

I Want a Lifetime with You

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Shi Nuan thought Shi Yunsheng seemed strange; nevertheless, she nodded. “Yes.”

Shi Yunsheng’s face was grim, but he regained his composure after a while. “Why did your mother get it wrong, then?”

Shi Nuan thought it was a funny story. Jiang Yu had introduced the man to her, but the former didn’t even know who he really was. Hence, Su Shaoqing managed to impersonate the real Su Bancheng for some time.

Shi Nuan told the entire story to Shi Yunsheng, who seemed shocked by the events. “So your mother doesn’t even know what Su Bancheng looks like?”

Shi Nuan nodded. Su Shaoqing replied, “My aunt owed Madam Jiang a favor when she was young. Since my aunt is in the Su family, Madam Jiang targeted my brother, but he wasn’t interested in blind dating. Since he knew Shi Nuan is married to Chengyan, he came up with a plan for me to impersonate him.”

“You’re a substitute, then?” Shi Nuan smiled as he held Shi Yunsheng’s hand. “Yan knows about this.”

Shi Yunsheng finally understood what was going on. “I’m glad Yan knows about this. I was afraid he might misunderstand, which would affect your relationship.”

After everything was made clear, Shi Yunsheng was relieved. He patted Shi Nuan’s hand comfortingly. “I’m old, and I don’t want to interfere in your private affairs. My only wish is for you and Yan to live together in harmony,” Shi

Yunsheng couldn't help but sigh. "If it wasn't for your parents, you and Yan wouldn't have to hide your relationship until now!"

Shi Yunsheng glanced at Su Shaoqing. "And it must be inconvenient for Mr. Su."

Shi Nuan laughed and shook her head. "Granddad, don't be afraid of troubling him. He has too much free time on hand."

Su Shaoqing raised his brows and grinned. "Mr. Shi, Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan are both my friends. Besides, this involves my brother as well. It's my duty to help them. But this isn't a permanent solution to the problem."

Shi Yunsheng nodded. "Yes, I think so, too. But the Shi family's connections are a little complicated. I'm afraid Nuan will get hurt."

Su Shaoqing narrowed his eyes. "No, she's smart." He had never questioned that fact.

If Shi Nuan wasn't brilliant, that arrogant Fu Chengyan wouldn't have set his eyes on her. But because she was a sentimental person, the Shi family was able to bully her.

"But Granddad, you've just asked about the Jiang family in Sheen City. Is this related? Or do you know someone from the Jiang family?"

Shi Yunsheng's muscles twitched when Shi Nuan asked that question, but he regained his composure immediately. He shook his head and replied, "No, it was just a casual question."

Shi Nuan thought something felt strange, but she couldn't do anything since Shi Yunsheng refused to say a word. Su Shaoqing, on the other hand, was certain Shi Yunsheng wanted to say something. Nevertheless, Su Shaoqing also remained silent. He just didn't manage to figure out the reason behind the old man's behavior.

While the three of them were chatting upstairs, it was a altogether different scene downstairs.

Shi Wei had come home with Fu Xicheng. Both of them still weren't talking to each other, but at least Fu Xicheng had toned down his anger.

Jiang Yu was delighted to see her daughter and son-in-law. As they were holding hands, and Shi Wei was smiling, Jiang Yu finally stopped worrying about them. "Wei, Xicheng, you're back. Hurry, take a seat!"

"Mom," Shi Wei let go of Fu Xicheng's hand and went to her mother. "Why are you alone? Where's Dad? And Granddad?" Shi Wei glanced around but didn't see Shi Jingzheng or Shi Yunsheng anywhere. She continued, "What about Nuan?"

Fu Xicheng, who had been unenthusiastic all the while, immediately perked up at the mention of Shi Nuan's name. A vicious glint appeared in Shi Wei's eyes upon seeing her husband's reaction, but she suppressed her emotions. "Mom?"

Jiang Yu saw her son-in-law's reaction, too. She replied angrily, "As a matter of fact, that brat is so infuriating. Didn't I introduce a man to her before the new year?"

"Yes, I remember that. The man is from the Su family, and his name is Su Bancheng, right?" Shi Nuan played along with Jiang Yu. "What's wrong? Did Nuan blow it off?"

"What? That damned brat has no manners at all. I introduced that man to her, but she brought that man back just now without making it official with him."

Jiang Yu pretended to be disappointed and worried. "Well, I've spoilt her too much, so she's getting worse. This celebration is supposed to be a family affair, but she brought back an outsider."

“Yes, it is wrong of Nuan to do so,” Shi Wei agreed before continuing, “That means Nuan and Mr. Su have decided to settle down? Are they getting married soon? I think Nuan knows her limits. Since she brought him back to celebrate the new year together, there might be good news soon!”

Shi Wei turned to Fu Xicheng. “Am I right, Xicheng?”

Fu Xicheng was taken aback. When he finally snapped out of his daze, he nodded blankly and replied, “I think so.”

Shi Wei was upset upon seeing his reaction, but it didn’t show on her face. “It’s late. Where’s Dad?”

“Oh, he said he’ll be back soon,” Jiang Yu took Shi Wei’s hand. “Here, sit down. We haven’t met in a while. Let me see, did you lose weight?”

Jiang Yu noticed Shi Wei had full makeup on. It might be because of the allergic reaction her daughter had suffered earlier. Her heart ached as she said, “I never knew that woman would act so cruelly. A woman’s face is important. How could she do that to you?”

She reached out to caress Shi Wei’s face. “Does it still hurt now?”

“Not anymore,” Shi Wei moved Jiang Yu’s hand away awkwardly and shook her head. “I’m much better now. The doctor gave me medicine and told me to watch my diet. There are many things which I can’t eat,” Shi Wei looked at Fu Xicheng. “Xicheng, my face is much better now, isn’t it?”

As she mentioned his name, Fu Xicheng raised his head abruptly and nodded. “Yes, it is. You need to watch your diet for now.”

“Yes. Mom, look. Even Xicheng said so, hence you needn’t worry,” Shi Wei hurriedly changed the topic. “Why is Nuan still upstairs? Xicheng hasn’t met Nuan’s boyfriend yet.”

Shi Wei's words were actually meant to jab at Fu Xicheng, to remind him that Shi Nuan already had a boyfriend and that he should stop deluding himself. Right then, Shi Nuan was already heading downstairs with Su Shaoqing in tow. Actually, they had already heard Jiang Yu and Shi Wei's conversation as they had been standing at the top of the stairs for some time.

Su Shaoqing was amused by what he heard. He thought he was thick-skinned and shameless enough, but there were people who were more shameless than he. Those people could lie through their teeth like it's a piece of cake.

Shi Nuan spotted the mockery in Su Shaoqing's eyes and scratched her head in embarrassment. "Sorry about that."

Su Shaoqing smirked. "Yes, what a joke. Not you, of course." He was referring to those people downstairs. "Actually, I'm curious. Are they really your family?"

No one could blame Su Shaoqing for thinking that way. Shi Nuan differed from her family and stuck out like a sore thumb. That was why Su Shaoqing couldn't help but feel curious. The Shi family's attitude towards Shi Nuan was strange, too.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but smile. "Yes, indeed, they are." To be honest, Shi Nuan couldn't believe nor understand them, either, so she couldn't blame Su Shaoqing for thinking that way. "Let's go down."

Shi Wei glimpsed someone coming down the stairs and hurriedly said, "Actually, I think Nuan and Mr. Su seem like a perfect pair. Since she brought Mr. Su back home, she must've thought over it carefully. They might have agreed to get married!" Shi Wei smiled. "Mom, that will take a load off your mind. You must be worried because I'm married and Nuan is lonely."

She kept hinting at Jiang Yu while she talked. Jiang Yu immediately understood and continued, "Yes, you married Xicheng, but Nuan is alone, so I'm terribly worried for her. She suffered back then. Now that she's found herself a man, I can finally stop worrying."

Shi Nuan couldn't help but sneer silently. Jiang Yu and Shi Wei could win an Oscar for their acting skills!

Since Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing were coming down, Shi Wei hurriedly stood up. "Nuan, Mr. Su, you are already here?" Shi Wei feigned embarrassment. "I was talking about you with Mom and Xicheng."

"Really?" Shi Nuan held Su Shaoqing's hand as they sat down. There was a hint of irony in her eyes which, in the past, used to endure everything. Shi Nuan stared straight at Shi Wei with an alluring smile on her face. Right then, Shi Wei felt she was nothing but a clown in front of Shi Nuan!

Shi Wei's face froze. "Yes. Mom was saying I'm married to Xicheng, but you are still alone, so she's worried about you. She managed to find a brilliant partner for you. We are both glad to see you happy with him."

Shi Wei smiled as she walked toward Shi Nuan, but her gaze was fixated on Su Shaoqing.

She had met Su Shaoqing previously during the meal they had at the hotel. But back then, Shi Wei was paying attention to Fu Xicheng, scheming to separate him from Shi Nuan. She was sublimely unaware of "Su Bancheng". Now that she had the chance to see him again, she realized there was an elegant air about him. It was rare to see a man like him.

Shi Wei's heart started going into overdrive. She gazed at Su Shaoqing, her face slightly blushing. "Hello, Mr. Su. Do you still remember me? We have met previously."

Su Shaoqing smiled, his eyes crinkling up. His gaze settled on Shi Wei as he said, "Ms. Shi, I believe with your looks, no one would forget you."

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Shi Wei touched her face instinctively. When she belatedly realized what he meant, her face went ashen. The woman wanted to retort, but she dared not do so. She could only swallow her embarrassment and glare at Shi Nuan viciously.

Shi Nuan raised her brows at Su Shaoqing's forthright manner. She was secretly delighted by his words. "My sister is a celebrity, so of course no one would forget her," Shi Nuan grinned. "Otherwise, my brother-in-law wouldn't have fallen for her. Am I right, Brother-in-law?"

Shi Nuan looked right at Fu Xicheng when she said that. Fu Xicheng had kept his eyes on Shi Nuan all the time. When he saw Shi Nuan's holding another man's hand, his gaze darkened and refused to look away from her. Fu Xicheng was still in a daze when he heard Shi Nuan's question. The man didn't even catch her question and replied, "Y-Yes."

Shi Wei pursed her lips. She didn't know whether she should be upset or happy. She clenched her fists and sneered. "Your brother-in-law has good taste. It's only natural for him to fall for me."

"You are right."

Anyway, it was all Shi Wei's imagination. Shi Nuan wouldn't go against her.

When Shi Nuan used to like Fu Xicheng, he was naturally perfect to her. But now, since Fu Xicheng had become Shi Wei's husband, Shi Nuan would not be so shameless to cling to him. Besides, after what had happened, Shi Nuan saw Fu Xicheng's true colors.

She might have had been upset back then, but she now had no feeling.

“Old Master, you’re back!”

The servant, Aunt Fu, opened the door to welcome Shi Jingzheng. The man had a coat in his hand as he brought in the chill from outside.

Shi Jingzheng changed out of his shoes before coming in to see everyone in the living room. His gaze swept across Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng before landing on Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing. He asked in surprise, “Who is this?”

“Zheng, you’re back?” Jiang Yu stood up to welcome him enthusiastically. “That’s Mr. Su. Remember? He’s Nuan’s boyfriend. I told you about him previously.”

“Nuan’s boyfriend?” Shi Jingzheng narrowed his eyes and nodded. “Are you ready to settle down?”

Shi Nuan tugged at Su Shaoqing’s sleeve. “Father, this is Mr. Su.” She didn’t introduce his identity and merely mentioned “Mr. Su” before continuing, “Yesterday, Mother told me to bring Mr. Su back. I guess our family is very hospitable to invite him here.”

Su Shaoqing’s brows arched up, a grin appearing in his eyes. “Madam Jiang, you are indeed hospitable.” He stood up and stretched his hand out. “Mr. Shi, hello. I am Jiang Shengfan.”

He used his other surname, Jiang. Instantly, Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu’s faces fell. Although they tried to hide it, Su Shaoqing saw through them. He smirked. “The Su family is my mother’s family. My real surname is Jiang. As a matter of fact, Madam Jiang and I must be fated to meet.”

Through his words, Su Shaoqing was reminding the Shi family he was not only part of the Su family, but he was also part of the Jiang family, too. The Su family couldn’t call the shots regarding his marriage, because the Jiang family had a

say in it, too. That meant the Shi family couldn't just decide to marry Shi Nuan to him unilaterally.

Jiang Yu felt like someone had just slapped her. Her face started hurting terribly. Shi Jingzheng was no better. He had had plenty of experience, nevertheless, and immediately regained his composure. He held Su Shaoqing's hand and greeted him. "Mr. Jiang."

"Sit down. Don't just stand there." Shi Jingzheng was no longer awkward. He looked at Aunt Fu. "Where's my father?"

"He's upstairs. He said he'll be down when you return and when dinner's ready." Aunt Fu glanced at Jiang Yu, who noted the hint and said, "Since my husband is back, go tell Father to come down now."

She continued, "Father is old. I am sorry for taking up your time."

A smile lit up Shi Nuan's face. "Mother, it's nothing. We should be the ones to do this. Aunt Fu, you can go to the kitchen. Mr. Jiang and I will go bring Granddad down."

Su Shaoqing stood up once she finished speaking. "Ms. Shi is right. Let's go bring him down." The man went upstairs with Shi Nuan after he finished speaking.

Those who were left in the living room were lost in their own thoughts.

Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu exchanged glances upon thinking how Su Shaoqing had put a stop to their plan with just a few words. He even dragged the Jiang family into the matter.

The Jiang family!

A glint appeared in Jiang Yu's eyes, but it disappeared in a flash.

Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng were lost in their thoughts, too.

Fu Xicheng saw how well Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing clicked. She even treated Su Shaoqing differently than how she had treated him. He suddenly recalled their past...

“Xicheng?” Shi Wei interrupted Fu Xicheng’s thoughts and shot him a suspicious look. “A penny for your thoughts? Dad had already called you several times.”

Fu Xicheng came back to his senses. “Yes, Dad, anything?”

Shi Jingzheng was obviously displeased. “You and Wei finally got married after going through plenty of obstacles. What is wrong now?” To be honest, Shi Jingzheng wasn’t that satisfied with this son-in-law.

Fu Xicheng liked Shi Nuan at first, but ended up with Shi Wei. Both were his daughters, but Shi Jingzheng was obviously partial to Shi Wei. So when Shi Wei insisted on marrying Fu Xicheng, though he had his complaints he didn’t stop her from doing so.

Shi Jingzheng thought Fu Xicheng would treat Shi Wei well upon getting married, but that didn’t seem to be the case.

Fu Xicheng’s expression had gone dark. As he was still giving Shi Wei the cold shoulder, his visit today was already considered a show of respect. Unexpectedly, Shi Jingzheng started disciplining him. He replied unhappily. “Father, you should be asking her that. She is the only one who knows what had happened.”

“What do you mean?” Shi Jingzheng was infuriated. “Those people spread rumors about Wei. As her husband, not only did you not console her, but you—”

“Dad!” Shi Wei hurriedly interrupted her father. “Xicheng and I are doing well. We are fine. Everything was just a misunderstanding, and I have explained this to

him earlier. Am I right, Xicheng?” Shi Wei hinted at Fu Xicheng. “Besides, we’re celebrating the new year today. Let’s not talk about unpleasant matters.”

Shi Jingzheng wanted to say something, but when he noticed how Shi Wei defended Fu Xicheng, his rage remained bottled up and he said nothing.

Jiang Yu instantly came to ease the situation. “Father is coming down soon. The new year is a few days away, and we are gathered for a reunion dinner. Good fortune will come if we remain harmonious.”

After Jiang Yu said that, Shi Yunsheng came down the stairs with the help of Shi Nuan.

The old man walked down slowly with his cane in one hand. His body was weak, but his eyes remained sharp and his mind wise.

Shi Yunsheng walked down and swept his gaze across everyone. He glared at Shi Jingzheng in warning before saying, “Since everyone’s here, let’s eat.”

“Okay, dinner will be ready soon. Aunt Fu, hurry! Go help set up the table!” Jiang Yu tugged on Shi Jingzheng’s sleeve. “Let’s go into the dining room.”

Shi Yunsheng sat down with the help of Shi Nuan. He pulled Shi Nuan’s hand and said, “Nuan, where are you going? Sit beside me,” he pointed at the seat right next to him before glancing at Su Shaoqing. “Mr. Su, you are our guest. Since you’re Nuan’s friend, sit beside me, too. You won’t mind, right?”

“Of course not. It’s your family dinner today, and I should thank you for inviting me.” Su Shaoqing immediately took the seat right beside Shi Yunsheng. Hence, Shi Nuan and Shi Yunsheng occupied the seats beside Shi Yunsheng — the most important seats at the table.

Jiang Yu, who was about to take her seat, flushed in displeasure but dared not say anything. “Yes, you are right. He is our guest.”

After everyone took their seats, dinner was served. The Shi family had a rule that no one should speak at the dining table. But because Jiang Yu was thinking about how to set Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing up, she spoke up. “Nuan, you and Bancheng have known each other for so long. About your wedding—”

“Keep quiet during meals and bedtime. Didn’t the Jiang family teach you this rule?” Shi Yunsheng slammed his bowl and utensils down before glowering at Jiang Yu.

Jiang Yu stiffened, silently upset at the old man. “Dad, that isn’t the point. Since Nuan brought him back on this important day, I... I am merely worried for her. Look, Wei is already married... She and Xicheng are happily married. I am just worried about Nuan as she might be suffering out there alone. She might as well marry and take care of her own family. Bancheng is a capable man, so I don’t want Nuan to miss him!”

Jiang Yu seemed to have thought of everything for Shi Nuan. But she didn’t mention the most important point – that her aim was to use Shi Nuan.

“Nuan, am I right?”

Shi Nuan hung her head low. When she heard Jiang Yu call her name, something glistened in her eyes and her lips curled up in a bitter smile. But when she lifted her head up, she shot a sharp gaze at Jiang Yu. “I should listen to your opinion before getting married. But in this era, when freedom of marriage is an individual’s right, I...” Shi Nuan’s lifted her gaze to Su Shaoqing and smirked. “Mr. Jiang and I have just got to know each other. We don’t know each other that well, and we are just friends. Moreover, Mr. Jiang doesn’t live in Jiang City. I think we both need to consider our options well.”

“You...” Jiang Yu was lost for words. “Nuan, girl, why did you bring Bancheng back home if you’re not interested in him? We might misunderstand your relationship.”

Shi Nuan acted as if she heard something funny. She asked, "Didn't you ask me to bring him back?"

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“1...”

“Enough. Why are you so chatty when we have a guest? Eat your meal!” Shi Yunsheng was the head of the family, so he spoke up to cut Jiang Yu off and shot her a glare.

Jiang Yu might have something to say, but because of Shi Yunsheng she dared not continue. She could only lower her head and put those thoughts away. However, in her heart, she was inwardly seething at Shi Nuan’s ignorance.

Everyone was restless during dinner. After that, Shi Yunsheng invited Su Shaoqing to play chess with him. Because Shi Nuan didn’t want to play happy family with the others, she followed them to Shi Yunsheng’s room.

The butler, Mr. Yang, had prepared Shi Yunsheng’s favorite tea leaves. Shi Nuan brewed the tea at one side while Shi Yunsheng started playing chess with Su Shaoqing.

To be honest, Su Shaoqing was good at chess. Shi Nuan’s impression of Su Shaoqing was that he was a rich playboy. She never knew he could stay silent for such a long time.

Shi Yunsheng was a good chess player as well. Although Fu Chengyan had defeated him previously, he was confident of himself. But today, he lost to Su Shaoqing, and he was impressed with the young man. “Looks like I made a mistake. Mr. Su, you’re a skilled chess player.”

Su Shaoqing's eyes were smiling as he pinched the bridge of his nose like he had forced to do so. "Old Mr. Shi, actually, my chess skills are trained by Chengyan. If the opportunity arises, you can play chess with him next time."

"Mr. Su, you have no idea how much my Granddad likes to play chess. Of course he had played with Yan," Shi Nuan brought over the tea she had been warming up with a smile. "Granddad, you must've met your match."

"You!" Shi Yunsheng couldn't help but shake his head. He sniffed at the tea and a flash of appreciation appeared in his eyes. "Not bad!"

Shi Nuan replied with a smile and handed the other cup of tea to Su Shaoqing. "Granddad, have fun with Mr. Su. I need to go to the bathroom. I will be right back!"

The woman stood up and left Shi Yunsheng's room. After she had gone to the bathroom and was on the way back, she happened to pass by the study. The door was open, and the light was on. When Shi Nuan walked closer to the door, she could hear someone talking.

"Look at how arrogant Shi Nuan is! Does she think she could boss everyone around with Su Bancheng's help? She thinks she could get rid of the Shi family. Doesn't she remember who introduced her to that man?"

Jiang Yu's enraged voice sounded from the study. She was obviously full of hatred. Shi Nuan never imagined that one day she would be eavesdropping on her parents.

She knew her mother didn't like her, but had never thought her hatred was so intense.

"Enough. Lower your voice. What if others overhear you?"

"So what? I am regretting introducing Su Bancheng to her. I should've given this opportunity to Wei instead. Look at Su Bancheng's presence, then look at Fu

Xicheng. They are so different!” Jiang Yu replied in a huff. “No, I regretted bringing the damned brat back home back then.”

“What are you talking about? Don’t mention this ever again!” Shi Jingzheng immediately cut off Jiang Yu. “Didn’t I tell you how much Father hates us talking about this? Never mention this again. By the way, you were the one who insisted on bringing her back.”

“I-I did this for you and the Shi family,” Jiang Yu’s eyes reddened. “I should’ve let the damned brat fend for herself. If it wasn’t for my father’s inheritance, do you think I would raise that whore’s daughter for nothing?”

Jiang Yu’s fists were clenched up as hatred overcame her. “Didn’t you say yes back then?”

“I... This is your family’s business. How could I interfere?” Shi Jingzheng was momentarily lost for words but immediately retorted back. “Did I say anything after what you did all over the years?”

“I...”

“Enough. Don’t mention Shi Nuan’s identity ever again. Don’t forget, you haven’t got your father’s inheritance yet. My father even gave his shares to her. The most important thing now is to persuade Shi Nuan to hand over her shares. Stop venting your anger at her. Her mother was the one who offended you; the young girl’s innocent.”

“You... Shi Jingzheng, are you pitying that whore? A whore’s daughter is also a whore!” Jiang Yu nearly lost control of her emotions. Her anger would intensify whenever Shi Jingzheng mentioned that woman.

“Enough, stop cursing. Don’t forget Father is on Shi Nuan’s side. If he finds out, you’ll be in trouble!”

Someone else’s daughter?

Whore?

Shi Nuan's face paled as she remained rooted to the spot. She stood by the door, staring at the people in the study in disbelief.

Their discussion was loud enough, and it was impossible for Shi Nuan not to have heard them.

She clenched her fists as Jiang Yu's shrill voice and Shi Jingzheng's hushed tone rang in her ears. Her face had ashen as Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng's conversation kept playing over and over in her mind. In the end, she staggered backward in shock and hit the wall with a dull thud.

"Who is it?"

Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu exchanged glances before rushing out. But the hallway was empty.

"Zheng, did you hear the sound?" Jiang Yu glanced around but saw no one around. Shi Jingzheng had looked everywhere, but no one was in sight. He shook his head. "No."

"Impossible. I heard a sound." Jiang Yu felt a pair of eyes staring at her back because she was feeling guilty. Something was amiss.

"It might be..."

"Meow!"

Suddenly, a cat leaped into the room from the window of the study and meowed. It diverted both Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng's attention. They looked at each other before looking at the cat wandering around the study. It was a tremendous relief for both of them. "Fine, it's just a cat. Remember, don't mention this ever again. Don't be partial just to vent your anger. She still has something that we want!"

After Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu had left, the hand covering Shi Nuan's mouth finally released her.

It was Su Shaoqing. The man had come out and happened to walk past the study, spotting Shi Nuan in a daze. When he heard the commotion in the study, he hurriedly pulled Shi Nuan to the window at the side corridor and concealed them both.

Right now, they were both plastered to the wall. Su Shaoqing had one hand around Shi Nuan while his other hand was covering Shi Nuan's mouth.

He had barely released Shi Nuan when she collapsed to the ground, utterly defeated. "Mrs. Fu!"

Su Shaoqing immediately pulled Shi Nuan up. He frowned upon seeing her ashen face and reached out to feel her forehead. "Mrs. Fu, I am sorry."

The woman's limbs were cold. A deep sense of despair had overwhelmed her, and she seemed lifeless, just like a puppet. "Mrs. Fu?"

Shi Nuan's gaze was blank. There was a glazed look in her eyes. She finally regained her senses after Su Shaoqing pinched her, hard. Grabbing the man's hand, she exclaimed, "Shaoqing, I want to meet Yan. I want to meet Yan!"

"But, we're in the Shi residence. Chengyan is with his family today. They have a strict rule: all the members of the Fu clan have to gather at the Fu clan mansion the week leading up to New Year's Eve. I don't think he can leave right now," Su Shaoqing gazed at Shi Nuan's face with concern. "What happened?"

"No, I don't care. I want to meet Yan. Even if I have to go to the Fu clan's mansion right now, I must meet him!"

Shi Nuan kept repeating this sentence like a drowning person clutching at straws. The last glimmer of hope appeared in her eyes. "I want to meet Yan!"

“Okay, let’s go find Yan!” Su Shaoqing couldn’t refuse Shi Nuan. He helped her up and told her in a soft voice. “But we have to bid goodbye to your family and Granddad. If we leave abruptly, he will worry. Okay?” Su Shaoqing coaxed Shi Nuan while they walked out.

“Nuan, Mr. Su, you’re here!”

Suddenly, Shi Wei’s voice rang out from the other side. Su Shaoqing and Shi Nuan looked up. Both Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng were standing in front of them.

Shock flashed across Shi Nuan’s eyes. She tried her best to control her emotions, but the despair had unexpectedly swallowed her whole.

So that is the answer to my unanswered questions all these years. So I am not even Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu’s daughter. That is why they are so partial and hated me – because I wasn’t even part of their family.

Shi Nuan could feel a chill taking over her body. She could no longer remain in this house.

Su Shaoqing sensed a slight change in Shi Nuan’s emotion. He narrowed his eyes and pinched Shi Nuan’s arm when no one was looking to force her to pull herself together. The man smiled and answered. “Ms. Shi, Mr. Fu. Nuan and I have something else on, so we will leave for now. Ms. Shi, please relay my apology to your family.”

He left the Shi residence with Shi Nuan without taking another look at Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng.

Shi Wei narrowed her eyes at Su Shaoqing and Shi Nuan, who was in his embrace as they left. She couldn’t help but sneer, “Look, what a loving couple. You are still hung up on her. But she had already found another man. Fu Xicheng, you—”

“Enough!” Fu Xicheng cut her off impatiently. “Your true colors are showing. How abhorrent!” The man gritted his teeth. No one could understand how resentful he was right now.

Su Shaoqing couldn't be bothered about them. He helped Shi Nuan out of the house before she finally collapsed on the ground. “Mrs. Fu, are you alright?”

Shi Nuan raised her head to reveal her tear-stained cheeks. “Shaoqing, I want to meet Yan. I want to meet Yan.”

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Because the new year was approaching and the Fu clan was huge, many people had gathered in the family mansion. These people had their own reasons to be there. Instead of celebrating the new year, it was more like a mini business gathering. As the future head of the Fu clan, Fu Chengyan was the subject of flattery for many.

Like previous years, nothing seemed special. The only different thing this year was that Song Zhenyan and Song Jingyu were there, but it didn't matter for Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan was seated in the middle of the room and had just finished a drink when his phone started ringing. He narrowed his eyes, and his gaze darkened when he saw Su Shaoqing's number on the screen.

Suddenly, he stood up, causing a wave of movement to ripple through the crowd who turned to stare at him. The man was clutching his phone in his hand, but his face was grim.

Since Fu Chengyan arrived for the night, Song Jingyu couldn't keep her eyes off him. When she saw him standing up, her gaze followed him.

"Make yourselves at home. I need to take this call." Fu Chengyan swept the crowd with a blazing gaze. The crowd looked away obediently after hearing his words.

"What is it?" Fu Chengyan went to a corner before answering the call. "What happened?"

Su Shaoqing should be with Shi Nuan at the Shi residence to celebrate the new year, but he was calling him instead. Fu Chengyan's first thought was that something had happened in the Shi family. If not for that, Su Shaoqing would have solved the problem with his capability.

Su Shaoqing glanced sideways at Shi Nuan—who was still in a daze—and frowned. “Yes, something had happened. Your wife wants to see you. Can you come out now?”

It was rare to hear Su Shaoqing speaking in such a serious tone, so Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows instinctively. The man glanced around at the crowd who had gathered in the Fu clan mansion. As he was the head of the Fu clan, it was impossible for him to leave right now. “What’s wrong? Did something happen to May? Or the Shi family?”

“I don’t know,” Su Shaoqing knitted his brows, “Anyway, your wife is in a pretty terrible shape. I don’t know, maybe something had shocked her. Just now, I was playing chess with her grandfather in his room. When I came out, she was standing in front of the study, utterly crushed. Then, I took her and hid. Do you know who came out from the study?”

Su Shaoqing wasn’t a fool, so he knew it must be something Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu said. Shi Nuan happened to pass by and heard something that she shouldn’t have heard. That was why she ended up in this state.

But because Su Shaoqing wasn’t a part of the Su family, and knew nothing about them, he couldn’t guess what it was. Because Shi Nuan refused to say anything, he had no choice but to bring Shi Nuan to Fu Chengyan.

After listening to Su Shaoqing’s explanation, Fu Chengyan’s face clouded over.

He knew the Shi family was a ticking bomb that could explode anytime. Shi Nuan must’ve heard something regarding her true identity, or else she wouldn’t have reacted that way.

“Where are you now?”

“On the way back. She’s in pretty bad shape. Chengyan, you…”

Su Shaoqing rarely acted this way, so this was obviously no trivial matter. Fu Chengyan’s lips thinned, and his brows knitted together. After a long pause, he finally answered, “I’ll come back now.”

After hanging up, he turned and prepared to leave.

“Yan, where are you going?”

Since Fu Chengyan was about to leave after hanging up, Song Jingyu’s instinct told her it must be someone important. They were at the Fu clan’s dinner. As the future head of the Fu clan, Fu Chengyan had never missed it. Even Shen Qianan’s departure back then seemed to have no effect the man’s feelings at all.

Song Jingyu’s sixth sense told her a woman must have called him.

Her voice wasn’t loud, but the whole Fu clan could hear her.

The first one to react was Fu Sheng, whose face fell. “Yan, where are you going?”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and shot a sharp look at Song Jingyu before turning to Fu Sheng. “I need to deal with something. I’ll be right back.”

“Now? What is it about? Everyone in the company is on holiday. The most important thing you have to do is to eat at home!” With plenty of guests here, Fu Sheng put up a stern front. He knew everyone was here because of Fu Chengyan. If he left, how could the gathering go on?

Fu Chengyan frowned and left without another word.

“Uncle!” Cheng An escaped from Fu Jiayu’s arms to tug at Fu Chengyan’s trousers. “Uncle, where are you going? Won’t you play with me?”

Fu Chengyan’s gaze softened as he knelt down to caress Cheng An’s cheek. “An, be good. I need to deal with something. I’ll be back soon!” The man was strangely patient whenever he talked to Cheng An. The onlookers were shocked at seeing Fu Chengyan’s behavior.

Fu Chengyan ignored them and continued coaxing Cheng An patiently. “An, you’re a good boy, but I need to attend to an important matter.”

“Uncle, can you bring me along?” Cheng An asked innocently.

A smile lit up Fu Chengyan’s face. “No, it’s too late. You need to be with your mom, right?” Fu Chengyan glanced at Fu Jiayu, who immediately got up. “An, be good. Come here. Your uncle has something important to deal with. Next time when you miss him, I’ll bring you to his house, alright?”

Cheng An pondered for a while before nodding. “Okay,” he continued, “Uncle, can you bend down?”

Fu Chengyan bent down and leaned closer to Cheng An. Cheng An smiled cheekily before pressing a kiss onto Fu Chengyan’s cheek. “Okay, it’s a deal. You can’t go back on your words!”

Fu Chengyan touched his cheek and shook his head affectionately. He patted Cheng An’s head. “Okay, I won’t lie to you, ever!”

Fu Chengyan then stood up before nodding at Fu Jiayu.

Song Jingyu started to panic, seeing that even Cheng An couldn’t make him stay. She rushed over to him and hugged him from behind. “Yan, where are you going? I won’t let you leave!”

Fu Chengyan frowned and stiffened almost immediately. “Let go!”

“No, Yan. It’s an important day today; can’t you stay?” Song Jingyu was too stubborn.

The crowd’s gaze was fixated on them. Whispers and giggles rang out.

Although everyone didn’t really know how Fu Chengyan and Song Jingyu were related, there were plenty of rumors about them. There is no smoke without fire. Song Jingyu’s actions today finally confirmed their guesses.

Fu Chengyan’s face turned dark, the air surrounding him was chilling. No one dared to go near him when he did that. Only Song Jingyu would be foolish enough to get in his line of fire.

Fu Chengyan frowned, his face terrifyingly grim. “I’ll say it again. Let go.”

“No!”

The moment Song Jingyu uttered the word, Fu Chengyan disentangled himself from her. He acted so fast, and no one saw how he did it. When they finally realized what was going on, Fu Chengyan had already turned and held Song Jingyu by her throat with a ruthless expression on his face.

Song Jingyu was spluttering violently as Fu Chengyan held her neck and lifted her up. Her toes were barely touching the ground, and she lost her sense of balance.

“Yan!” Song Zhenyan was the first to react. Her face had paled visibly when she hurried over. “Yan, what are you doing? Have you gone crazy? Let Jingyu down!”

Fu Chengyan ignored his mother as he glowered at Song Jingyu’s face, which was flushed a bright red from his forceful grip. The corner of his lips curled up in a wicked and ruthless smile. “I told you to never challenge my limits, right?”

“L-Let me go! Yan, you...” Song Jingyu spluttered in shock. She could barely breathe, and for the first time in her life, she realized she might die anytime. Song

Jingyu started struggling while hanging on Fu Chengyan's arm, but her weak defense did nothing to stop Fu Chengyan.

Fu Sheng realized something was wrong. "Yan, what are you doing? Let Jingyu down. She's your cousin!"

"Cousin?" Fu Chengyan's gaze was frightening. "Since everyone from our clan is here, let me clarify my relationship with this woman." His eyes were smiling coldly.

Instinctively, Song Zhenyan cut him off. "No, Yan. Stop!"

"What?" Fu Chengyan shot her an icy look. "Madam Song, are you afraid?"

The crowd gasped upon hearing how he addressed his mother. Song Zhenyan's face went pale. "Yan, you..."

Fu Chengyan snorted coldly and ignored Song Zhenyan. His fingers tightened, and Song Jingyu's face turned a shade redder. "Are you scared of death? I will give you two options. The first one, you die. The second one, I make your life a living hell. Which one will you choose?"

Song Jingyu shook her head desperately and tears rolled down her cheeks. "Yan..."

"Don't call my name," Fu Chengyan cut her off viciously. "Every time I hear you call my name, it makes me sick," he replied icily and tightened his fingers once again, causing Song Jingyu's neck to bend at an awkward angle. "Don't think I won't kill you. When I take action, even the Song family can't save you!"

After announcing that, Fu Chengyan flung Song Jingyu away forcefully. With a loud thud, Song Jingyu fell onto the ground.

Song Jingyu gasped for breath upon regaining her freedom. She couldn't stop her tears from flowing out. "No, I don't believe it. Yan, you won't do this to me!"

Fu Chengyan removed his jacket and threw it onto the floor. Right then, Zhou Zheng entered and handed him a wet towel. Fu Chengyan took the towel and wiped his hands before discarding it like trash. "If you don't believe it, you can try. I won't kill you, but I will make sure your life a living hell!"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 275

From that moment onwards, everyone finally knew Fu Chengyan's attitude towards Song Zhenyan, Song Jingyu, and the whole Song family. Those who were planning to get acquainted with Song Zhenyan in the gathering today ended up not doing so. The future head of the Fu clan had already made himself clear. The Song family was not a trustable partner.

The crowd fell silent. No one made a comment, as this was the Fu clan's own matter. The onlookers could only pray they wouldn't get dragged into the mess.

Song Jingyu was about to follow Fu Chengyan, but Song Zhenyan stopped her from doing so.

"Aunt Song, Yan was lying, right? He was lying to me, right?"

Song Zhenyan seemed grim-faced, too. After all, she was the precious daughter of the Song family, but her son had managed to humiliate her today. She was a proud woman, and this was more than she could bear.

Fu Sheng was about to call Fu Chengyan's name when Fu Jiayu stopped him from doing so. She shook her head at Fu Sheng. "Father, no!"

Fu Sheng paused and stared at Fu Chengyan's retreating figure. The man furrowed his brows. "Jiayu, Yan..."

"He isn't a kid anymore; he must have his reasons for doing so. What he did today..." Fu Jiayu trailed off and looked at Song Jingyu, who was still on the floor. She then glanced at Song Zhenyan, who was only concerned about Song Jingyu.

Fu Jiayu's face was expressionless, but she was sneering silently. Well, this is my biological mother. A woman like her... A mother like her? Just like Yan, I would rather not have one. "I don't think it's a bad thing."

Since Fu Sheng said nothing, Fu Heng came over and patted his shoulder. "Your son is an adult and has his own ideas. I think Jiayu is right. Yan always knows what he wants. Plus, what he did today could give the Song family a warning."

Fu Sheng nodded. "Forget it. Go entertain our guests. About Father..."

"I'll go talk to Father. You can go entertain the guests."

Fu Chengyan strode ahead swiftly and never stopped. He got into his car once he left the Fu clan's mansion. Zhou Zheng was right on his heels. "Mr. Fu, did something happen?"

"Don't come with me. Keep an eye on the Fu clan mansion. Let's see who dares to maintain contact with the Song family after this." Fu Chengyan had a terrifying expression on his face as he started the engine. Turning to Zhou Zheng, he ordered, "Increase the dose when necessary."

A surprise look appeared on Zhou Zheng's face. But when he saw his boss' expression, he immediately nodded. "Got it!"

Once Fu Chengyan drove off, Zhou Zheng regained his composure. Given Boss left the Fu clan mansion at such a crucial moment, does that mean something had happened to her?

He was pondering about that when Song Jingyu came out. Narrowing his eyes, a smile appeared on his lips.

Song Jingyu spotted Zhou Zheng, too. Normally, she paid no heed to Zhou Zheng. Upon recalling how the man handed a wet towel to Fu Chengyan, her face crinkled up in disgust. "Where is Yan?"

Zhou Zheng replied with a snort. "I would advise you to go inside since Mr. Fu never goes back on his word!"

Song Jingyu's face fell. "How dare you speak to me that way? You are merely a dog who takes orders from Yan!"

Zhou Zheng wasn't affected at all by her words. He glanced at her pityingly like she was a fool. He rubbed his lips before sneering, "Ms. Song, I'm afraid you're worse than a dog. No, you are worse than a wet towel!"

"You..."

Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan sped up. He dialed Su Shaoqing's number. "Where are you?"

"Mm, we're on the way back to her apartment—"

"Don't go to the apartment. I want to go back to Wutong Residence. Shaoqing, send me back to Wutong Residence!" Shi Nuan had finally snapped out of her daze and stared straight at Su Shaoqing. "Send me back to Wutong Residence."

"Well..." Su Shaoqing was stumped. "About Wutong Residence..."

"Shaoqing, send her back to Wutong Residence," Fu Chengyan told him and made a U-turn. "Let me talk to May!"

Su Shaoqing gave the phone to her. "May, Shaoqing will send you back. I will be here soon."

"Okay," Shi Nuan's body shuddered involuntarily as a slight warmth crept up her body. "I'll wait for you. Yan, I'll wait for you no matter what."

After Shi Nuan hung up, she gave the phone back to Su Shaoqing. The man glanced sideways at her and couldn't stop himself from grumbling silently.

Fu Chengyan managed to calm her down just like that? So everything I had said earlier was in vain. If I knew this would happen, I wouldn't have offered to help. I don't even know what happened. Will Chengyan think I was the one who messed everything up and blame me later on?

Su Shaoqing floored the accelerator as that thought occurred to him.

When Fu Chengyan finally reached Wutong Residence after speeding all the way from the Fu clan's mansion, Su Shaoqing and Shi Nuan were already inside.

He pushed the door open, bringing in the frigid air with him. He saw Su Shaoqing seated on the sofa and narrowed his eyes. "Where's May?"

"Upstairs!" Su Shaoqing pointed upstairs. He was relieved that Fu Chengyan was back. "To be honest, I don't know what happened today. Your wife seems strange; if not I wouldn't have called you."

Fu Chengyan nodded. "Thank you," he patted Su Shaoqing's shoulder. "You can leave now. I'll go to May."

"No!" Su Shaoqing shook his head. "When I arrived, I saw someone outside Wutong Residence. Looks like someone has sent men to keep an eye on you."

Fu Chengyan's lips thinned. "Stay here. If it's too late, you can stay for the night. There are guest rooms on both floors. Pick one that you like."

After saying that, he headed upstairs. Su Shaoqing stroked his chin upon seeing his friend's anxious manner. He couldn't stop himself from tutting while calling Li Heng. "Li Heng, can you find out the person who sent a dog to watch Chengyan's house?"

"Now?" Li Heng narrowed his eyes and glanced at his watch. "Shaoqing, do you have a death wish? Don't you know the time?"

"Haha!" Su Shaoqing let out a silly laugh. "Sorry, I forgot!"

“Are you with Chengyan?” Li Heng sensed the urgency of the matter. “I’ll ask Liang Lin to look into it.”

Su Shaoqing hung up and went to the window, staring at the pitch-black sky. Normal people wouldn’t have such sharp observation skills to notice they were being watched. But Su Shaoqing and Fu Chengyan were no ordinary folks.

Fu Chengyan went upstairs and pushed the door to the bedroom open. When he saw Shi Nuan curled up into a ball on the ground his heart wrenched in pain.

The man frowned and strode over before kneeling down, his figure casting a shadow on Shi Nuan.

He reached out to wrap Shi Nuan in his arms and held her up.

Shi Nuan looked up when she felt the warmth radiating from his body. Her gaze conveyed how helpless she was, but she was obviously delighted to see him. “Yan!”

She flung her arms around Fu Chengyan’s neck and snuggled into his neck like an insecure kitten. “Yan, you’re back.”

“Yes, I am back.” Their conversation was short, but it spoke volumes.

Fu Chengyan placed her on the bed carefully and pulled the covers over her. He touched Shi Nuan’s feet and realized they were slightly cold. He couldn’t help but frown. “Why are you walking around barefoot? Don’t you know it’s wintertime?”

Upon seeing Shi Nuan pursing her lips petulantly, Fu Chengyan shook his head in resignation. “Fine. I wasn’t blaming you, alright?”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Yan, don’t leave me alone.”

“I won’t. I won’t leave you, ever!” Fu Chengyan pulled her into his arms. Patting her back gently, he reached out to caress her cheek. “Hmm? Don’t be afraid.”

Shi Nuan wouldn’t let Fu Chengyan go. Even though she was lying on the bed, she wouldn’t release her grip on Fu Chengyan’s arm. They were in this position for around half an hour. Shi Nuan could feel her arm going numb, but still she refused to let go.

Fu Chengyan sighed. “May, I won’t leave. Will you let go?”

“No!” Shi Nuan replied childishly.

Fu Chengyan had no choice but to kiss the corner of her lips. “I’m not leaving. Let me go so I can lie down beside you.”

Shi Nuan blinked upon hearing his words before releasing her grip. She pulled the covers open and patted the bed. “Lie down here!”

Fu Chengyan lay down obediently by her side, and Shi Nuan reached out to take his hand at once. Her other hand snaked around his waist as she buried herself in his arms. “Yan.”

“Mm, I’m here.” Fu Chengyan patted her shoulder. “Don’t worry. I will be here.”

After a long time, the tension in Shi Nuan’s body gradually relaxed. She didn’t fall asleep. Instead, she kept her gaze fixated on him.

Fu Chengyan turned over to look at her. “Won’t you tell me what happened today?”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips upon recalling what happened back then in the Shi residence. She lowered her head and refused to meet his gaze.

Fu Chengyan sighed again. “May, I am your husband, aren’t I?”

“Yan, if... If I am not a part of the Shi family, and I don't even know who I am, will you dump me because of my unknown identity?” Shi Nuan asked while gazing at Fu Chengyan cautiously.

Fu Chengyan's brows knitted up at once. My guess was correct.

His gaze fell on Shi Nuan's face. Upon seeing her ghastly pale face and cautious look, his chest tightened up.

Shi Nuan couldn't interpret Fu Chengyan's silence. Her grip became stronger. “I was talking about the possibility. Yan, I—”

“May, you are who you are. It doesn't matter whether you are a part of the Shi family. You are yourself, get it?”