was almost as if you're willing to offer yourself to him. Did you see Chengyan's expression? Pretty sure he wanted to get rid of Jingxiu at that moment, but too bad, that day will never come!"

Shi Nuan shot daggers at him once again, "Stop spouting nonsense! I was just... admiring him!" Indeed, Shi Nuan had never seen another man that was more handsome than Pei Jingxiu. "Mr. Su, I think you really misunderstood me. What if I tell Yan or Jingxiu..."

"Please don't! I'm just kidding!" Su Shaoqing immediately conceded defeat, "It was just a joke!" Su Shaoqing shook his head and put on an awkward smile, "Women are really not easy to deal with."

"What did you say?" Shi Nuan pretended as if she did not understand, "Mr. Su?"

"Nothing! I said you look very gorgeous!"

"What are you two doing?" Fu Chengyan turned around and saw the two of them bickering with each other.

"Nothing!" Shi Nuan grinned and walked up to Fu Chengyan, "Mr. Su said he's envious of us!"

"Is that so?" The corners of Fu Chengyan's mouth quirked up, and he took a glance at Su Shaoqing. He could only force a smile, "Yes, I am. A lonely bachelor like me is indeed envious of you both."

Pei Jingxiu traveled in Su Shaoqing's car since he would be staying next to his villa. Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan, on the other hand, drove another car.

Shi Nuan was still very curious about Pei Jingxiu. Mostly it was because of the way how Su Shaoqing described him in the first place. Too bad he did not want to tell her more about him and insisted her to ask Fu Chengyan instead.

“It seems like you’re very keen to know more about Jingxiu?” Fu Chengyan came to this conclusion after hearing what she had to say.

Shi Nuan’s eyebrows rose, “Nope!” She immediately shook her head, “I’m just curious because Mr. Su said Jingxiu was very powerful and can defeat both you and Li Heng if the three of you engage in a fight!”

“Oh?” Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows, “Looks like you have no faith in my capability?”

“That’s not what I mean!” Shi Nuan shook her head and explained, “Yan, of course, I have faith in you!” Shi Nuan immediately plastered a smile to her face even though her heart was palpitating.

Fu Chengyan looked at her anxious expression and burst out laughing. He fussed her hair gently, “Silly girl. Are you scared that I’ll get angry?”

Shi Nuan shook her head and brushed his hand aside, “Nope!” I’ll never admit it.

Fu Chengyan simpered, “What Su Shaoqing said was true. Jingxiu might easily defeat Li Heng and me in a fight!” He was not embarrassed by it, as everyone knew about the incident that happened a few years ago.

What Jingxiu had was not only strength but also strategies to take others down. Fu Chengyan and Li Heng should count themselves lucky since they were not his enemies. Otherwise, it would be impossible for them to escape from the jaws of death.

“But Yan, you’re pretty amazing too! Jingxiu’s power is probably just odd and supernatural.” Shi Nuan went up close and pinched Fu Chengyan’s hand, “You’re amazing. I mean, how many people can actually take you down? Besides, you’re also a great race car driver! Bet Jingxiu is no match for you!”

Fu Chengyan responded with a faint smile, and gently rubbed her head.

“Yes, he’s not as great as me!”

Shi Nuan gave him a Duchenne smile, “That’s my Fu Chengyan!”

Pei Jingxiu’s villa was actually a gift from Li Heng, and it was built on a plot of land that had only a few houses. When Li Heng was designing the villas, he did not want to overpopulate the place because he wanted the area to remain undisturbed. He swept four units for himself, leaving three vacant units.

The four of them arrived at the villa, got down from their cars, and helped Pei Jingxiu carry his luggage. Fu Chengyan then left with Shi Nuan, whereas Pei Jingxiu went over to Su Shaoqing’s place.

Pei Jingxiu’s villa had been left vacant for quite some time. Even the cleaners had spruced up the place Su Shaoqing knew he would not be keen to move in right away.

“Looks like you’re doing quite well in the last couple of years!” Pei Jingxiu took a glance at the interior of Su Shaoqing’s villa and gave this remark.

Su Shaoqing, who walked out of the kitchen with a glass of water, responded with a grin, “Of course, people change!”

Before Su Shaoqing continued, he gave Pei Jingxiu the glass of water, “It’s safe to drink. Jingxiu, how long are you planning to stay here?”

Pei Jingxiu squinted, pressed his lips for a moment, and looked at Su Shaoqing, “Why?”

Su Shaoqing simpered, “Nothing. Where’s that little kitty who likes to follow you around?”

There was a mild change in Pei Jingxiu’s expression. He gave him a stare, “Have you been observing her?”

Su Shaoqing waved his hand in the air and dismissed, “Don’t overthink. I’m just concerned about your life in the last few years. That kitty seems fun to be with. Why isn’t she here with you?”

“This is none of your business!” Pei Jingxiu immediately changed the topic, “You should talk about yourself instead. How’s the lady?”

Su Shaoqing’s expression went blank, “Have you seen her?”

Pei Jingxiu took a sip of water from the glass to clear his throat, “Yes, coincidentally.”

“Coincidentally?” Su Shaoqing’s face contorted at first but immediately put on a whimsical smile and gently rubbed his nose bridge, “You’re so free that you can bump into her coincidentally?”

“Just ask me anything you want to know!”

Pei Jingxiu put down the glass of water and sat down at a quiet corner in the living hall.

He gazed out of the window, looked at the lifeless wintry landscape in the neighborhood, and plunged into deep thoughts.

Pei Jingxiu touched his pocket, took out a cigarette, and placed it in between his fingers. “Looks like she was doing well, but I didn’t go up to say hello.” Pei Jingxiu paused, “I think she’s married.”

The color suddenly drained out of Su Shaoqing’s face. His face turned pale, and he subconsciously clenched his fists. His mouth twitched a little but eventually curved into a smile. He looked into Pei Jingxiu’s eyes and asked, “Is that so?”

Pei Jingxiu studied him from the corner of his eyes, “Looks like you’re not happy with how well her life has become?”

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Su Shaoqing's mouth twitched once again, "Of course not! If she's married and happy, then this is the best outcome for her."

"You better say it like you mean it."

Pei Jingxiu moved his eyes away from Su Shaoqing and looked out of the window, "There's no point clinging onto things that are not yours. Since you have already given her up, you need to learn to let her go. I'm telling you this because I want you to move on."

"Well, that's very nice of you." Su Shaoqing grinned, "I've moved on. I'm glad she's happy. Even if she's not, it's none of my business anymore." Su Shaoqing let out a sigh, "You don't have to test me, Jingxiu. I can never be as cruel as you."

Pei Jingxiu tilted his head and glanced at Su Shaoqing.

He's still young, after all. That's why he loses control of himself easily when he's provoked. I'm not surprised. Pei Jingxiu was still holding the cigarette in his hand, "I didn't tell Fu Chengyan about this. I guess he wouldn't want her to be back either."

Su Shaoqing put on a half-smile, "Then why did you tell me? I have nothing to do with her anymore since our relationship has ended." Su Shaoqing took in a deep breath, "Well, at least I know now."

Pei Jingxiu nodded, "What time is our dinner?"

“8 pm! We’ll go once they warmed up the place.”

“I’ll take a nap first then.” Pei Jingxiu gave Su Shaoqing a tap on his shoulder before going upstairs.

As he watched the back of Pei Jingxiu’s slender body getting further away, a poignant memory popped up in his mind and caused him to lose the smile on his face.

He turned around, looked out the window, just as how Pei Jingxiu did earlier and saw a sudden breeze blowing away some dried leaves that had just fallen from the tree.

This barren winter landscape reminded him of an incident that had happened in the courtyard many years ago. On that particular day, Su Shaoqing, who was still a teenager, skipped school and roamed around the city the whole day. As he was on his way home, he heard someone crying.

It was the voice of a child who was pleading for help as she was incapable of getting down from a tall tree.

He was not a nosey parker, but on that day, his inquisitive spirit led him to enter the courtyard of a stranger’s residence. He stood beneath the tree and saw a little girl trapped up there.

His memory of the little girl was clear. She was not pleasant-looking, and her face was all covered in tears and mucus that dripped from her nostrils. Just when Su Shaoqing was about to leave, the little girl shrieked even louder, “Please help me!”

Su Shaoqing later found out that the girl was Fu Chengyan’s paternal younger half-sister, whose existence the Fu family refused to acknowledge.

He rescued her from the tree, and because of his heroic act, this girl became his little loyal follower. She literally followed him wherever he went, until...

Su Shaoqing suddenly had a headache. He shut his eyes and pinched his brow ridge to relieve the pain. It had been years, but this memory remained fresh in his mind. He never had any feelings for her, but strange enough, at one point, when she had blood all over her body, he actually thought of marrying her.

No, I shouldn't think about this anymore!

In a split second, Su Shaoqing opened his eyes, which were already welled with tears. He tilted his head down to see the long scar on the back of his hand and recalled what she said, "You and I shall never meet again, dead or alive!"

It was 8 pm. The night had just begun. The nightlife in Prosperous Dynasty had always been fun, but today was exceptionally vibrant. All because of the star of the night, Pei Jingxiu!

Besides Jiang City's Big Four, Lin Group's young master Lin Shen, Su Shaoqing's cousin brother Su Bancheng, Zhan Yuming, and even Li Jing had also attended the dinner, making the event even livelier.

Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan arrived last due to a traffic situation they encountered.

Su Shaoqing immediately poured two glasses of wine for them, "It's Jingxiu's welcome dinner, yet you two are late, so here's your punishment. Finish it!"

The atmosphere quietened down out of a sudden, and everyone started focusing on the woman beside Fu Chengyan. All the guests was astounded when they heard Su Shaoqing called the woman Mrs. Fu.

How could no one know Fu Chengyan got married? He was one of the members of the famous Jiang City's Big Four!

They began to study her from head to toe and were keen to know more about the woman standing beside Fu Chengyan.

Feeling uncomfortable, Shi Nuan could only put on an awkward smile. She picked up the two glasses of wine and gave one to Fu Chengyan, "I'm sorry, we're late because of me. Please accept our apologies!"

Shi Nuan said it in a steady voice. Besides Su Shaoqing, Li Heng, and Pei Jingxiu, all the other guests looked at her not because she was exceptionally loud. They were just curious about this woman, whom Fu Chengyan had married.

Shi Nuan looked at the people around her and then turned her attention to Fu Chengyan, who gave her a nod of encouragement. That was all she needed to down the wine.

Everyone was taken aback by her swift action and could not turn their attention away from her. Su Shaoqing was quick to react to kill the awkward silence, "Since you're late, you need to drink two glasses! Do you all agree with me?"

"Yes!" Lin Shen join the bandwagon, "When did you get married, Mr. Fu? How come we're all not aware of it?" Lin Shen then looked at Shi Nuan, "And you are?"

"Hello, I'm Shi Nuan." Shi Nuan came forth and introduced herself, "I'm Yan's wife!"

Fu Chengyan smiled and guzzled down a glass of wine, "Let's have three glasses as punishment. I'll drink the other two on behalf of May!" Fu Chengyan said this to defend Shi Nuan. To Fu Chengyan, this was not just a punishment. He also wanted to take this opportunity to introduce his wife to this group.

But at the same time, the fact that Fu Chengyan had volunteered to drink on behalf of Shi Nuan was also his way of warning the rest to know their limits. This showed how important Shi Nuan was in his life.

"Come on. We're supposed to celebrate Jingxiu tonight. Let's focus on him, okay?" Li Heng squinted and looked at Shi Nuan, "What do you think?"

“Absolutely. Let’s drink at another time! Our treat!” Shi Nuan tapped on Fu Chengyan’s shoulder and took over the empty glass, “Come, let’s sit there!”

Fu Chengyan beamed at her, “Okay!”

“This is too much! We bachelors cannot stand this anymore!” Someone blurted out in a jealous tone.

Li Jing burst out laughing, “You only have yourself to blame for being single! I think he has tried not to display his affection overly in front of us. Am I right, Chengyan?”

Fu Chengyan’s eyes narrowed, “Jing is right. Oh well, you’ll eventually get used to it.”

After that, he put his hand on Shi Nuan’s waist as they sat down. He then picked some fresh fruits for her, “Have some fruits first.”

Shi Nuan smiled and pulled his sleeve, “Stop it.....”

Even Shi Nuan noticed Fu Chengyan did this intentionally as if he wanted to flaunt their relationship in front of everyone.

Of course, Shi Nuan knew he did all this to make sure everyone knew who she was and would show her the respect she deserved. Besides the few who were close with Fu Chengyan, the others were obviously there to get in their good books. Fu Chengyan needed to make sure these people would also treat Shi Nuan the same.

His thoughts and actions had warmed Shi Nuan’s heart.

Fu Chengyan’s willingness to introduce her to his closest friends also showed that he was ready to make the relationship public, and if anything happened, he could be there for her.

“Why don’t you go talk to them?” Shi Nuan felt Fu Chengyan should mingle with them instead of staying by her side. Fu Chengyan squinted, “Nope. You’ll be alone and bored here.”

“I won’t!” Shi Nuan grinned, “The girl named Jing is very pretty. Who is she?”

“Li Heng’s younger sister, Li Jing. The person beside her is her fiancé, Zhan Yuming!” Fu Chengyan explained and gave her a slice of apple.

Shi Nuan nodded, “I see, so she’s Li Heng’s sister. No wonder they look alike!”

“Yup. Li Jing is a nice person, and you should befriend her. She’s very different from the other socialites, and I think you’ll like her personality!”

“Okay. Alright, alright. Go catch up with Jingxiu, and talk to them! I’ll talk to Li Jing!”

“Okay!”

Fu Chengyan squeezed her hand gently, “Text me if you’re bored. We’ll go home right away!”

“Sure!” Shi Nuan nodded and pushed him away, “They’re waiting for you, just go!” Shi Nuan felt awkward with how clingy he was today.

Shi Nuan heaved a sigh of relief when he finally left his seat.

She then used a stick to pick a piece of honeydew and put it into her mouth. Just when she was thinking of how to strike a conversation with Li Jing, Li Jing had already taken the initiative. Having two glasses of wine in her hands, Li Jing came over and gave one to Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan, who was still chewing on the honeydew, was taken aback by Li Jing’s sudden approach.

Li Jing raised her brows and smiled, "Don't worry, it's just fruit wine. You'll be fine!"

Shi Nuan responded with a nod and a grin, "Hello."

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“I’m Li Jing. Since you don’t know me, let me introduce myself.” Li Jing smiled and sat down next to Shi Nuan once she accepted the drink from her, while also glancing over to Fu Chengyan’s direction to assure him. “Li Heng is my brother. You know him right? He’s like a brother to Fu Chengyan.”

“Oh yes! Hello Ms. Li.” Shi Nuan smiled and nodded, allowing herself to relax. She raised her glass to clink glasses with Li Jing.

Li Jing was an easy-going person. When she saw Shi Nuan raising her glass towards her, she did the same as well. “But don’t call me Ms. Li. That’s way too formal. Just call me Jing. That’s what everyone does.”

“Alright. Jing!” Shi Nuan nodded. “In that case you should call me Nuan. That’s what my friends call me.”

“Sure!” agreed Li Jing right away. After talking with Shi Nuan for a while, Li Jing noticed that she wasn’t quite like the people she usually hung out with. “Could I ask you something? How did you meet Fu Chengyan?”

It’s not that Li Jing wanted to gossip. Even though they weren’t all super close, Li Heng and Fu Chengyan were like brothers, so Li Jing too came to know him well. Each time she saw him, she would be sure to greet him warmly, and she felt like she knew enough about him. Yet, it seemed odd to her that she didn’t know anything about his marriage.

When Shi Nuan saw Li Jing’s confused expression, she had already guessed that she was curious about their marriage. Hence, she cleared her throat and answered, “I’ve known Yan for quite a while now, and we’ve been married for

some time now too. It's just that we haven't been able to host a wedding dinner, and not many people know either. As to how we met, well, it's a long story. But in short, Yan saved me quite a few times."

Shi Nuan smiled, "Only those who are here today know our about marriage, so..."

"I understand." Of course, Li Jing understood what Shi Nuan meant. She had been in this social circle for quite some time now, so she knew how things work here. "It's totally fine if you don't feel like saying anything. It's not anyone else's business as long as you and Fu Chengyan truly love each other."

"I agree! But this is all just temporary. After all, marriage is the coming together of two families. It'll be troublesome if there were regrets." Shi Nuan glanced over to Fu Chengyan's side.

The group of men had arranged themselves around two tables and started playing mahjong.

Fu Chengyan, Li Heng, Zhan Yuming, and Su Bancheng formed a table of four. The other consisted of Pei Jingxiu, Su Shaoqing, Lin Shen, and another young man from a rich family, called Li Yu.

Shi Nuan looked over towards Fu Chengyan. And right as he was about to draw another tile, Fu Chengyan could feel Shi Nuan's gaze on him. He looked up, and their eyes interlocked, both of them smiling at each other.

Just then, Fu Chengyan waved Shi Nuan over, causing everyone else to pause in surprise at his action. Li Heng impatiently tapped the table with his slender fingers and reminded Fu Chengyan, "It's your turn."

"Alright." Fu Chengyan drew a tile, saw that it wasn't one that he needed, and discarded it right away. Looking over at Shi Nuan, he asked, "Come over!"

Shi Huan's face blushed slightly and instinctively peeked at Li Jing as well as everyone else.

Li Jing chuckled, "Fu Chengyan sure can't be apart from Nuan for even one second!"

Shi Nuan felt a little awkward after hearing Li Jing's teasing, but she still headed over to Fu Chengyan. At that moment, Li Jing, too, got up and walked over to sit between Li Heng and Zhan Yuming. "Li Heng, how much have you won?"

Li Heng looked at Li Jing and gestured towards Zhan Yuming's direction. She looked over at Zhan Yuming's chips, then at the rest of the players'. Indeed, Zhan Yuming was losing the most.

"Is this one against three?" Li Jing chuckled.

Zhan Yuming smiled slyly. "Do you want me or Li Heng to win?"

"Uh... It doesn't matter which one of you wins. Either way, it's not my money." Li Jing touched her nose sheepishly and decided to keep quiet for now.

Coincidentally, Shi Nuan was sitting right across Li Jing. On her left was Fu Chengyan, and on her right, Su Bancheng.

This was the first time she had met Su Bancheng in person. He was giving off an unapproachable vibe, which oddly felt quite familiar to Shi Nuan.

When she had first met Fu Chengyan, it was likely that same kind of vibe. The only difference was, even then, Fu Chengyan wasn't that distant towards her, whereas Su Bancheng treated her as if she was completely invisible.

But to ease the awkwardness between them, Shi Nuan turned to Su Bancheng and greeted him. But he only glanced at her, gave a little nod, and continued with his game. Shi Nuan felt terribly awkward, but thankfully everyone else was talking, and the atmosphere was cheery.

“I hear Mr. Fu is busy with that piece of land in West City?”

Zhan Yuming drew a tile while grinning calculatedly. He, too, was one cunning fox, just like Su Shaoqing. The only difference was, Zhan Yuming’s wiliness was used in business, whereas Su Shaoqing’s was used on personal matters.

Fu Chengyan heard this but didn’t react. Instead, it was Li Heng who froze, smiled and shouted, “I win!”

Li Heng showed his tiles and cheekily grinned at Zhan Yuming. “Sorry, it looks like I’m leading.”

Zhan Yuming narrowed his eyes. “You sure are riding a lucky streak with winning consecutive hands. But it doesn’t look too good if you’re the only one winning.”

“I only focus on the results. It’s my turn to be in the lead right now.” Li Heng tapped his knee and replied.

Zhan Yuming pursed his lips and tossed his chips over to Li Heng. “That might not necessarily be true. I’m comparing the capabilities here, and I would say that the Zhan family is not necessarily the weaker party among the two. Don’t you agree? Also, since the West City project hasn’t started, everything is still up in the air. There’s always room for changes. What do you think, Mr. Fu?”

Fu Cheng Yan raised his head and grinned slightly. “Mr. Zhan is correct. Doing business is just like being on the battlefield. Anything could change the tide at any minute.” Then he looked over at Li Heng. “I’m sure Li Heng knows this too.”

Li Heng, who was slowly picking up his chips, looked up with those dark, piercing eyes of his. “You’re right.”

Raising his head, Zhan Yuming furrowed his brows and looked at Su Bancheng. Su Bancheng had remained quiet this whole time. But when he heard everything, he pushed a portion of his chips to Li Heng and said, “There’s also something called a win-win. What do you think, Mr. Li?”

There was a sliver of coldness in Su Bancheng's voice that couldn't be overlooked. His voice wasn't smooth like Zhan Yuming's. In fact, it sounded quite rough. Li Heng frowned a little and asked, "It seems like Mr. Jiang wishes to share in the profits?"

"This is a large piece of the pie. Anyone's who's smart would want a piece of it. But this time, I'm representing the Su family, not the Jiangs!"

Li Heng raised his eyebrow and looked over to Su Shaoqing at the other table.

Instantly, Su Shaoqing shot his hands up to profess his innocence. "This has nothing to do with me! I'm only a doctor, nothing more. The Su family will undoubtedly end up in my cousin, Su Bancheng's hands, so I don't know anything."

He was right. Su Shaoqing was just a doctor who wasn't interested in these matters. "On the other hand, if all you big shots here would be willing to provide some medical resources or anything else to our hospital, then that would be fantastic!"

"You sure like to dream." Su Bancheng snorted coldly before looking towards Su Shaoqing. "The Su family is yours. I'm only watching over it temporarily. Don't even think about getting out of this alone."

"Tsk-tsk." Su Shaoqing couldn't help but sigh, "C'mon cousin. This is a day of celebration, so don't say things that'll dampen the mood. Today is the day of Pei Jingxiu's grand homecoming. Shouldn't everyone do a little something to express their joy?"

"Oh? And what do you have planned?" Fu Chengyan pushed his tiles over, grabbed onto Shi Nuan's hand, and gave it a gentle squeeze.

Shi Nuan looked downwards and gripped Fu Chengyan's hand too. And not before long, the two were trying to out-squeeze each other.

They were talking about business matters, which was something Shi Nuan couldn't really understand. But by the looks of it, it seemed like Zhan Yuming and Su Bancheng had seen the value in the piece of land at West City and wanted to join in. As for Zhan Yuming and Li Heng, Shi Nuan felt that it wasn't as simple as the usual awkward in-laws. There was something odd there, and she could tell they weren't that close.

"What are you thinking about?" Fu Chengyan squeezed Shi Nuan's hand, drawing her attention back. "No-nothing! I was just thinking that the relationship between them seemed a bit tense. Aren't they relatives?" Shi Nuan whispered in Fu Chengyan's ear while nodding towards Li Heng and Zhan Yuming.

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow and looked at Shi Nuan, slightly surprised. "You can tell?"

She nodded.

It's so obvious, of course I can tell. If I can't even do a simple thing like that, then I would be practically useless. The tension between Zhan Yuming and Li Heng was so evident that anyone with even the slightest ability to see can tell that the two weren't getting along.

"Li Heng doesn't quite like Zhan Yuming, but Li Jing sure does." Just one sentence from Fu Chengyan and the relationship between the trio was explained. "Li Jing insisted on being with him, and so, Li Heng couldn't do anything about it."

Shi Nuan nodded. "I understand." It looked like Li Jing was someone who's crazy about love. And yet, she couldn't explain it. But she felt as if the way Li Jing looked at Zhan Yuming, and the way Zhan Yuming treated Li Jing, was very odd.

Shi Nuan smelled something fishy, but since it was their family business, maybe they themselves couldn't care less as well.

“How about this. Since today is Pei Jingxiu’s grand homecoming, why don’t we play a game?” Su Shaoqing pushed his tiles back. “It’s getting boring playing the same things over and over again.”

“What game do you suggest?” Li Jing asked. She was someone who liked to have fun but was careful to not cross the line. “Please enlighten us, Su Shaoqing.”

Su Shaoqing’s eyes looked across the room and plastered an innocent smile across his face. “What about truth or dare?”

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“C’mon, Su Shaoqing. You’re such an old bore!” Li Jing appeared to be quite unimpressed with this suggestion. “That game is practically ancient! How exciting can it get?”

“Why can’t it be fun? Some games can be old but still gold. Am I right, Pei Jingxiu?” Su Shaoqing asked while winking at Pei Jingxiu.

Pei Jingxiu calmly rubbed his nose and tapped his forehead before grinning and answering, “Shaoqing is right. Let’s play!”

After Pei Jingxiu gave the green light, everyone else cheered in agreement. After all, he was the VIP of the gathering, and it was only right for them to follow his wishes.

Su Shaoqing then began to gather everyone, “Come on, come on! Everyone who wants to play should gather here. But let’s agree on a few things first. Nothing too overboard and no one is allowed to back out.” Su Shaoqing clapped his hands, summoning Zhou Zheng and Liang Lin. “Mr. Su, what do you need?”

“Go and get some alcohol for us. And... put it on Fu Chengyan’s tab!” said Su Shaoqing as he pointed towards Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. But before he could say anything, Shi Nuan jumped in and asked, “Why should our Yan pick up the tab?”

Everyone else looked at Shi Nuan then looked at Su Shaoqing. “Yeah. Why Shaoqing?”

Su Shaoqing took pause, then gave that innocent smile of his, one that could mesmerize anyone. It was a good thing there weren't any young girls there, or they would certainly fall for Su Shaoqing with just that smile of his. But that smile only gave Shi Nuan goosebumps, especially when hearing what Su Shaoqing had to say next. "Why should Fu Chengyan pick up the tab? That's easy. He's been feeding us so much public display of affection today, so we need a little alcohol to wash it down. Also, I've been force-fed plenty of PDA from you two these past few months. Doesn't that warrant picking up the tab at least once?"

Everyone burst into laughter after hearing Su Shaoqing's little speech. Even Su Bancheng, who rarely smiled, could be seen giving a faint grin.

Shi Nuan on the other hand turned bright red and couldn't even bear to look at Su Shaoqing. As for Fu Chengyan, he raised an eyebrow, looked at Su Shaoqing, and said, "Done!"

"See, Fu Chengyan knows how to be a good sport. Zhou Zheng, didn't you hear your boss? Go get some of the best for us."

Soon after, Su Shaoqing started explaining the rules. "The usual applies. We spin the bottle, and whoever it points at, would need to pick either 'truth' or 'dare'. Or else, you'll have to drink up! Any questions?"

"Nope," laughed Li Jing. "Let's play!"

Pei Jingxiu was the first person to spin the bottle, being the VIP and all.

He wasn't someone who would usually play games like these, but seeing that everyone was excited, he decided not to spoil their good mood. Thus, he gave the bottle a spin, and it landed on Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan's heart had been beating fast as she was worried that the bottle would point towards her. Lo and behold! Everyone's eyes followed the spinning bottle, then again on Shi Nuan once it stopped. Her body tensed up, not accustomed to

having so many pairs of eyes on her, especially since their gazes were a little strange.

“Wow, Mrs. Fu is one lucky lady today! Pei Jingxiu, quick! Ask your question!” Su Shaoqing hurried him. “Ask something that everyone is curious about.”

“Oh?” Pei Jingxiu rubbed his chin and pretended to be in deep thought with his gaze resting on Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan suddenly became very nervous and grabbed onto the hem of her clothes tightly. Fu Chengyan noticed this and placed his large palm on her hand. “It’s just a game, don’t be too nervous. If you don’t feel like answering, I can take the penalty drink for you.”

“I’m not nervous. It’s just a little awkward, that’s all.” Shi Nuan answered.

“What’s the ‘something’ that everyone’s curious about?” Pei Jingxiu asked. “Shaoqing, you go ahead and ask!”

“Right, then I’ll do the honors!” Su Shaoqing rubbed his hands together and grinned widely, looking like a harmless yet excited child. “Mrs. Fu, where did you have your first time with Fu Chengyan? How long did it last?”

“...” Shi Nuan inhaled deeply and gave an awkward smile.

Actually, it wasn’t just Shi Nuan. Everyone else, too, took in a deep breath and looked at Su Shaoqing with a look that was equal parts complimentary and concerned. Su Shaoqing grinned, “Mrs. Fu, c’mon. What’s your answer?”

“Uh... I choose to take a drink!” Shi Nuan went to grab a glass but was stopped by Fu Chengyan. “It was at home. As for how long it was... how long would you last when I’m beating you up?”

Su Shaoqing went speechless that instant.

A second later, the whole room burst into laughter.

Even Su Bancheng couldn't help but give a faint grin, shaking his head at Su Shaoqing.

"That doesn't count! This was a question for Mrs. Fu. You can't answer!" Su Shaoqing started to backtrack. "Also, there's no proof. You say you're that good, but who can prove it?" Su Shaoqing looked towards Shi Nuan. "See, Mrs. Fu isn't saying anything, so you must be lying!"

"Let me give you a good beating, and you'll find out whether I'm lying or not." Fu Chengyan got up, took off his coat, and handed it to Shi Nuan, who naturally caught it from him. Fu Chengyan then cracked his knuckles and rest his gaze on Su Shaoqing. "Get up!"

"Hey.. we're just playing games. Why're we suddenly fighting? Okay, okay! I believe you!" Su Shaoqing quickly backed down and gave a nervous chuckle. "I'll drink in Pei Jingxiu's stead then."

Pei Jingxiu's eyes twinkled when he heard Su Shaoqing's words. "Actually, I haven't seen your skills in a while now, Shaoqing. I'm quite curious to know if you've improved."

Fu Chengyan followed, "Yes, I'd like to test it out too."

"No, no. I'll drink. I'll drink right away." Su Shaoqing downed the shot of alcohol in his hand. "Who's next? Mrs. Fu?"

Shi Nuan watched as Su Shaoqing bravely downed the shot that was originally meant for her. She couldn't help but feel even more nervous. "Yes, it's my turn."

She sat down quickly and spun the bottle. After a while, it landed on Su Shaoqing, surprising Shi Nuan and eliciting laughter from everyone else. Li Heng was laughing too when she suggested, "You can get your revenge now."

Shi Nuan grinned slightly and turned to whisper something to Fu Chengyan, causing his eyes to twinkle in mischief. Right then, Su Shaoqing could tell that

they were plotting something devious and immediately tensed up. He heard Fu Chengyan ask, "Truth or dare?"

Su Shaoqing narrowed his eyes. "I certainly won't choose 'Truth'. Do you honestly think that I don't know what the two of you have up your sleeves? 'Dare' it is!"

"Alright!" Shi Nuan laughed, "Your dare is to choose someone in this room, other than Yan and I, to kiss. Not just a quick peck, but a proper French kiss."

Hearing his dare, Su Shaoqing's face immediately fell and was at a loss for words. He took a quick look at those in the room then looked back at Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan. "Isn't that going a little overboard?"

Shi Nuan, however, flashed him a great big smile. "I don't think so. After all, you picked the 'dare'. C'mon, anytime now!"

Everyone else, too, had held their breathes when they heard Shi Nuan's dare. After all, the only other female in the room, other than Shi Nuan, was Li Jing, and the rest were all men. Yet, Li Jing was Li Heng's little sister and also Zhan Yuming's fiancé. That would truly be a big 'dare'! But if he didn't choose Li Jing, then he would have to kiss one of the guys.

Su Shaoqing's eyes traveled across the room many times, but he really couldn't choose any one of them. Pei Jingxiu wasn't even a possibility. As for Li Heng, he knew if he dared try anything, Li Heng would surely cripple him. So the ones left were Su Bancheng, who was his cousin, and also Zhan Yuming, and Lin Shen.

Su Shaoqing cupped his face in his hands, not knowing whether to laugh or cry. "Can I just choose to die instead?"

"Nope. You were the one who suggested this game. How can you back out halfway? How will you survive in Jiang City in the future?"

Su Shaoqing really couldn't laugh anymore. "Please Mrs. Fu. I admit I'm in the wrong. Can you change the dare? I can't kiss any of them!" It would felt so wrong for him to kiss anyone there.

He looked over at Su Bancheng, but his glower scared him so much that he quickly looked away. He then looked at Zhan Yuming, Li Heng, and lastly at Pei Jingxiu. None of them were viable options.

"I'll get on my knees and sing for you. I'll call you Grandma. Will that do?"

"Nope! Why would I want a grandson like you?" Shi Nuan pretended to be very stern. But truthfully, she was trying hard to hold back her laughter. Shi Nuan grabbed onto Fu Chengyan's hand and pinched the back of his hand tightly. But seeing Su Shaoqing so speechless and troubled, she finally couldn't help it and broke out in laughter. "Alright then, Mr. Su. It's fine if you don't kiss anyone. How about this? Choose a bottle of alcohol from this table and finish it."

"Mrs. Su. You sure are a gracious person! And even more calculating than Fu Chengyan. Well, at least I learned something new today." Su Shaoqing picked up a bottle and drank from it, looking all brave as if he was doing something heroic.

Shi Nuan took a look at Su Shaoqing and tugged on Fu Chengyan's sleeve. "Should we stop him yet?"

However, Fu Chengyan patted her hand. "Don't worry. He has a high tolerance. He'll be fine."

They played for a few more rounds, yet somehow, Su Shaoqing was often on the losing end. Then came Li Jing and Shi Nuan. Everyone else was super lucky, and the bottle came nowhere near them. As for Su Shaoqing... who knew what luck had befallen him. Each time Shi Nuan spun the bottle, it would always land on him.

In the end, other than Shi Nuan, Li Jing, and Su Shaoqing, no one else was at the receiving end of the bottle.

And as it got later into the night, everyone eventually went home. Shi Nuan didn't actually drink much. Most of it had gone into Fu Chengyan's belly, so it was a good thing that Fu Chengyan had a high alcohol tolerance, and he hadn't yet passed out.

Fu Chengyan carried Shi Nuan away, while Zhou Zheng followed them from behind then drove them home.

Meanwhile, Su Shaoqing was less lucky. Even though he, too, could usually handle his alcohol well, he had too much to drink that night.

Despite being a germaphobe, Pei Jingxiu was still carried home by Su Bancheng. Sitting at the back of Su Bancheng's car, Pei Jingxiu couldn't help but frown deeply when he saw Su Shaoqing throwing his guts up.

Su Bancheng gingerly lifted Su Shaoqing up and came very close to chucking him out of the car. After some time, they finally made it back to Su Shaoqing's villa, and the two carried Su Shaoqing up the stairs together. Su Bancheng looked into Pei Jingxiu's emotionless eyes and asked, "Mr. Pei came back this time for the Ning family?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 215

Pei Jingxiu rested one arm on the banister, lifted his head, and looked up at Su Bancheng. Even though the two weren't on equal footing, it didn't lessen Pei Jingxiu's strong aura one bit. He narrowed his eyes and chuckled coolly. "I'm afraid I don't quite understand what Mr. Jiang is referring to."

Su Bancheng looked at him with piercing eyes, "Mr. Pei should understand. Shaoqing is still a child. There are things that he's not suited to know or do!"

"Looks like Mr. Jiang really cares for Shaoqing. Similarly, I care for him too." Pei Jingxiu answered calmly. "I won't include him in certain matters. You don't have to worry about that."

Su Bancheng didn't relax even after hearing his assurance. "Then... your return?"

"To see old friends," Pei Jingxiu grinned. "If I came back for that matter, do you think I'd come to Jiang City instead of Sheen City?"

"Either way, I can't stop whatever Mr. Pei is intending to do. But my only request is to not involve Shaoqing. The Su family's future depends on him. He is the true heir after all."

"Did Mr. Jiang ask Shaoqing about his own wishes? These things that are important to you all might not be as important to him!" Having said that, Pei Jingxiu then turned around and left Su Shaoqing's place, with Su Bancheng solemnly looking on.

When Pei Jingxiu arrived at his own place, he could tell there was something off. He didn't turn on the lights but took a quick scan of his surroundings. A normal person would usually be less agile in the dark, but Pei Jingxiu was someone who had been in the darkness for a long period of time, and so he could quickly adjust to it.

He looked around again, then headed upstairs. The strange feeling he had grew stronger until someone pounced at him, but he deftly dodged the attack. Two shadows started fighting in the middle of the big study. But soon enough, Pei Jingxiu had the upper hand. He reached out and clenched onto the person's vital spot.

"Nine!"

Pei Jingxiu's voice sounded stern. "You've gotten slower!" The person called 'Nine' stood still for a while as if her neck wasn't the one being clenched. She smiled and asked, "Do you mean that I should take you down before you even set foot in here the next time?"

Pei Jingxiu relaxed his grip and went to turn on the lights.

The study brightened up. Pei Jingxiu stood by the door, with one hand on the frame and the other just hanging. He looked intently at the young girl in front of him.

The girl was dressed in all black and looked very chic. Her black hair was tied up, showing off her delicate face. This was the girl whom Pei Jingxiu referred to as 'Nine.' Her actual name was Ning Xi.

Ning Xi, too, was looking at Pei Jingxiu. She was surprised to find him wearing a nice-looking suit, something that was unusual for him. No wonder she thought that his moves were a little stiff. It must've been because of his clothes.

"You're late."

Pei Jingxiu checked the time on his watch. Ning Xi pouted slightly, "I'm not. You weren't even here."

But Pei Jingxiu wasn't listening to Ning Xi's explanations. "Go rest. The third room on the left is yours. I'll bring you to meet someone tomorrow."

Ning Xi froze for a second, but wasn't too surprised. "Yes, sir."

She knew the goal behind Pei Jingxiu's return and knew the role she had to play. To Pei Jingxiu, she was but a pawn. And the most important thing for a pawn was to be useful. In fact, it had to be so useful that the player wouldn't bear to discard it easily. Ning Xi was very familiar with this mindset, which was why she had been able to survive until now.

"Then I'll turn in for the night."

"Yup!" Pei Jingxiu answered without even looking up. It wasn't until Ning Xi left did he put his hands into his pockets. His dark eyes looked especially bright that night.

He looked at the bleak view outside of his window and frowned slightly.

It had been a few years since he came back, and it seemed like many things had changed. Even the people here seemed different.

Fu Chengyan had quite a lot to drink that night. And even though he appeared to be quite well-behaved, it was still a form of torture for Shi Nuan.

Since both of them weren't used to having outsiders in their house, they never hired any maids for the house even after they got married. Shi Nuan always liked it that way, but now that she had to take care of a drunk Fu Chengyan by herself, it was just too tiring.

After she finally managed to get Fu Chengyan's clothes off, Shi Nuan then hit another roadblock of needing to tow him into the bathroom. After much

deliberation, she could only bring over a basin of water and used it to wipe Fu Chengyan down. She busily tended to him until the wee hours of the night, and when she was finally done, she breathed a sigh of relief.

Good thing Fu Chengyan can take the toll. If he acted out or puke everywhere, I would really lose my mind.

It was very late by the time Shi Nuan fell asleep. She didn't know how long she'd slept when she suddenly felt herself getting rather warm. There was something soft pressing against her lips, and someone was on top of her.

"Umph.." Shi Nuan groaned and opened her eyes a little to see that Fu Chengyan was on top of her, with his lips wildly roaming across her face. There was no longer a single hint of him being drunk.

Fu Chengyan could tell that Shi Nuan had woken up. He placed his arms on either side of her and looked up at her. "You're up?"

His voice was lower than usual due to drinking all that alcohol. It was as if his voice had been steeped in wine and become richer. Shi Nuan was still out of it and wasn't completely aware of what was going on, even as she saw Fu Chengyan's face right in front of hers. It wasn't until Fu Chengyan's body pressed down on hers again did she open her eyes wide and quickly pushed him away. "Stop messing around. I'm too tired."

She had spent a whole chunk of last night tending to him. And yet, he was thinking about starting up right after waking up from a good rest. Shi Nuan was obviously exhausted, so she was unwilling to entertain him. "Stop messing around. I want to sleep!"

"You can get on with your sleep, and I'll do all the work." Fu Chengyan had completely awoken and was fully alert. How can I possibly fall asleep right now?

Plus, Shi Nuan looked particularly alluring that night, especially since the first sight he saw when he woke up was her nightgown riding up and revealing those slender, gorgeous legs of hers. His fire was lit right then and there.

Fu Chengyan never claimed to be a virtuous man. Moreover, the woman in front of him was his own legally married wife. It would be impossible to contain his urges.

“May, you can go ahead and sleep!”

“How am I supposed to sleep when you’re like this!” Shi Nuan pushed against Fu Chengyan’s chest and pouted, “Fu Chengyan, please don’t. Go back to sleep!”

“Alright, you sleep.” Fu Chengyan kissed the edge of her lips. “I can’t sleep. Let me give you a massage.”

“No!”

Shi Nuan wasn’t going to believe anything Fu Chengyan said just then. Ever since the two had gotten together, Fu Chengyan often went back on his word, especially when it came to matters of the bedroom. ‘You sleep and I’ll do the work?’ ‘Give you a massage?’ Hmmph! What kind of massage is this going to end up being?

“If you continue to mess around, then I’m going to get ang- oomph,” Shi Nuan’s lips were covered by Fu Chengyan’s own as his tongue flicked across her lips. It wasn’t lustful, but instead kind of sweet.

Fu Chengyan truly had the ability to make others fall head over heels for him. Just kissing alone could make Shi Nuan’s heart race faster, and her body no longer felt like it belonged to hers. “Yan, I... “

“Shhh. Just let me be at your service!”

This 'service' lasted as long as two hours, and Shi Nuan was completely exhausted after. She very nearly rolled her eyes in exasperation, thinking about what an animal Fu Chengyan was, not even allowing her one last breathe.

Shi Nuan was completely worn out, but Fu Chengyan, on the other hand, was completely content, having had his hunger satiated. Seeing how tired Shi Nuan was, he suddenly felt a little apologetic and tucked a strand of her damp hair behind her ear. Then, he gave her a peck on the lips and asked, "Do you want to take a shower?"

"No! I'm too tired!" Shi Nuan pouted. She really couldn't even open her eyes anymore. "Shush!"

"Alright. Go to sleep then." Fu Chengyan didn't bother her anymore seeing how worn out she was. He knew he had gone a little overboard earlier.

After that, he brought a basin over to wipe her down, then kissed her again. "Sleep. You can take a bath tomorrow morning."

Shi Nuan slept well into the day. It was a good thing that it was the weekend, and she didn't need to go to work or she would definitely be late.

Shi Nuan climbed out of bed but wasn't completely awake yet. After finally sitting for a while, she finally regained all her senses. That was when she saw all the marks covering her body. Shi Nuan tapped herself on the forehead and told herself, "Shi Nuan, Shi Nuan. You should really stand your ground next time." And not be lured by Fu Chengyan each time he seduces me.

She cursed herself silently before taking a look at the time, then went to the bathroom to wash up. By the time she went downstairs, an hour had passed.

Fu Chengyan had already busied himself for a while and was then in the living room tending to more work. Hearing footsteps coming down the stairs, he looked up and asked, "You're up?"

Shi Nuan nodded. She could feel her legs still trembling and couldn't help but glare at the culprit.

But the culprit had no self-awareness. Instead, Fu Chengyan just grinned and waved Shi Nuan over, "Come here!"

Yet, Shi Nuan just stood there as if she was throwing a fit. "You're not allowed in the bedroom tonight!"

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow and grinned. "Oh? Is Mrs. Fu saying..."

"I'm not saying anything. Anyway, you're not allowed in the bedroom!" Shi Nuan was worried that if he continued to have his way with her a few more times, she wouldn't be able to handle it.

Fu Chengyan, looking deep in thought, questioned, "Oh? Is Mrs. Fu saying that the bedroom is getting boring and she would like to try the study? Or the kitchen? Or maybe the living room? How about the verandah?"