

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 221

“Cruel?”

Pei Jingxiu regarded Ning Xi with incredulity, as if she had said something absurd. He raised his brow and feigned a smile with barely veiled coldness in his eyes. He pulled the car to a stop and shifted his body to face Ning Xi.

He lifted Ning Xi’s chin and stared straight at her with his deep, alluring eyes.

Ning Xi almost lost herself in Pei Jingxiu’s captivating eyes. Pei Jingxiu reached his hand towards her, and his tapered finger brushed her chin softly, as if he were caressing on a precious gem. But Ning Xi knew that Pei Jingxiu had uncloaked his devilish nature. Ning Xi was trembling in fear, and she wished to break free from his grasp.

She heard his voice, “Nine, do you still remember our first encounter?”

Ning Xi’s body was shaking uncontrollably and her face was gloomy. She pursed her lips and avoided his gaze. “I don’t remember.”

“How could you forget those memories? When you lose your dignity, that’s when you would realize what you truly want. Just like you would do anything to survive and achieve your goals when I first met you. Nothing is impossible.”

“But it’s a sin that led to our encounter. That’s my punishment,” Ning Xi blurted out, “If I had a choice, I would rather we never met each other.”

Pei Jingxiu curled his lips, “I don’t believe in fate.” He caressed her jawline and tilted her head, “People are often willing to make sacrifices in order to get what they want. There’s nothing wrong with it.”

“Nine, you can devote yourself to benevolence once you get what you want. God will forgive your sins.” He let out a chuckle, “Are you scared?”

Ning Xi remained silent and Pei Jingxiu raised his brow, “You won’t be afraid if you think about your desires. Keep your eye on the prize – let your ambitions drive you forward. By the way, since we’re in Jiang City, don’t you want to meet those good friends of yours? Or maybe we can revisit the place where we first met?”

Ning Xin pursed her lips and glowered at him, “There is no need. I’m tired and I need some rest!”

Pei Jingxiu curled his lips, “Fine!”

Ning Xi closed her eyes, but her past still haunted her no matter how hard she tried to forget it.

Pei Jingxiu was right; she refused to relive what she had gone through in the past. It was her fate to meet Pei Jingxiu, then she would accept it regardless of the outcome.

Ning Xin turned her back on Pei Jingxiu to shield herself from his ruthlessness and aloofness.

It was the end of the year, and all companies were busy preparing for their annual meeting. As the leading enterprise of Jiang City, Shengyuan’s annual meeting had always been grand and extravagant.

Mai Qi had a lot on her plate for the past few days. For the past years, she had her subordinates to help her organize the function, but not this year. Song Jingyu

was eager to impress, so she turned down the company's assignment of helpers. She was overambitious by claiming that she could work it out all by herself.

But Song Jingyu was born with silver spoon in her mouth, and she couldn't even put forward a decent proposal. Although it's only an annual meeting, there was an enormous amount of preparation that needed to be done.

Song Jingyu was no help at all; Mai Qi already had her hands full and she even needed to prepare the annual report. Mai Qi was on the verge of filing her resignation but she managed to hold herself back. She reminded herself that it was impossible to find another company that would allow her to make good money like Shengyuan.

Fortunately, Fu Chengyan was a thoughtful superior. He was aware of Song Jingyu's incompetence, so he had asked Zhou Zheng to assign a few co-workers. Although they were running a few days late, it was still possible to pull it off in time.

Shi Nuan had just finished her project report when she received a call from Fu Chengyan asking her to go to his office. Shi Nuan came out of the elevator and found Mai Qi, who looked worn out. Mai Qi was holding a towering stack of files in her arms. A few sheets of document slipped her hold, so Shi Nuan stooped down to reach for them, "Mai Qi, what happened to you?"

"Nothing!" Mai Qi shook her head, "Ms. Shi, why are you here today?"

Shi Nuan flashed the report that she was holding, "It's the latest project report to be reviewed by Mr. Fu."

"Oh, okay. Mr. Fu is in the office." Mai Qi smiled, "Mr. Fu seems to be in a bad mood today, be mindful and good luck!"

Shi Nuan nodded and gave her an 'OK' gesture, "Thanks!"

“No problem, you can go inside now. I’m slammed with the preparation work for the annual meeting.”

“Alright, I’ll let you get back to work!” Shi Nuan watched Mai Qi as she marched out of sight. She recalled that there were only a few days left before the annual meeting. If they were still in the midst of the preparation work, it implied that they were in dire straits.

Shi Nuan knocked on the door and heard Fu Chengyan’s voice, “Come in!”

Shi Nuan pushed the door open and found Fu Chengyan pinching the bridge of his nose; he looked exhausted.

Shi Nuan approached him and placed the project report on Fu Chengyan’s desk. Then, she moved behind Fu Chengyan, rested his head on the leather chair, and massaged his temples. “Are you tired?”

“Feeling better now!”

Fu Chengyan closed his eyes and loosened up. “Tell me about your project report!”

“I covered almost everything on the phone. As I mentioned, there are no major problems, it’s just that George is a perfectionist, so he asked me and Mr. Lin to come up with another design as an alternative.”

“George is indeed a stickler for perfection.” Fu Chengyan motioned Shi Nuan to stop the massaging and looked through her report. “Not bad, it’s definitely better than the previous report, and the calculations are more accurate. It seems like George is training you to become his apprentice.”

“Really?” Shi Nuan was surprised, “But isn’t Mr. Lin George’s apprentice?”

“Lin Yu is skilled and he doesn’t need George’s guidance. You, on the other hand, should take the opportunity to learn from George. George is an avant-garde architect and he holds a different style from Lin Yu.”

“Okay, I will!” Shi Nuan nodded, “Are you still tired? Do you want me to massage your temples?”

Shaking his head, Fu Chengyan he held Shi Nuan’s hand and led her to the sofa. Then, he rested Shi Nuan’s hand on his thigh and started toying with her fingers with childish enthusiasm.

Shi Nuan remained silent as she studied Fu Chengyan before retracting her hand. “I’ll be going now since there’s nothing else. I still have a lot of work at hand!”

“Don’t go!” Fu Chengyan took Shi Nuan’s hand, “Sit here and keep me company for a while!”

“What’s wrong?” Shi Nuan sensed his despondency. “I ran into Mai Qi just now and she said you’re in a bad mood. Is it about work?”

“It’s nothing!” Fu Chengyan shook his head, “It’s nothing important.”

“Fine, but promise me that you’ll tell me when you have any problems.” Shi Nuan decided to stay quietly by his side when a thought struck her. “Oh, are you really leaving the annual meeting up to Mai Qi and Song Jingyu?”

“Why?” Fu Chengyan lifted his head. “Is there anything amiss?”

“No, it’s just that people are talking about the annual meeting. They think our company cares little about this year’s annual meeting because Mai Qi is the only one doing all the preparation work while Song Jingyu contributes nothing.” Shi Nuan never regarded Song Jingyu with disfavor. However, she opined that Song Jingyu should complete the tasks entrusted by the company since she was an employee of Shengyuan.

But it seemed that Shi Nuan had overestimated Song Jingyu's capability. She was inept when it came to handling her tasks as she had never worked for a living. "Mai Qi needs to shoulder such an onerous task all by herself. She looks extremely tired lately."

"Then do you have any suggestions, May?" Fu Chengyan chuckled, "Mai Qi is my secretary and she's competent, so don't you worry about her. And I'll send Song Jingyu away when it's time, but not now. It's inappropriate to embarrass the Song family during the end of the year."

"Don't get me wrong. It doesn't matter whether you send her away or not because she doesn't pose a threat to our relationship." Shi Nuan was unwilling to pressure Fu Chengyan. "You can do as you please!"

"Alright!" A smile played on Fu Chengyan's lips, "May, you're so understanding."

"Of course." Shi Nuan smiled, "I really got to go. I'll wait for you at your underground garage when I get off work. You'll finish on time, right? Aunt Ning said she wants to have steamed fish head with chili peppers tonight. We need to buy it from the fishmonger."

"Uncle didn't buy it?" Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. "All he does is give orders."

"Uncle needs to keep Aunt Ning company. And I realized Aunt Ning is in a fine fettle recently," Shi Nuan said with a smile. She got to her feet, rested her weight on Fu Chengyan's shoulder, and pecked him on the lips, "I'll get going now!"

Song Jingyu was leaving the secretary's office when she saw Shi Nuan coming out of Fu Chengyan's office.

Her figure was familiar to Song Jingyu because she would come across her on the twenty-seventh office floor every so often. Song Jingyu had inquired about her and found out that she was Shi Nuan — the woman who was a frequenter of

Fu Chengyan's office. Song Jingyu heard that she was Lin Yu's chief assistant from the project management department.

Song Jingyu stared at Shi Nuan's back grimly. She fixated her gaze at the direction where Shi Nuan had left and was so enraged that she broke her pen in half.

She had asked Mai Qi about Shi Nuan, and Mai Qi had said that this woman posed no threat to her. However, Song Jingyu's gut feeling told her that that woman was up to no good. Why else would she come to Fu Chengyan's office so frequently?

"Ms. Song?"

Mai Qi noticed that Song Jingyu was standing stock-still and with her eyes glazed over. She traced her gaze but saw nothing in particular. "Ms. Song, why are you standing here? Let's hurry to the site. We still need to work out the details for the decorations."

"Mai Qi, do you have any idea about the relationship between Shi Nuan and Yan? Why does she go to Yan's office so often?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 222

Shi Nuan?

Mai Qi froze. Did Song Jingyu see Shi Nuan just now?

Mai Qi tried to play dumb, “They have an employer-employee relationship. Ms. Shi comes to Mr. Fu’s office when he needs her to take care of some work, otherwise, she usually doesn’t step foot on the twenty-seventh floor. Maybe you’ve misunderstood something, Ms. Song?”

Yet Song Jingyu gritted her teeth and asked, “Misunderstood? Why is it that Yan only asks for her and no one else?”

“Ms. Song, Mr. Fu asks for whoever he needs and can assist him. It’s not just Ms. Shi.”

“But she’s the only female!” No matter what Mai Qi said, Song Jingyu could tell that this Shi Nuan was different. Maybe it was a women’s intuition. Each time she saw Shi Nuan going into Fu Chengyan’s office, she would feel uneasy. “I don’t care! Go and investigate this matter for me. This Shi Nuan must be some floozy. Tell me if you dig up any dirt on her. We must have this woman stay far away from Shengyuan and far away from Yan!”

Mai Qi furrowed her brows, “That doesn’t seem like a great idea. She’s from the project management department. I...”

“Mai Qi, aren’t we best friends?” Song Jingyu grabbed onto Mai Qi’s hand, “You’re free tonight, right? Let’s go shopping! I remember there’s a nice French restaurant that just opened. My treat!”

“Um...” Mai Qi smiled awkwardly, pulled her hand back, and nodded. “Fine. I’ll try to look into Shi Nuan.”

Inside Fu Chengyan’s office, Fu Chengyan was holding the annual meeting’s agenda in one hand and a pen in the other. He frowned and looked up at Mai Qi. “Did she really say that?”

“Yes. Ms. Song also asked me to have French cuisine with her tonight. She seems to be terribly biased against Shi Nuan. I don’t know why, but every time she sees her, she just gets super emotional.”

“She saw Shi Nuan?” asked Fu Chengyan.

Mai Qi froze. “I’m not too sure. Probably not. I think she’s only seen her back view a few times. But her emotions fluctuate heavily which makes me think Ms. Song might be...” Mai Qi hesitated, not knowing how to best verbalize her thoughts.

Fu Chengyan chuckled coldly and placed his pen down. “You think she’s mentally unwell?”

“I’m sorry, Mr. Fu.” Mai Qi quickly apologized, “I don’t mean to gossip about Ms. Song, I just...”

Fu Chengyan raised his hand and smiled, “It’s okay. It’s true that she’s a little abnormal. Keep this to yourself, and don’t tell anyone else.”

“Yes, sir!” Of course, Mai Qi wouldn’t share that with anyone else. Even if Fu Chengyan didn’t like Song Jingyu, she was still considered an important person. No way would she dare spread that kind of news.

“Since Song Jingyu asked you to look into Shi Nuan, you should go ahead and do it.”

“Ah, is that okay? After all, Ms. Shi...”

Mai Qi felt sorry for Shi Nuan, having done nothing wrong, and yet, ending up in Song Jingyu's crosshairs. Fu Chengyan waved his hand, "I'll have Zhou Zheng pass you the investigation results in a few days, and you can just pass it along to Song Jingyu directly."

"Yes, sir." Mai Qi saw no reason to rebut Fu Chengyan's decision. "Then, Mr. Fu. Is everything okay with the agenda? If there are no issues, I'll go ahead with them."

"Basically, it all looks alright. But I see that we haven't confirmed any artists from Xinhuang yet. Do you have other ideas?"

"I went to Xinhuang, however, the person-in-charge there couldn't provide a final list." Mai Qi paused before continuing, "The two rookies Xinhuang has been pushing these years aren't bad, but Mr. Zhou thinks they're still too green, so I haven't made a final decision yet. Does Mr. Fu have any suggestions?"

"Let Zhou Zheng himself decide. You don't need to worry about this any longer."

Xinhuang Entertainment.

The news of Shengyuan's annual meeting would naturally travel to Xinhuang. Producer Qin Hong was having a meeting with some of the more senior members of Xinhuang. Each year, Xinhuang would send a few of their artists over; and for those artists, that meant that they were looked favorably upon by Xinhuang. Plenty of artists would try and find a way to attend, and yet, only a few would be chosen.

The names who ended up being shortlisted this year were Xinhuang's top artist, Bai Qing, and a newly signed rookie, Hai Na. The rest had yet to be confirmed.

In the meantime, Guan Jing was being kept busy inside Shi Wei's waiting room. Shi Wei had just finished filming over at Xiangshan and was originally getting over her jet lag at home. Who knew Guan Jing would suddenly summon her over.

“What’s the matter?” Shi Wei was terribly busy with filming and had only just finished. Who knew when she finally returned, Fu Xicheng would have his head buried in work and didn’t have any time for her. She very nearly had a huge fight with him over this.

It was only later when Shi Wei found out that Fu Xicheng was in a bad mood because Fucheng didn’t manage to get on board with Shengyuan’s West City project. Shi Wei couldn’t help but wonder about the relationship between Fu Xicheng’s Fu family and Fu Chengyan’s Fu family, and why he couldn’t even manage such a small partnership deal.

“It’s naturally something good.” Guan Jing smiled while closing the door and holding Shi Wei’s hand. “Don’t you know that someone from headquarters is coming by today?”

“Headquarters? You mean Shengyuan?” Shi Wei wondered. “But it’s normal for people from Shengyuan to stop by. They come once every few days.”

“But the person coming by this time is someone who’s close to Mr. Fu, Zhou Zheng!” Guan Jing explained excitedly. “Rumor has it he’s here to discuss matters regarding Shengyuan’s annual meeting.”

“Shengyuan’s annual meeting? What does that have to do with Xinhuang?” Even though Shi Wei knew Xinhuang was a subsidiary of Shengyuan, but Xinhuang was more or less running independently and was no longer closely linked with Shengyuan. So Shi Wei couldn’t understand what Shengyuan’s annual meeting had to do with Xinhuang.

“That’s what you don’t know. We only just signed with Xinhuang this year, so we don’t know their rules. I heard that every year, Xinhuang would send a few artists to Shengyuan’s annual meeting to liven up the event. Those who get to attend are those who are deemed valuable to Xinhuang. Also, with so many people at Shengyuan, there’s bound to be media there so it’ll be a good promotional activity. Think about it. If you get to go and say a few words with Fu Chengyan, your status and social standing will skyrocket!”

“You’re thinking of having me join this annual meeting?” Shi Wei’s eyes shone brightly. Even though she joined Xinhuang for a few months now, but other than appearing in television shows, she hadn’t gotten any other schedules.

Shi Wei had been highly valued at her previous agency but was now being overlooked at Xinhuang. It wasn’t a great feeling at all.

“Is these information correct?”

“Of course they are! Zhou Zheng has gone to meet with the senior executives to discuss this matter. And Shengyuan’s annual meeting is about to start, so this attendance list has to be locked in soon. What I’m saying is, you have to grab onto this chance. That’s why I asked you to hurry over here.”

Guang Jing looked over at Su Su, who was sitting quietly in the corner. She was pleasantly surprised by Su Su’s look but quickly hid any reaction. “Su Su, don’t you agree with me?”

“Huh?” Su Su froze after suddenly hearing her name, then looked towards Shi Wei. “Wei, I think Guan Jing is right. We should grab this chance and show off ourselves at this annual meeting. Didn’t you tell me before that Fucheng...”

“It’s decided then!” Shi Wei remembered the incident and quickly nodded. “I’ll join, but what about the list the senior executives decided on?”

“I heard that there’s Bai Qing and Hai Na, but I’m not sure about the rest. Wei, you’re so beautiful, and you were already quite popular. If it wasn’t for what happened before, you’d already been an A-lister. Even Bai Qing is going, why can’t you?”

“Guan Jing, you’re right. I must attend Shengyuan’s annual meeting!”

“That’s right! Also, I heard that the fashion company, St. Dee, which is another subsidiary of Shengyuan, is looking for a spokesperson, so this could be a great opportunity!” Guan Jing quickly dumped all the information she had gathered on

Shi Wei, which only made her more adamant about attending the annual meeting. “Then what should I do now?”

“Find Zhou Zheng. He’s close to Fu Chengyan, so just one word from him will trump whatever Xinhuang’s senior executives have to say,” Su Su suddenly offered, catching Guan Jing and Shi Wei’s attention.

“Yeah! Su Su’s right! Go find Zhou Zheng. Who knew you would suddenly be so insightful!” Guan Jing looked at Su Su appreciatively, making Su Su feel a little embarrassed. “No, no. This is only because you taught me well.”

Naturally, Guan Jing felt very satisfied upon hearing that. “Su Su, it seems I made the right choice choosing you to be Wei’s assistant. Remember to always take good care of her.”

“I understand.”

“Then what are we waiting for? Let’s go find Zhou Zheng right away! Shi Wei couldn’t wait for one second longer. She was now aching to appear at Shengyuan’s annual meeting and raise her social status and value. And if she could land the endorsement deal at St. Dee, then she would be the face of Shengyuan. She would be rolling in benefits from then on.

“Hold on.” Su Su shook her head. “Mr. Zhou is still in the meeting. We should... go to the carpark and wait for Zhou Zheng there to have a one-to-one conversation.” Su Su continued to rack her brain, “Guan Jing, do you know what Zhou Zheng usually likes?”

“Erm...” Guan Jing actually had no idea.

After all Zhou Zheng worked for Fu Chengyan and was by his side most of the time, so he was always at Shengyuan and hardly ever appeared at Xinhuang. And Guan Jing had too just joined Xinhuang not too long ago. Who would find out an assistant’s personal preferences?

Shi Wei furrowed her brows, “Then what should we do? What if Zhou Zheng doesn’t agree to this?”

“Wei, don’t worry. We’ll think of a way.”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 223

After Zhou Zheng finished his meeting at Xinhuang, he headed to the parking lot and saw two people standing beside his car. One was Guan Jing and the other Su Su. He played with his keys while he stared curiously at the two women. “What are the two of you doing next to my car?”

“Mr. Zhou!” Guan Jing and Su Su both recognized Zhou Zheng. After all, he was such an important person to Fu Chengyan, so they naturally would know.

Zhou Zheng raised an eyebrow, “You’re looking for me?”

“Mr. Zhou, could we have a word with you please?” Guan Jing knew how to conduct herself, and after looking around her, she got right to the point. “It’s regarding Shengyuan’s annual meeting. I’d like to discuss some things with you, Mr. Zhou.”

“Shengyuan’s annual meeting? Ms. Guan sure knows a lot of things!” Zhou Zheng gave a small smile while playing with his keys. “How did you know about it?”

“I naturally have my ways. I was just hoping to hear whether the attendance list has been confirmed?” Guan Jing offered a red packet to Zhou Zheng while saying this. Zhou Zheng smiled but didn’t reach for the red packet. Instead, he looked at Su Su, who was standing beside Guan Jing. “Aren’t you the one who’s always around Ms. Shi?”

“Mr. Zhou, my name is Su Su. I’m now working as her assistant,” explained Su Su.

“Assistant?” wondered Zhou Zheng. “With such good traits, isn’t it a shame for you to be just an assistant?”

Su Su was actually quite pretty and even on the same level as Shi Wei. The only difference was Su Su kept a low profile and didn’t style herself as flashily as Shi Wei, so naturally wasn’t as eye-catching as her.

Su Su’s eyes darted when she heard what Zhou Zheng said, but quickly answered, “Mr. Zhou is exaggerating. As for Shengyuan’s annual meeting…”

“How about this. It’s nearly lunch hour, and this isn’t a great place to have a discussion.” Zhou Zheng looked at his watch and continued, “I have a two-hour break, so I’ll see what the two of you have to offer to persuade me.”

Zhou Zheng opened his car door and asked, “Will the two of you be taking my car or…?”

“That won’t be necessary, we have our own ride.” Su Su pointed to the car. Zhou Zheng looked to where she was pointing, narrowed his eyes, and asked, “Ms. Shi is here as well?”

“Yes, Mr. Zhou.”

Zhou Zheng grinned lightly. “Might as well. I know of a nice restaurant nearby. If we’re going to talk, then we should have a proper conversation,” said Zhou Zheng, before getting in his car.

Su Su and Guan Jing looked at each other, then headed towards their own car.

Shi Wei had been observing from inside the car, and upon seeing Su Su and Guan Jing, hurriedly asked, “What did Zhou Zheng say?”

“Zhou Zheng agreed to have a conversation, but let us have lunch first. Are you joining us?” Su Su asked. Though Shi Wei doesn’t always listen to Guan Jing,

she listened well to Su Su. The two of them had been discussing about ways to break the news to Shi Wei while they were walking toward the car.

Shi Wei frowned, "Have lunch with him?" To be honest, Shi Wei wasn't too willing to dine with Zhou Zheng. Even though he was Fu Chengyan's assistant, at the end of the day, he was still just an assistant, and Shi Wei couldn't bear to lower herself to dine with him.

Su Su and Guan Jing looked at each other before Guan Jing suggested, "If that's the case, Su Su and I will go and check things out first and see what Zhou Zheng's thoughts are. If he agrees then that'll be best; and if he doesn't, then we'll just think of another way."

"Guan Jing is right. We definitely have to go to this lunch today since we're the ones asking for a favor. Wei, if you can't go, Guan Jing and I will head there first."

"Alright," nodded Shi Wei. She grabbed Su Su's hand and said, "As expected, you know me well. I still need to head to Xicheng's office later, so I won't join the two of you. You can just drop me off at the intersection up ahead."

"Sure!"

Shi Wei put on sunglasses and disguised herself before getting off the car, and only then did Su Su stop smiling and quietly sat back.

Guan Jing noticed Su Su's change in demeanor and asked, "Aren't you good friends with Shi Wei?"

Su Su turned around, "Yes, we're good friends! Don't you know, we've always been really good friends!" But the expression on Su Su's face didn't match her words at all.

Guan Jing raised an eyebrow and guessed that Su Su was hiding something, but it wasn't something of her concern. "I'm not concerned with what goes on between you and Shi Wei as long as it doesn't affect me."

“Don’t you worry, I won’t get into any conflicts with her. After all, I’m Wei’s good friend. All that I do is in her best interest!”

Guan Jing looked at Su Su with a mixed expression and slightly shook her head, but didn’t say anything further.

Their car tailed behind Zhou Zheng’s the whole way, and after arriving at the restaurant, both got off the car.

Zhou Zheng was leaning against his car when he noticed that only Su Su and Guan Jing were there, but he didn’t seem too surprised.

Both saw that Zhou Zheng wasn’t too concerned, so they wisely didn’t say anything regarding Shi Wei and hurried after him.

“Mr. Zhou, you’re here?”

The manager of the restaurant recognized Zhou Zheng and knew that he was someone close to Fu Chengyan. He quickly brought the three of them to a private room. “We reserved this room for you. Will it be okay?”

“Yes, that’s fine. You can hand the menu to the two ladies.” Zhou Zheng pulled the chairs for both women and waited for them to be seated like the perfect gentleman, before indicating for them to place their orders.

While Guan Jing and Su Su still felt reserved around Zhou Zheng, he was feeling pretty relaxed. After seeing that they had finished placing their orders, Zhou Zheng stated, “Actually, even if the two of you hadn’t come to find me, I would have also made my decision.”

Su Su and Guan Jing both raised their heads, anticipating Zhou Zheng’s further elaboration.

Zhou Zheng grinned, “Shi Wei has good traits, and her image is good. Seeing that she’s also highly valued by Xinhuang, having her attend Shengyuan’s annual meeting would naturally be a good fit.”

Guan Jing breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing that. “You’re a visionary, Mr. Zhou!”

Zhou Zheng raised an eyebrow, “Oh really?”

Guan Jing suddenly panicked, “Is... Shi Wei not shortlisted?”

“It’s not that. But Ms. Guan should understand that I’m just an assistant. So while I can submit a list for consideration, the person who makes the final decision is still Mr. Fu.”

“But hasn’t Mr. Fu delegated this to Mr. Zhou?” Guan Jing had also just found this out, and it was why she had wanted to have a conversation with Zhou Zheng in the first place.

The silly Shi Wei might not know the true capabilities of Zhou Zheng, but Guan Jing had spent time learning about the higher-ups in Xinhuang. That was how Guan Jing found out that Fu Chengyan barely tended to matters at Xinhuang and the decision-making all fell on Zhou Zheng.

So basically, whatever resources were planned for the artists at Xinhuang had to get approval from Zhou Zheng, while Fu Chengyan would not necessarily even be aware. So Zhou Zheng’s identity was far more than just that of Fu Chengyan’s assistant.

Zhou Zheng smiled, “It seems like Ms. Guan is quite familiar with Xinhuang’s human resources.”

While Zhou Zheng’s words seemed normal on the surface, Guan Jing could read between the lines. She quickly explained, “Mr. Zhou, I didn’t mean anything by that. Shi Wei is my artist, so naturally, I wish for her to do well.”

Zhou Zheng nodded. "Go back and wait for good news then, Ms. Guan."

Guan Jing's eyes shone when she heard that. "Thank you, Mr. Zhou!"

"No need to thank me." After all, this was a direct order from Fu Chengyan. He had made it clear that Shi Wei was to attend the annual meeting. But as to the reason behind it, Zhou Zheng could only guess it had something to do with Shi Nuan.

Guan Jing and Su Su were both meticulous, so not much else was said during lunch. Guan Jing left right after to tend to some urgent business, while Su Su stayed on. She looked at Zhou Zheng hesitantly.

Zhou Zheng put down the napkin he was using and asked, "Ms. Su has something to say?"

"Mr. Zhou, why are you giving Shi Wei such an opportunity? If she goes, she'll become a hot commodity in the entertainment industry. She'll..."

"Isn't that a good thing?" Zhou Zheng asked Su Su in return. "She's your best friend, don't you want her to become more popular?"

Su Su bit her lips and clenched her fists, not even realizing her nails were biting into her palm.

Of course, not! Why would I want Shi Wei to become more popular? All I wanted was for Shi Wei to fall into a deep abyss and never find a way out. Otherwise, why would I sacrifice working in my family's business and choose to work for Shi Wei as a lowly assistant? I had to endure all this just so I can personally witness Shi Wei's destruction, step-by-step.

Shi Wei didn't deserve a life of smooth-sailing. Especially not when she used me and Anna as stepping stones to reach her success.

Zhou Zheng could see the fiery hatred in Su Su's eyes. He grinned and passed a napkin to her. Su Su looked up in surprise, only to realize that she had been crying.

Su Su reached for the napkin and quickly wiped her tears. "My apologies. I shouldn't have let Mr. Zhou see that."

"Ms. Su, a person should look ahead. After all, there is such a thing as karma."

"But I can't wait any longer!" Su Su was being truthful. She was in much pain, seeing how Shi Wei was enjoying more and more success each day.

"There are some things that are worth waiting for. Would you rather see her fail now or have her stand at the peak of success before suddenly crashing down? Which scenario do you think would cause her more pain?"

Su Su looked up in disbelief. "Mr. Zhou, do you have a grudge against Shi Wei? Why is Zhou Zheng being so cruel towards her?"

Zhou Zheng didn't say anything and just tapped his fingers on the table. "I'll contact Ms. Su when the chance arises, and you too should let me know if anything happens. You should know, you are the one who willingly initiated this partnership. I didn't force you."

"I understand. I will report all of Shi Wei's matters to you, but you too mustn't forget what you promised me." Seeing that Zhou Zheng wasn't willing to share anything more on the matter, Su Su decided to not press him further. As long as they had the same goal, then it was good enough. She would find out the reason behind their animosity sooner or later.

"Don't worry. Since I made a promise to you, I'll naturally uphold it. You can be sure to expect some good news!" Zhou Zheng got up to leave but quickly turned back around. "Oh! Ms. Su has some great traits too. Don't you want to give the entertainment industry a try yourself?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 224

Zhou Zheng handed Xinhuang's shortlisted names to Fu Chengyan, of which Shi Wei wasn't included. Fu Chengyan took a quick glance before chucking it on the table. "No one in Xinhuang fancies Shi Wei?"

Zhou Zheng shook his head. "From what I hear, Shi Wei doesn't get along well with others and doesn't mingle much with Xinhuang's other artists. She scoffs at the veteran artists and looks down at the newer ones." Zhou Zheng truly felt that it was a miracle Shi Wei had survived in the entertainment industry for so long with that personality of hers. If it wasn't for a good manager, Shi Wei would've likely been buried long ago.

Fu Chengyan grinned, "Put her name on the list. Then we have Bai Qing and Hai Na. And add another..." Fu Chengyan looked through the list again. "Her!" he pointed. "I heard Shi Wei's manager came to look for you?"

Zhou Zheng froze. "Mr. Fu, you really are something!" He hadn't even reported this to Fu Chengyan, and yet he already knew.

Fu Chengyan looked up and gave Zhou Zheng a look. "Qin Hong saw Shi Wei's car when she went down to look for you.

Ahh, so it was Qin Hong who told Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan rarely paid attention to Xinhuang's matters. If it wasn't to get Shi Wei onto the list, Fu Chengyan most likely wouldn't even have bothered with any of this. "Guan Jing hopes that Shi Wei can attend Shengyuan's annual meeting. But I'm a little confused. You want her to join?"

“It’s alright, you don’t have to understand it now. Just follow my instructions.” Fu Chengyan returned the name list to Zhou Zheng. “Let Qin Hong know to finalize these four and have them prepare. Also, finalize all the programs for that day.”

“Yes, sir.”

After Zhou Zheng left, Fu Chengyan received a call from Song Zhenyan. “Yan, I heard your Uncle went to stay at Wutong Residence?”

Fu Chengyan didn’t answer Song Zhenyan’s question, which only angered her greatly. Song Zhenyan hadn’t known about this until she heard the servants at the Fu family home commenting about Fu Heng moving some of his stuff to Wutong Residence. It was only then when Song Zhenyan realized that Fu Heng and Ning Xin had moved out instead of just taking a short trip. This was a shocking piece of news for her.

Song Zhenyan was Fu Chengyan’s biological mother, but their relationship these recent years weren’t that great and had even gotten pretty icy at one point. The incident from three years ago had also caused Fu Chengyan to completely lose his patience with her.

His mother, Song Zhenyan, was always a proud woman. How can I bear to see my own son not only distancing himself from me but also getting closer to Fu Heng and Ning Xin?

That Ning Xin. I hate her! Way back then, Ning Xin was a nobody when compared to me. And yet, that nobody somehow managed to get her hands on Fu Heng and have him be so dedicated to her. Who knew what lengths she had gone to!

Song Zhenyan gritted her teeth, “Yan, you are my son, not Ning Xin’s. For all these years, you’ve been so nice to her. Have you thought about how that makes me feel?” She just couldn’t watch Fu Chengyan be nice to Ning Xin. In fact, she couldn’t stand anyone treating Ning Xin nicely.

Who does she think she is? What does she have? Nothing! She has nothing but racked with illnesses, that is!

Song Zhenyan's face twisted in anger and roared, "Yan! I'm your biological mother! Me!"

"You don't have to remind me, mother. I have never denied this fact."

"But you..."

"I treat her well because she's Uncle's wife, and she was the one who raised me. I don't think what I'm saying is wrong. Mother, don't forget you were the one who didn't want me and abandoned me when I was young, so you shouldn't ask for too much now. You're my biological mother, and that's a fact no one can change."

"Yan!" Song Zhenyan got a chill up her spine when she heard what Fu Chengyan said. She was truly afraid that Fu Chengyan would say even more hurtful things.

"Well, if you don't have any other matters, I'll get back to work now."

"Yan!" Song Zhenyan quickly stopped Fu Chengyan from hanging up. "It's been so many years, and you still can't forgive me? The reason I came back was to make amends. Yan, I'm still your mother. Everything I do is for your own good. Can't you forgive me? I..."

"What are you trying to say, mother?"

Just then, Mai Qi entered the office but was signaled by Fu Chengyan to remain silent. "If it's nothing important, then it can wait till I get off work."

"Yan, I don't have any hidden agendas. But since your Uncle and Aunt can stay at your residence, then I would like to go too. You keep saying I abandoned you, but now that I'm here to make amends, shouldn't you give me a chance and some time? You're so good to Ning Xin because she accompanied you when you

were growing up. So I'm promising you now, I will stay beside you. Let me stay at Wutong Residence?"

"There's no need for that," Fu Chengyan rejected the idea immediately. "Uncle and Aunt are just staying there because they want a change of scenery, and it'll be good for Aunt's health. As for you, mother, there are so many rooms at the Fu family house that you can stay in whichever one you please. I'm already an adult, so I don't need you to watch over me nor do I have the time."

Fu Chengyan hung up the phone right away, with a cold expression on his face.

As for Mai Qi, she was standing to the side, frozen, waiting for further instructions from Fu Chengyan. Heaven knows how much she wanted to escape from the office earlier. It was actually the first time Mai Qi had heard Fu Chengyan talk about his family matters.

Even though Mai Qi was quite curious about Fu Chengyan's family, she wasn't someone to go prodding into others' personal matters. Having heard such a big secret now, Mai Qi couldn't help but break out in cold sweat.

Fu Chengyan frowned slightly, "Don't you have something to say?"

Mai Qi quickly regained her composure. "Mr. Fu, in regards to the annual meeting, Mr. Zhou has given me the finalized list from Xinhuang. I've drawn up a rough program schedule. Since Bai Qing is Xinhuang's top artist and is the most senior of the bunch, I've put her in the second-last slot. Your speech will be the last item. As for Shi Wei... where should she go?"

"Up to you. You can make decisions for these small matters without going through me."

"And how about your opening dance, sir? In the previous years..." Mai Qi paused. She never needed to ask before because Fu Chengyan would always request her to be his dance partner.

Mai Qi knew very well it hadn't anything to do with her and more to do with Fu Chengyan finding it bothersome to pick anyone else. And Fu Chengyan never liked being touched by anyone he wasn't familiar with, especially women.

One of the reasons Mai Qi was able to stay at Fu Chengyan's side for so many years was because she never had any intentions towards him.

But Song Jingyu was here this year. If Fu Chengyan still chose to dance with her, she was worried she would be pummeled by Song Jingyu. And there was something else more important. Fu Chengyan had changed somewhat this past year, so Mai Qi had a hunch that Fu Chengyan had a candidate in mind to be his dance partner.

When Fu Chengyan heard this, his grey mood immediately dispersed. He gave Mai Qi an appreciative look, "What do you think?"

"I think this year should be different from the others. I had always been Mr. Fu's dance partner, and it's becoming old news." Mai Qi saw that Fu Chengyan didn't have any other reaction thus breathed a sigh of relief. "Does Mr. Fu have any candidates in mind?"

Fu Chengyan looked up at her and indicated her to continue. Mai Qi took a deep breath, "I think Mr. Fu is young and capable, and there are many women in the company who think highly of you. If... if we were to use a lottery system to choose your dance partner, it would be a kind of benefit for our employees too. What do you think, sir?"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. "You want to pimp me out?"

"No, no, no! That's not what I meant! It's just that I'm sure Mr. Fu has grown bored of dancing with me all these years. And there are plenty of really great female employees in our company." Mai Qi plucked up her courage to look at Fu Chengyan, "For example, Ms. Shi in the project management department. She looks great, is sophisticated, and is very well-mannered too!"

Mai Qi studied Fu Chengyan's expression as she made her pitch and noticed that his stern expression gradually softened. It was most noticeable when she mentioned Shi Nuan's name.

Mai Qi knew her hunch was correct and continued, "I think Shi Nuan would be a great pick. Shengyuan needs someone like her to be the face of the company. Someone optimistic and full of life."

"Go ahead with this plan. And make sure you pay careful attention to the lottery side."

"Yes, sir. I'll take care of it right away."

Mai Qi breathed a sigh of relief and quickly grabbed the documents Fu Chengyan had signed before heading out the door. But Fu Chengyan had something else to say, "Give yourself a ten percent raise next year."

Mai Qi broke out in a big smile, and her eyes sparkled brightly. "Yes, Mr. Fu. Thank you, Mr. Fu! I'll be sure to work even harder! I promise I won't take your guidance and trust for granted."

To an employee like Mai Qi, a practical reward was definitely more desirable than just a verbal one.

Fu Chengyan waved his hand, "You're dismissed."

After Mai Qi left, Fu Chengyan took out the schedule for the annual meeting from his drawer. He never bothered with any of these matters before. But this year, there were a few unknown factors, and he needed to properly think about how to reach his goal without exerting too much effort.

Fu Chengyan tapped the table with those slender fingers of his before remembering something. Then he quickly made a call. "Aunt and Uncle wish to spend some alone time today, so let us go out to dinner."

Shi Nuan was working on a report when she answered the call. "Aunt and Uncle?
What occasion is it?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 225

“It’s their wedding anniversary.” Fu Chengyan smiled. “Aunt’s health isn’t too great, so Uncle decided to celebrate at home rather than take her out. We should give them some space and not disturb their alone time.”

This uncle of Fu Chengyan’s was someone who loved and pampered his wife, Ning Xin, a great deal. It had been over twenty years since the two had gotten married, but Fu Heng’s love and affection for Ning Xin never decreased. This was something that Fu Chengyan greatly admired.

Even though Shi Nuan hadn’t known Fu Heng and Ning Xin for long, but since the two moved into Wutong Residence, Shi Nuan herself witnessed the closeness between a husband and his wife.

Ning Xin wasn’t in great health, so Fu Heng would always be with her, both in body and in mind. It was one of those rare loves, and thankfully, Fu Heng was so good towards Ning Xin.

“Alright then, we’ll eat out today.” Fu Heng and Ning Xin were going to celebrate their wedding anniversary, so naturally, she and Fu Chengyan shouldn’t bother them.

“I’ll go find you after I get off work. You won’t need to work overtime tonight, will you?”

“Yup, I’ll be getting off work early.” Fu Chengyan smiled with a hint of affection in his eyes. “Where do you want to have dinner? And do you want to watch a movie? Work has been so busy lately; we haven’t gone on a date in a long while.”

“Date? We’re married!” mumbled Shi Nuan. Fu Chengyan shook his head when he heard her and said, “Alright, you get back to work!”

“Yup. I really can’t talk any longer. I still have a lot of work I need to finish.”

Shi Nuan hung up the phone and stared at her screen for a while before laughing to herself.

When Yuan Jia passed by and saw what Shi Nuan was doing, she couldn’t help but ‘tsk’ her. “You sure look like you’re in a good mood today. What’s going on? Talking on the phone with your boyfriend?”

“Boyfriend?” Shi Nuan bit her lip. “I guess that’s kind of true.”

“So you do have a boyfriend!” gasped Yuan Jia in surprise. “No way!” She was just throwing things out there, who knew Shi Nuan actually admitted to it.

Shi Nuan raised an eyebrow when she saw how surprised Yuan Jia was. She put down her phone and looked at her sternly. “What? Do I look like no one wants me?”

Yuan Jia quickly shook her head. Who wouldn’t? Shi Nuan was beautiful and had a good personality. A woman like her would have plenty of suitors. No one wanting her was just an impossibility. She was just taken aback earlier, that’s all. “Let’s meet up one day so I can meet him!”

“Someday!” Shi Nuan giggled. She didn’t want to tell Jia Yuan that the ‘boyfriend’ she mentioned was actually Shengyuan’s boss, Fu Chengyan. That would definitely shock her even more.

Yuan Jia shrugged then said, “I’ll get back to work then.” She was only just a little curious and wasn’t actually interested in who Shi Nuan’s boyfriend was.

When it was time to get off work, Shi Nuan quickly tidied her desk before she grabbed her bag and left.

Because she had to go to Fu Chengyan's underground parking lot, Shi Nuan made sure to be extra cautious. She saw that Fu Chengyan hadn't arrived yet, so she got into the car first to wait. What she didn't know was, after she had gotten into the car, another person came out of the elevators and stared intently at Fu Chengyan's car. That person was none other than Song Jingyu.

But luckily, Shi Nuan had gotten in just in time, and Song Jingyu hadn't seen her.

The reason Song Jingyu was there at the time, was only because she wanted to try to get a ride from Fu Chengyan. She had endured silently at Shengyuan for so long, but Fu Chengyan never even gave her a sliver of a chance. And earlier, when Song Jingyu saw Shi Nuan's back view, she had gotten the strongest feeling, a feeling that couldn't be wrong. For some reason, she felt that Shi Nuan's back view looked very familiar, but she just couldn't remember where she had seen it before.

Song Jingyu stood by the car door and looked inside.

Shi Nuan had just hopped in and was about to give Fu Chengyan a call when she was surprised by the shadow outside the window. She looked out and saw Song Jingyu's face looming towards her.

Taken aback by her sudden appearance, Shi Nuan was so taken aback that she gasped aloud, especially when she saw Song Jingyu's face was nearly plastered against the window. Shi Nuan instinctively gripped her phone harder. It felt as if Song Jingyu could see her through the window.

It shocked her so much that she forgot that the windows were tinted one-way, so while one could look out, one couldn't look in.

Shi Nuan's heart raced while she tried to swallow her fear, thinking that Song Jingyu had seen her. But after a while, she noticed that Song Jingyu stood back up, leaned against the car, and started playing on her phone.

Shi Nuan breathed a sigh of relief, and that was when she finally remembered the windows were tinted. Thus, it was likely that Song Jingyu didn't know she was in the car.

Shi Nuan immediately sent a text to Fu Chengyan telling him that Song Jingyu was in the parking lot and that she didn't know what to do.

Fu Chengyan had just gotten inside the elevators and was about to head down when he saw Shi Nuan's text. He quickly replied that he would be there right away and asked her not to be afraid.

Two minutes later, Fu Chengyan arrived at the parking lot, with a black coat in one hand and his car keys in the other. He looked around with those piercing eyes of his and saw Song Jingyu standing next to his car, but Shi Nuan was nowhere to be seen.

Just as Fu Chengyan was about to ask where Shi Nuan was, another text popped up with a helpless-looking emoji and Shi Nuan saying, "I'm in the car. She doesn't know I'm in here."

Fu Chengyan looked at the emoji, grinned, and shook his head exasperatedly.

"Yan!"

Just then, Song Jingyu noticed Fu Chengyan. She quickly put her phone away and ran towards him. But just as she was about to grab onto his arm, Fu Chengyan dodged her and said, "Don't touch me!"

Song Jingyu froze. "But Yan, we're going to be together in the future. I know you're not used to others touching you, but I'm not just anyone else."

Fu Chengyan frowned and thought to himself that Song Jingyu truly had a weird sense of logic. He had already told her multiple times that he wouldn't marry her, and yet, she always seemed to filter out these words. Thus, Fu Chengyan couldn't be bothered with her anymore. "What are you doing here?"

“I want to go home with you! Yan, you haven’t been home in a long time. Aunt Song misses you. Also, I didn’t drive today, and the Fu family house is so far away, so you’ll need to give me a ride!”

“Don’t you have money?” asked Fu Chengyan.

Song Jingyu froze yet again, never expecting such an answer from Fu Chengyan. She hadn’t grasped Fu Chengyan’s meaning so she mumbled on, “How can I not have money. Shengyuan’s salary is quite high, and Aunt Song gives me allowance too.” Song Jingyu paused again. “Why are you asking me about money, Yan?”

“Since you have money, you can grab a taxi or even rent a car. You can even rent a Rolls-Royce and hire someone to drive you back and forth from work each day.”

Most people probably didn’t realize just how savage Fu Chengyan could be. Only those who were close to him knew. When he was mad, he would be heartless when it came to tearing up the other person.

Meanwhile, Song Jingyu had grown up in a harmonious environment, and no one would talk to her like this. But every time she met Fu Chengyan, he would hurt her again and again.

Song Jingyu pouted, feeling wronged. “Yan, you know that’s not what I meant. I just want to go home with you!”

“Well, it seems like you only have money and nothing else.”

“Yan, what are you talking about?” Song Jingyu’s face paled. “Why can’t I understand a word you’re saying?”

“It’s because you don’t want to, not because you can’t .” Fu Chengyan frowned. “I’m pretty sure that head of yours is empty. Well, you are one of a kind!”

Song Jingyu's face became even paler. She bit on her lip, feeling sorry for herself. "Yan, how could you talk to me this way, I'm..."

"I'm only bearing with you because you're part of the Song family. But you should also understand, I've given your family enough leeway. If you continue to push your luck, then I'm not going to play nice anymore. Now go away!"

Fu Chengyan's face clouded over, not wanting to continue this nonsensical conversation with Song Jingyu.

However, Song Jingyu couldn't accept it. "Yan, you can't treat me like this! We are engaged! You should be nicer to me." She continued, "Do you have someone else? Is this why you're treating me this way? Yan, please don't be angry. I really like you. If you have someone else, I won't blame you. Just break up with her, and I'll pretend like nothing ever happened."

"Do you have a split personality?" Fu Chengyan was losing his patience. "I'll say it one last time. Step aside. Or I'll make sure you get lost. You won't be able to step foot not only in Shengyuan and the Fu family house, but also the whole of Jiang City."

Song Jingyu took a step towards him, but Fu Chengyan pushed her aside before she could get any closer. There wasn't even a hint of hesitation or gentleness in his action. No one knew how he did it, but by the time Song Jingyu realized what was going on, she was already on the floor and even a few feet away from Fu Chengyan, where he was looking downwards at her.

Truthfully he hadn't even touched her and only used his coat to swat her away.

"Hmmp!" Fu Chengyan looked at the coat in his hands and threw it in the rubbish bin out of disgust.

Song Jingyu was flat on the floor, in too much pain to get up. Her face became paler and paler when she saw what Fu Chengyan was doing. "Yan!"

Fu Chengyan quickly opened the car door and got in. He saw Shi Nuan's mouth opening and closing as if she had something to say. After that, he reached for Shi Nuan's hand and gave her an assuring pat. In turn, Shi Nuan gave him a faint smile and buckled her seatbelt.

Seeing this, Fu Chengyan returned a smile then drove out of the parking lot.

Song Jingyu climbed up from the floor and went after the car, ignoring all sanity. "Yan, it doesn't matter how you reject me now, but you can't change the fact that I'm your future wife. I will make sure you willingly marry me!"