

# I Want a Lifetime with You

## Chapter 301

Being a difficult conundrum, this matter was something that couldn't be resolved immediately. However, Ning Xin's performance today made Fu Chengyan certain about one thing. *She isn't completely heartless toward Li Heng.* Hence, it was all up to Fu Heng now; if he had nothing to say about this, Fu Chengyan would have a way to bring Pei Huan back.

If it were still possible, Fu Chengyan sincerely hoped that Pei Huan wouldn't return. *However, if someone were truly trying to stir trouble using this incident, things would get rather dangerous for Pei Huan.* Apart from her own parents, the only person who cared for Pei Huan the most was Li Heng. He would be certain to ensure her safety.

"I'll do my best in this regard, Aunt Ning. You don't have to worry about Huan." If Fu Chengyan had already promised to help, Pei Huan would be safe and sound.

Ning Xin nodded. "I'll give it further consideration."

"There's no rush. Shall we head back first, then?"

"Yes, let's head back. I've spoken to your uncle too. He has agreed to allow me to stay with you at the Wutong Residence."

Shi Nuan let out a sigh in relief. Initially, she was worried that Ning Xin would be upset over what they had done today, meaning that she would refuse to go home with them. Seeing that Ning Xin wasn't mad at them, she got up and held onto her. "Let's go home together, Aunt Ning!"

Fu Chengyan rose to his feet too, only for his phone to ring. With a squint, the man took out his phone and paused for a moment before answering it. "What is it?" It was a call from the Fu family home.

"Y-Young Master Chengyan! Your grandfather wishes to see you." Upon catching wind of the butler's words, Fu Zhengyun grabbed the phone, his voice blaring across the other end of the line. "Come home right this instant."

Fu Zhengyun had sounded rather displeased; it was evident that something serious had arisen.

Nonetheless, Fu Chengyan casually sat back down and asked, "Is something up?"

"You'd dare to ask me that? Aren't you aware of what you've done? Tell me! You came over earlier today, didn't you?" The old man was furious.

"Yes, to take Aunt Ning shopping. What's wrong? Do you have to poke your nose into something as simple as this?" Fu Chengyan was unaware of the situation at hand, so he spoke carefully.

"It has nothing to do with Ning. Let me ask you this, was there a woman inside your car?"

Fu Chengyan's eyes suddenly gleamed. Both Shi Nuan and Ning Xin could also detect a difference in the atmosphere. Hence, the two women sat back down. As Shi Nuan poured Ning Xin a cup of tea, she caught sight of Fu Chengyan frowning. "Looks like you've found out, Grandpa."

"How could I not? It was so obvious!" Fu Zhengyun replied frostily. "When did that woman come back? Didn't you send her away back then?" *That woman?*

Fu Chengyan glanced sideways at Shi Nuan. Upon seeing that the woman had shot him a gaze of concern, he gave her a reassuring look, telling her not to worry. "You've misunderstood, Grandpa."

“How could I have misunderstood? She looks exactly like—”

“No,” Fu Chengyan cut his grandfather off. “You should know me well enough. I wouldn’t lie to you about such a matter.”

“Then it has to be that lady from your company!” Fu Zhengyun snorted. “Don’t think that I’m not well aware of this. I may be old, but I’m no fool. I’m warning you, break up with that woman at once, or—”

“Or what?” Fu Chengyan chuckled. “I’ll take care of my own matters.”

“No! You have to split up with her. How could that woman ever be worthy of you? If you don’t end things with her, I’m going to have to come between you.”

Fu Chengyan’s gaze darkened as a cold air engulfed him. “Go ahead and try.”

“Oh, I will. Come back this instant, and bring that woman along with you. I’d like to see if she’s that incredible, or if it’s merely the fact that you just can’t let go of her!”

Fu Chengyan put his phone away before looking up at Shi Nuan and Ning Xin.

Shi Nuan was worried to see the man, who was looking rather off. “Is something wrong? Did something happen at work or the Fu family—”

“Not at all. Everything’s fine,” Fu Chengyan answered softly before turning to Ning Xin. “I have to drop by the family home, Aunt Ning. Why don’t you and May head back first?”

Ning Xin seemed to understand what was happening immediately, so she nodded after giving Shi Nuan a glance. “That’s a good idea. I’m kind of tired too. I’d like to go home and get some rest.”

“Alright. I’ll ask Zhou Zheng to send you both home.”

“There’s no need for that, Yan. I can look after Aunt Ning. You should hurry over if you have something to do.” Shi Nuan rarely saw Fu Chengyan looking like such.

“No. I don’t feel safe leaving you on your own—not especially when Aunt Ning isn’t in her best health.” With that, Fu Chengyan gave Zhou Zheng a call before turning back to them. “Wait here, inside the tea house. Zhou Zheng will be here right away.”

“Okay, then.” Truthfully, Shi Nuan was fine on her own, but Ning Xin really did have some health issues. She had to be considerate towards the older woman.

Fu Chengyan drove straight to the Fu family home. Bearing a gloomy appearance, it was rather evident that a storm was brewing inside the house.

The butler approached the car to open its door once Fu Chengyan arrived. “You’re home, Young Master Chengyan.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Is Grandpa alone?”

“Both Master Sheng and Master Heng are present,” the old butler replied while looking behind Fu Chengyan. “You’ve come alone, Young Master Chengyan?”

Fu Chengyan smirked. Before the butler could say anything more, he walked straight towards the entrance.

As anticipated, Fu Chengyan could feel the tense air upon entering the house. Fu Zhengyun grew increasingly enraged upon realizing that his grandson had shown up alone. “Where is the girl?”

“Which girl?”

Fu Chengyan casually removed his outer coat and handed it to the butler before taking a seat. Fu Sheng and Fu Heng were both there, and even Fu Jiayu had come over too.

The woman shot Fu Chengyan a mere glance, but he simply returned it without much thought.

Upon hearing his response, Fu Zhengyun gripped his cane tightly. “Are you still going to play dumb? All the servants in this household caught sight of that woman in your car when you’d arrived to pick Ning up. Do you think that we’re fools?”

“Then why are you still asking me about it if you’ve already found out?” Fu Chengyan wasn’t intimidated at all; in fact, he was the calmest amongst everyone else.

“I’ve told you over the phone to break up with her at once. Don’t think that I’m unaware of what you’re thinking! I’m telling you, Shen Qianan wasn’t worthy, and neither is this woman! Besides, she’s not even Shen Qianan; she merely bears a small resemblance to her. You should give up on Shen Qianan already!”

Fu Zhengyun sounded extremely stern. In any case, he refused to allow Fu Chengyan to be with a woman like that. Even if Shi Nuan wasn’t Shen Qianan, he was against it, for the sole reason that the two women bore a resemblance.

Yet, Fu Chengyan merely scoffed as he pressed his slender fingers against the purlicue of his other hand. At that moment, he let out a laugh. “I guess that you still don’t understand me, Grandpa.”

“What do you mean by that?”

Fu Zhengyun frowned.

“Nothing. It’s just a shame— I’ve been your grandson for thirty years, but you don’t even know what I want. It doesn’t matter whether she’s Shen Qianan or not; she’s mine. Shen Qianan can never compare to her.”

“You... Are you trying to give me a heart attack?” Fu Zhengyun turned red in anger. “What’s so good about her? She merely looks like Shen Qianan! You can

have any other woman that you'd want! Think of all the beautiful heiresses you could marry! Yet, someone like Shi Nuan, with a family, like hers? She's simply not worthy of you."

"I'm the one who isn't worthy of her." Fu Chengyan corrected his grandfather.

"You—"

"Did you call me over just to talk about this, Grandpa?" Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. "To think that you were able to get your hands on May's details so quickly; you must have been that anxious. Well, since you're already aware of her background, you should also know that there's no way that I'll break up with her." Fu Chengyan got up and placed a hand in his pocket before declaring with a smirk, "She's my wife, after all!"

"What did you say?"

Fu Zhengyun jolted up and stared at Fu Chengyan in disbelief. "You... You..."

Indeed, Fu Zhengyun had looked Shi Nuan up because she closely resembled Shen Qianan. He used to like Shen Qianan a lot too, but upon witnessing what the woman had done to Fu Chengyan, the old man refused to give her another chance.

At the same time, Fu Zhengyun had also received word about some things that had happened during the annual meeting. It wasn't just about Shi Wei and Song Jingyu; both Song Zhenyan and Song Jingyu were wary of Shi Nuan.

The incident had caused a huge stir. However, even if it were practically a fight between Shi Wei and Song Jingyu, Fu Zhengyun still made sure to take note of Shi Nuan. Eventually, he found out that the Su family was involved, so he stopped paying much attention to her. *Yet...*

"What do you mean?"

“I’d meant exactly what I’d said,” Fu Chengyan answered with a huff. “Shi Nuan and I are married, so if you want me to break up with her, I’m afraid that I can’t do that.”

“You... You are an unfilial child! Are you trying to drive me mad?”

Just as Fu Zhengyun was about to hit Fu Chengyan with his cane, Fu Sheng suddenly stood up. “Dad,” he warned, shaking his head while holding onto the cane. The old man glared at him furiously. “You knew about this long ago, didn’t you? It was such a huge commotion during the annual meeting. There’s no way that you wouldn’t have known about Shi Nuan!”

“I...” Fu Sheng sighed. “I do know about her.” Nevertheless, he wasn’t aware that Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan were married. “Be honest with us, Yan. What’s going on between you and Shi Nuan? You know that she’s not Qianan, so you can’t treat them as the same person. That wouldn’t do any good for you, Qianan, or even for that woman herself.”

“Hah!” Fu Chengyan laughed frostily. “Who has given you guys such confidence to assume that you know me? So you think that it’s because of Shen Qianan? I don’t care if you don’t believe me, or if you don’t acknowledge May. To me, none of that matters. We’re already married, so she’s my wife— now and forever. If you have something against her, you’ll have to face me first!”

# I Want a Lifetime with You

## Chapter 302

“You...”

Fu Zhengyun had never thought that his own grandson would talk to him in such a manner. “Are you serious? Aren’t you worried that I’d revoke all the power that you have right now? You could lose your position as the next head of the family!”

In response, Fu Chengyan turned to Fu Zhengyun, staring down at him from above. His grandfather was once a ruthless, young man. Despite being old now, he still had his ways.

“I’m well aware of that,” Fu Chengyan answered nonchalantly. “However, I’m afraid that you’re underestimating me, Grandpa.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“It’s been so many years; do you think that I really care about being the head of the family?” Fu Chengyan glanced at Fu Sheng. “Dad, Uncle Heng, take good care of Grandpa. I have other things to take care of, so I’ll be taking my leave now.”

“I’m telling you, Yan! I’ll never acknowledge that woman, and neither will the Fu clan!”

Fu Chengyan froze for a brief moment before straightening his back. “I’ve said that I don’t care.”



“Yan!” Upon seeing how stubborn the man was, Fu Jiayu hurriedly chased after him. It took her much effort to catch up to him before she finally stopped him from entering his car. Soon, she placed her hand on the door handle. “How could you talk to Grandpa like that, Yan?”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips as he shot his sister a blank gaze. Fu Jiayu began to tense up at his gaze. “Dad had instructed me to come back. I didn’t tell them about what you’d told me back then, so don’t worry. However, you should be aware that as the future head of the family, your future wife has to be capable enough to help you. Are you... serious about Shi Nuan?”

*Shi Nuan.*

Fu Jiayu was somewhat aware of this woman. *There is no denying that Shi Nuan is rather capable. Nonetheless, she is still far from worthy of being the lady of the Fu clan.* It wasn’t that Fu Jiayu was underestimating Shi Nuan. *Rather, it was just that the Fu family was extremely strict when it came to selecting its master and mistress.*

*Moreover, Fu Chengyan... wasn’t an ordinary bloke. Ever since he was born, he was destined to be different from the rest.*

“Only an incapable man would have to rely on a woman in his career,” Fu Chengyan answered while casting his sister a glance. “I believe that I’d made myself clear back then. If you want to stand on my side, I’ll sincerely welcome you. However, if you choose to side with the Fu family, I won’t be against that either. It’s just that I’ll walk my own path, and I’ll never involve myself in your affairs.”

Fu Jiayu paled at his response. “We’re family. Why do you have to do this?” she asked, pursing her lips slightly.

Fu Chengyan frowned. “You probably think that I didn’t mean what I’d just said. I really don’t care about not being the head of the Fu family. Tell Grandpa that I don’t mind if he wishes to replace me with someone else.”

Fu Chengyan opened his car door and hopped in, but not before shooting Fu Jiayu a second glance. “Cheng Zhi has never liked being involved, and Cheng An is still young.”

With that said, he drove away. Fu Jiayu remained still, standing outside the Fu Residence, gazing at the car that was vanishing into the distance. Chills ran down her body. It was a long while until the butler had finally approached her. “Ms. Jiayu.”

She then turned around. “What is it?”

“Master Zhengyun wants you to come back in.”

“Okay.”

Fu Jiayu entered the house to find that Fu Zhengyun was still boiling with rage, whereas Fu Sheng and Fu Heng clearly couldn’t see eye to eye.

“So, you’ve known about this matter since long ago?” Fu Zhengyun asked Fu Heng.

Fu Heng paused for a while before he answered, “Yes.” *Indeed, he had long been aware.*

“Since when?” Fu Zhengyun gritted his teeth in anger. He had never expected the son that he trusted most to be on Fu Chengyan’s side too. “You clearly knew about what had happened between Yan and that woman back then. You also know how closely Shi Nuan resembles Qianan, so why didn’t you stop him? Also, that woman is clearly up to no good. If Yan is putting up a fuss about this, are you going to do the same?”

Fu Heng furrowed his brows. “Dad, Yan is serious about Nuan. This has nothing to do with Shen Qianan.”

“And how would you know that? He’s obviously doing all of this on purpose.” The mere thought of Shi Nuan looking so much like Shen Qianan was enough to make Fu Zhengyun uncomfortable.

“I’ve met Shi Nuan before. She’s a decent woman, and it’s no surprise that Yan likes her. Besides, it’s not like Yan’s a fool. He knows what he wants.”

“I don’t think that he does at all!” Fu Zhengyun felt that Fu Chengyan had planned all of this long ago. “Tell me. Are they really married?”

Fu Heng nodded. “They are. That’s what Yan has told me, at least.”

Fu Zhengyun’s heart ached intensely. “Look at how you’ve raised your son!” he yelled, glaring at Fu Sheng.

Fu Sheng didn’t think that Fu Chengyan was doing the right thing either. Initially, he was quite fond of Shen Qianan, but ever since the incident from three years ago, he no longer felt the same. *Still, he had never expected Fu Chengyan to pick...*

“Are you sure that Yan and that lady are married, Heng? How long has it been? How are you and Ning aware of this?”

Fu Heng nodded. “I found out about it a few months ago, and they were already married by that time. In short, they’ve probably been married for about half a year,” he responded. “If you and Dad don’t believe me, you can always have someone look into it. I’m sure that there are records of their marriage registration.”

Fu Zhengyun could no longer control his own emotions, and his chest began to heave. “Do it. Look into it!” Then, he turned to Fu Jiayu, querying, “What did Yan say?”

Fu Jiayu hesitated briefly before answering, “What if Yan and Shi Nuan truly love each other, Grandpa?”

“True love? The head of the Fu family doesn’t need such a thing. All he needs is to serve the family, marry a woman of equal status, to produce his offspring.”

“But Grandpa—”

“What? Are you going against me too?” Fu Zhengyun glared at Fu Jiayu. “I’ve raised you all these years, but you’ve never accomplished anything.”

“Grandpa—”

“I demand details on Shi Nuan this instant. Get your men to gather every single bit of information on her!” With that, Fu Zhengyun left everyone behind as he soon made his way upstairs.

Falling into silence, Fu Sheng whipped out a box of cigarettes. He took several puffs before turning to Fu Jiayu. “I’m going to see your mom at the hospital.”

“Dad!” Fu Jiayu called out to him. “Don’t you have anything to say about this?”

“Your grandfather... has said all of that out of anger. Leave things be for now, and don’t lay a finger on Shi Nuan. Yan wasn’t joking around.” Fu Sheng didn’t understand his own son very well, but he knew how resolute the young man could be. *If Shi Nuan truly meant so much to him, it was highly likely that he wouldn’t hesitate to attack his own family if they were to harm her.*

*The Song family is a prime example of that.*

Fu Sheng could tell that much, just from Song Zhenyan’s recurring illness. He knew that he couldn’t outmatch his own son when it came to certain matters.

After Fu Sheng left, Fu Jiayu and Fu Heng remained, as they sat in the living room. The woman felt utterly horrible.

The Fu family was like a cage, and Fu Chengyan wasn't the only one who was being imprisoned.

Unfortunately, while Fu Chengyan possessed the guts and the ability to fight back, the woman didn't.

"Uncle Heng—"

"You should head back now. I'll take care of your grandfather," Fu Heng cut her off with a wave of his hand. "Yan is pretty loyal, so he won't do anything too reckless. Do you understand?"

"Yes, I do."

Fu Chengyan looked rather grumpy ever since he left the Fu Residence. Not long after, he received a call from Fu Heng. "Hello, Uncle Heng."

"Your aunt—"

"She's at the Wutong Residence," Fu Chengyan answered, his expression softening slightly. "Don't worry, Uncle Heng. I'll take good care of Aunt Ning. She'll be spending most of her time at the Wutong Residence, and May will keep her company."

Hearing that, Fu Heng sighed with relief. "You had gone a little too far with your words today." Fu Heng wasn't against Fu Chengyan being with Shi Nuan. However, Fu Chengyan was still a member of the Fu family, so there were still rules that he had to adhere to. "Your grandfather... He's doing this for your own good. Besides, he's never met Shi Nuan, so he doesn't know her character. That's why it's natural that he'd misunderstand her."

"Thanks for your understanding, Uncle Heng." Fu Chengyan was aware that Fu Heng had meant well. "There are just some times that I'll have to show him where I stand."

“I want to ask you about Shi Nuan and Shen Qianan,” Fu Heng continued. “You know how much your grandfather and father had liked that girl, and that’s exactly why the incident from three years ago affected them so greatly. There’s no way that they’ll accept Shen Qianan again, much less Shi Nuan... That face and background of hers— can you really differentiate the two women clearly?”

“Do you mean to ask me if I’m treating May as Shen Qianan’s replacement, Uncle Heng?” Fu Chengyan asked softly, showing no trace of emotion in his voice.

Fu Heng, on the other hand, didn’t sound too confident. “That’s right.”

“No. I’m well aware of what I’m doing. It’s never been about anyone else. I only care about May. You and Aunt Ning don’t have to worry about this, Uncle Heng. I’ll be sure to handle it well.”

“In that case, I won’t probe any further. However, please remember what you’ve just said. You’re serious about Shi Nuan, and it has nothing to do with Shen Qianan. You didn’t marry Shi Nuan because of Shen Qianan either.”

“I’m not a three-year-old, Uncle Heng. You don’t have to keep sounding me out.” Fu Chengyan couldn’t help but feel amused. “I can have any woman that I want with my looks, but I only want her.”

Fu Chengyan remained impassive, staring forward as he hung up, and he dialed Zhou Zheng’s number after a long while. “Where’s my wife?”

“I’ve sent your wife and Madam Ning home,” Zhou Zheng replied politely. “We were being followed. I believe that they were sent by the Fu family.”

“Okay.” Fu Chengyan nodded. “There may be people trying to look into May’s background. Be sure to interject.”

“Yes, Sir.”

“Find out what Shen Qianan is up to and the people whom she is with.”

“What are you planning, Mr. Fu?” Zhou Zheng suddenly couldn’t tell what Fu Chengyan was thinking. “The last time I’d checked, Ms. Shen was in K Nation. As for now—”

“I want a definite update!”

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## Chapter 303

Just before he returned, Fu Chengyan managed to erase the look of pure revulsion on his face. However, Shi Nuan could tell from his brooding expression that something was still bothering him.

While he was outside, Shi Nuan had been chatting with Ning Xin about something funny. The topic had turned to one of Shi Nuan's friends from her high school days. It was evident that Ning Xin was very fond of Shi Nuan— she had asked her many questions about herself, to which Shi Nuan responded eagerly.

When she saw Fu Chengyan tiptoeing into the house, Ning Xin paused in the middle of her sentence and announced, smiling, "See? I told you that he'd be back soon."

Shi Nuan glanced up and smiled at Fu Chengyan, her eyes crinkling into tiny crescents. "Yan, you're back!"

"Yes, I am." Fu Chengyan had been in a very bad mood upon his return, but Shi Nuan's smile had caused his worries to melt away in an instant. Grinning back at her, he asked, "What were you chatting with Aunt Ning about? The both of you seem very happy."

"We were talking about you!" Shi Nuan uttered, giggling. She stood up and reached out for Fu Chengyan's coat before handing a pair of slippers to him. "Have you sorted out your stuff?"

"Yup!" Fu Chengyan nodded. Caressing the back of Shi Nuan's head, he pressed forth, "So, what did Aunt Ning say about me?"



“What do you think? Don’t worry, Aunt Ning didn’t say anything bad about you.” Shi Nuan could not help but tease him a little. “In fact, she was praising you the entire time! She had talked so much about you that I started to feel a little jealous.”

“Haha, is that so?” Fu Chengyan patted her shoulders affectionately. “What would you like to eat for dinner?”

“Of course! I made up my mind a long while ago.” As she spoke, Shi Nuan grabbed his hand and rushed over to Ning Xin. As she pushed Fu Chengyan into a seat, Shi Nuan announced, “You must be tired after all of that! Take a seat first. When Aunt Ning and I were returning home, we asked Zhou Zheng to take us on a detour to the grocery store. We had bought lots of household supplies and some cooking ingredients, so you can look forward to a dinner cooked by us tonight.”

“Is that so? You’re so cute today!” Fu Chengyan stretched out his hand to give Shi Nuan’s nose a little pinch. Unfortunately, Shi Nuan slapped his hand away almost immediately as she gave him the stink-eye. *He has no sense of propriety whatsoever.* “What do you think you’re doing? Aunt Ning is still around. Sit down here and have a little chat with her while I put your clothes in the wash and whip up dinner for all of us!”

“Alright.” Fu Chengyan smiled as he gazed at Shi Nuan who was rushing upstairs cheerfully. When she disappeared from his line of sight, the smile instantly vanished from his face. Turning to Ning Xin, he said, “Aunt Ning.”

“Has your grandfather already caught wind of this?”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Aunt Ning, I knew that I wouldn’t be able to keep this from you.”

However, Ning Xin shook her head. “Well, what do you plan to do about this?”

Even without Fu Chengyan telling her, Ning Xin had already guessed what Old Master Fu's next move was going to be. *Old Master Fu has given his entire life to the Fu family, and he has put the family's prosperity above everything else, in his life. The old man has not only been strict to Fu Sheng and Fu Heng, rather, he has also been the same to Fu Chengyan, his grandson.*

Ning Xin had married into the Fu family a long time ago, so she knew how bad her father-in-law's temper could be. *Shi Nuan bears an uncanny resemblance to Shen Qianan, which doesn't help her cause at all. Although she has been married to his grandson for quite some time, Old Master Fu has refused to acknowledge her as part of the family. He has never spoken a word in praise of her.*

*In fact, Shi Nuan's resemblance to Shen Qianan is the main cause of the problems that have recently arisen.* When Shi Nuan had first started going out with Fu Chengyan, Ning Xin was no exception, wondering privately whether Fu Chengyan was only taking an interest in her because she looked like Shen Qianan.

"We don't have to do anything about it. May is my fiancée, and nothing he says is going to change that fact." The gaze in Fu Chengyan's eyes was rather distant. "Why should I get the approval of the Fu family? It means absolutely nothing to me."

Ning Xin shook her head in disapproval. "You rascal!" After a brief pause, she continued, "Are you going to tell Nuan about this?"

"She'll be much better off, not knowing certain things." Fu Chengyan had no wish to burden his wife with the news of his grandfather's disapproval.

"You've always exercised caution in all that you do, so I don't have much to say to you. Since you've decided to marry Nuan, you should follow your heart. Remember this— a husband and wife should go through thick and thin together. There should be no secrets between the both of you. For a relationship to go on, trust is essential."

“Yes, I’m aware of that.”

Shi Nuan made her way upstairs. However, she could not help but feel slightly suspicious about Fu Chengyan’s behavior. She wasn’t being paranoid— in fact, they had known each other for so long that she could sense his moods. Earlier, she had a strong sense that Fu Chengyan was feeling extremely awful. Things definitely weren’t as simple as they seemed, but since Fu Chengyan had refused to tell her anything, she wasn’t going to press him for details.

Shi Nuan hung the coat, as she remained upstairs for a little while longer. When she finally went downstairs again, she found Ning Xin sitting in the living room. However, Fu Chengyan was nowhere to be seen. “Aunt Ning, where’s Yan?”

“He’s in the kitchen!” Ning Xin announced, smiling. She waved Shi Nuan over. “Here, come and sit next to Aunt Ning.”

“But— but I’d said that I was going to make dinner for you guys tonight!”

“There’s no need for that now! Yan is making dinner for us instead. As for you, come and sit by my side. Have a little chat with me!”

“That sounds nice.” Shi Nuan glanced into the kitchen and spotted Fu Chengyan washing vegetables. Knocking on the door, she smiled and asked inquisitively, “What will you be making?”

Fu Chengyan turned around. The apron that he was wearing was slick with grease. When he saw Shi Nuan, his eyes crinkled into crescents as he smiled at her, appearing as though he extremely happy. Shi Nuan exclaimed, “Yan, you look exactly like a housewife!” As she spoke, she whipped out her phone and pointed the camera towards him. “Come on, strike a few poses! I need a photo as my new wallpaper.”

Shi Nuan snapped a few photos as quickly as she could. Before she could say anything, Fu Chengyan darted away to another corner of the kitchen.

Fu Chengyan shook his head as Shi Nuan shot off, back to her seat next to Ning Xin. Cheerfully, Shi Nuan showed her the photos that she had taken of Fu Chengyan. “Aunt Ning, don’t my pictures of him look wonderful?”

Ning Xin glanced over the photos before bursting into laughter. “Yes, they’re wonderful!” In fact, she thought that Fu Chengyan looked better in those photos than he ever had.

The love in Fu Chengyan’s eyes as he gazed at Shi Nuan was unmistakable—hence, neither of them feared that Fu Chengyan had only married Shi Nuan as a replacement for Shen Qianan. *That was practically impossible.* “Nuan, your photography skills are getting so much better. In fact, your pictures always turn out the best!”

Shi Nuan’s face flushed red with embarrassment. “Really?” She looked down at her photos and realized that they were pretty well-taken. Swiftly, she changed her wallpaper into a photo of Fu Chengyan in his apron.

At long last, information about Shi Nuan’s family background ended up in Fu Zhengyun’s hands. As the patriarch of the Fu family, he possessed a great concern towards his grandson’s love life. More so than anyone else. However, as he flipped through the pages of the document, with a look of displeasure on his face, he realized that they contained none of the information that he had wanted to know.

Upon scanning through all of the documents, Fu Zhengyun didn’t act immediately. Instead, he reclined in his chair, thinking deeply.

On the other hand, Song Zhenyan was full of panic, laying in the hospital. Someone had just informed her about the recent developments, and she decided to look for Shi Nuan immediately, despite not having recovered fully from her injuries.

When Shi Nuan saw Song Zhenyan on her doorstep that night, she felt rather stunned.

She had met Song Zhenyan at the annual meeting, but they hadn't been formally introduced to each other yet. Tonight, Shi Nuan had gone over to Su Yian's place. Just as she was leaving her friend's house, a car rolled up to her. A few people jumped out of the car and cornered her. "Our lady wishes to speak to you."

"And who might your lady be?"

At that moment, the car door slid open to reveal the pale, ghastly face of Song Zhenyan.

Almost immediately, Shi Nuan understood why Song Zhenyan had come, looking for her. She had probably found out about her relationship with Fu Chengyan.

Shi Nuan bowed slightly. Flashing a smile at Song Zhenyan, she uttered, "Greetings, Mrs. Fu."

However, Song Zhenyan merely sneered at her in return. "You can drop that pretentious act in front of me."

Shi Nuan frowned slightly. "May I know why you're looking for me?"

Song Zhenyan gritted her teeth in rage as she spoke. "Did you and Yan really get married?" She sounded as though she wanted to skin Shi Nuan alive.

Shi Nuan felt slightly startled, but she nodded her head nonetheless. "That's right, we've gotten married." She didn't see the point in hiding that fact from Song Zhenyan. After all, since the older woman had already found out about it, she might as well have informed her of the truth.

Song Zhenyan's expression grew uglier. "Get into the car," she ordered.

Shi Nuan complied immediately. "Yes, Mrs. Fu."

As soon as Shi Nuan got into the vehicle, the doors slammed shut. Soon, the car pulled away.

Song Zhenyan didn't speak a word to her, throughout the entire duration of the car ride, but her eyes continued to rove around her face in obvious distaste. Shi Nuan made a quick mental note to herself— *this mother-in-law of mine doesn't like me very much.*

Song Zhenyan took advantage of the silence to give Shi Nuan a once-over. A look of scorn flashed in her eyes as she silently took note of the girl's resemblance to Shen Qianan.

Shi Nuan wasn't a particularly talkative person either. Since the older woman had refused to speak, she didn't feel too comfortable talking either. After all, she still had no idea why Song Zhenyan was looking for her. Hence, she didn't want to reveal too much of her own thoughts before she found out.

After about ten minutes, the car came to a stop. Song Zhenyan got out of the car and shot Shi Nuan a look. As Shi Nuan followed her out of the vehicle, she realized that they were standing right outside a restaurant. It seemed pretty quiet.

Song Zhenyan led Shi Nuan into a private room. As she handed the menu to Shi Nuan, Song Zhenyan announced rather pointedly, "Here you go, Ms. Shi."

Shi Nuan noted the form of address that the older woman had used and realized that she was in for a very difficult night indeed. "You can make the selection, Mrs. Fu. I'm not too picky with food."

"Of course you aren't!" Song Zhenyan exclaimed, cackling. "When you do get picky, however, you always make sure to choose the best, don't you?"

Shi Nuan felt a little startled. "I suppose that you've called me here tonight to discuss my marriage with Yan."

“Hmph!” Song Zhenyan snorted as she slammed the menu onto the table viciously. “Since you’ve brought up that topic yourself, there’s no need for me to beat around the bush anymore. You’re not suitable for Yan. Leave him immediately!”

Shi Nuan’s face clouded over instantly. It was exactly as she had predicted. Song Zhenyan was here to express her disapproval of Shi Nuan’s relationship with her son.

“Well? Why aren’t you saying anything?”

“I think that it’s up to myself and Yan to decide if we’re suitable for each other, don’t you think?” Although Song Zhenyan was Fu Chengyan’s mother, Shi Nuan refused to allow her to have the final say over their relationship. *I will never yield to anyone who wants to tear Fu Chengyan and me apart, even if the person was my mother-in-law.*

“You— a person like you doesn’t deserve a man like Yan. Neither your status nor your position in life will be of any help to Yan. In fact, marrying a person like you will only serve to drag him down!”

Launching a litany of complaints against Shi Nuan, Song Zhenyan questioned, “Do you think that I’m an idiot? You are only with Yan for his money, his power, and his social status!”

“No, you’ve misunderstood my intentions, Mrs. Fu,” Shi Nuan explained as politely as she could. “I fell in love with his personality. I’m willing to be with Yan because he treats me well. It really isn’t as terrible as you’ve thought it to be. As for the money, power, and social status that you’ve mentioned, they were never my reasons for marrying Yan!”

“Yeah, right!” As though she had heard a very funny joke, Song Zhenyan began to chortle as she threw a mocking look at Shi Nuan. “I’ve seen many women like you, who insist that they haven’t married their husbands for money. Well, since

wealth is so unimportant to you, why haven't you gotten together with a poor man instead?"

Shi Nuan's eyes narrowed slightly. *Song Zhenyan really hates me, doesn't she?*

Shi Nuan laughed coldly. Looking frostily at Song Zhenyan, she asked, "Do you mean that I should marry a poor man just to prove that my love for Yan is pure? In that case, you should look at yourself, Mrs. Fu. Why didn't you marry a poor man, too? After all, the Song family is pretty rich, and it wouldn't have blown a hole in your finances to take a beggar for your husband. Why did you choose to marry into an old-money family like the Fu family of Jiang City instead?"



# I Want a Lifetime with You

## Chapter 304

“You—you sharp-tongued vixen!”

Song Zhenyan had not expected Shi Nuan to retaliate. There wasn't an ounce of respect in the way that the girl had spoken to her. “You insolent witch! How dare you compare yourself to me?”

“No, indeed!” Shi Nuan smiled blandly. “Actually, I must thank you for praising my oratory skills, Mrs. Fu. After all, your son is of the same mind as you!”

“Shut the hell up!” Song Zhenyan slammed the table angrily. “I suppose that you won't be leaving Yan, then.”

“I don't have any reason to leave my husband!” Shi Nuan snapped. “Mrs. Fu, I wonder why you've even bothered to call me here, for this discussion today. What sort of mother doesn't want her son to be happy? Yet, I had the misfortune of meeting you, Mrs. Fu. Your desperate attempts to break up our marriage have made me a little confused.”

Song Zhenyan glared at Shi Nuan as though she was looking at her biggest nemesis. “Of course I want my son to be happy and fulfilled. Nevertheless, I'll never accept you as his wife. Never!”

Shi Nuan had never met Song Zhenyan before this, so she never had the opportunity to get into her bad books. However, upon seeing the malicious look on the older woman's face, anyone would have thought that the both of them harbored an ancient grudge against one another.

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. “Why not? I've never offended you in any way...”

“Take a good look at your own face!” Song Zhenyan spat suddenly. “Why do you think Yan fell for you in the first place? I’ll tell you— it’s because of your face! You—you’re no more than a replacement for her...”

Before Song Zhenyan could finish speaking, there was a loud *bang*, as someone kicked the door in. Shi Nuan and Song Zhenyan were nearly startled out of their seats. Keeping her wits about her, however, Shi Nuan turned to Song Zhenyan and asked, “Yes, who am I?”

“You are nobody but yourself!”

A hulking figure of a man had appeared in the doorway. His face was clouded over with rage, and the dangerous aura that he radiated sent shivers down the two women’s spine. As he met his gaze to Song Zhenyan’s, his gaze resembled that of an arsenal of knives that were hurtling towards her.

For an inexplicable reason, Song Zhenyan felt petrified at that moment. She got up hastily and gazed at Fu Chengyan, her face entirely white. *He is my son, but he is also the man whom I fear the most in the entire world.* “Y—Yan, what brings you here?”

Fu Chengyan refused to shift his gaze from hers. His lips narrowed cruelly, to match the dark expression on his face.

Shi Nuan was no exception, She could feel the anger radiating from him too. *Fu Chengyan is certainly furious, this time around.*

Fu Chengyan gazed at Song Zhenyan for a long while. A moment later, he finally stepped into the room. With every step that he took, Song Zhenyan felt as though a knife was being plunged, deep into her heart.

Fu Chengyan stopped beside Shi Nuan and placed a protective arm on her shoulder. His arm felt a little heavy, and the expression on his face was still extremely ugly. “Why am I here? Madam Song, I was merely wondering why you’d invited my wife out today.”

## *Madam Song?*

This was not the first time that Fu Chengyan had addressed her, using that offending name, but Song Zhenyan could not accept the fact that he was being so rude to her in front of an outsider.

Song Zhenyan balled her hands into fists. Taking a deep breath, she muttered evenly, “Yan, I’m your mother. Now that you’re married, shouldn’t I meet your wife?”

“My mother?” Fu Chengyan smiled mockingly. “Madam Song, I’m afraid that you’ve forgotten that I don’t have one.”

“You...” Song Zhenyan leaped up from her chair abruptly, so staggered by his blatant declaration that she was swaying slightly as she stood up. “Yan, I know that you hate me, but that won’t change the fact that you’re my son.”

“Yes, I can’t change the fact that you’d given birth to me, but I can decide what I’d like to do with our relationship from now on!” Fu Chengyan snapped, his eyes flashing dangerously. “Perhaps I haven’t been clear enough with you, Madam Song. Listen to me very carefully, because I’m not going to repeat myself— Shi Nuan is my wife, and nobody can change that fact! I don’t care for the Song family’s and the Fu family’s approval of our relationship— your opinions mean nothing to me!”

“Yan!”

Song Zhenyan staggered backward. Placing both of her hands on the table to steady herself, she took a deep, shuddering breath and announced, “Yan, are you going to go up against the Fu and Song families just for this woman? Do you have any idea what you’re doing? You’re the future head of the Fu family!”

“It’s up to me to decide whether this is worth it or not!” Fu Chengyan responded angrily. “The Song family has no business making this decision for me.”

If Fu Chengyan had been holding back earlier, he certainly wasn't bothering to do so now. Meeting Song Zhenyan's gaze coolly, he snapped, "Madam Song, hasn't your brother left Jiang City recently? I think that he must have forgotten to bring you along with him."

Song Zhenyan was aghast. "I'm the daughter-in-law of the Fu family, and your father's wife!"

"Oh, so you do remember that you're my father's wife. Congratulations!" Fu Chengyan smirked cruelly as he continued gazing at Song Zhenyan, blatantly ignoring her horrified expression. "There's no need for you to inform me about what's going on between you and the Fu family. Similarly, there's no need for me to seek the approval of outsiders, regarding my marriage and my wife. This is my last warning to you— if you dare to visit my wife again, Madam Song, I'll make sure that you bear the consequences yourself."

Fu Chengyan took Shi Nuan by the hand as they prepared to leave. Just then, Song Zhenyan called out to him as she questioned urgently, "Yan, do you know what you're saying now? Are you aware of what you're doing?"

Fu Chengyan replied, "Yes, I'm very clear on that!"

"Good, good on you!" Song Zhenyan laughed, as a sudden realization dawned upon her. "So, you'd actually gotten married to this woman a long time ago! Were you also the one behind the rumors of Shi Wei and yourself? You had done that to divert our attention so that we would go up against Shi Wei instead of this wench here, didn't you?"

Song Zhenyan gritted her teeth in anger. She finally realized that her son had played her for a fool. The Shi Wei affair had taken place a while ago— *the entire Fu family had been dancing in the palm of Fu Chengyan's hand all this time.*

Something flashed in Fu Chengyan's eyes, but he didn't say anything. However, Song Zhenyan could tell from his expression that she had hit the nail on its head.

Song Zhenyan felt like an idiot. She had lived for such a long time and she had learned almost everything there was to know about people, only to end up getting tricked by her own son. *Am I too foolish, or is Fu Chengyan simply a genius? Whatever the answer, his methods are simply too harsh!*

Song Zhenyan took a deep breath. When she finally spoke, her voice sounded rather hoarse. "So... Were you the one behind Jingyu's incident too?"

Hearing this, Fu Chengyan raised a brow, as he immediately released his hold on Shi Nuan's hand.

Shi Nuan felt a little nervous. After all, Song Zhenyan was still recuperating from her illness. *It appears as though she is going to faint, at any given moment.* Rather worriedly, Shi Nuan cautioned him, "Yan, your mother..."

Fu Chengyan turned around and shook his head at her. Patting her back gently, he ordered, "Go and stand by the side for a minute."

Shi Nuan wanted to say something else, but she didn't know where to begin. Obediently, she went to stand by the side of the room to observe the ensuing conversation between the mother and son. Quite frankly, she was curious about what had happened back then, too.

All Shi Nuan knew was that Song Jingyu had been taken away by members of the Song family. However, she wasn't aware of the true details of the situation. Seeing the thunderstruck look on Song Zhenyan's face, Shi Nuan started to feel slightly sympathetic towards her.

Song Zhenyan took a deep breath as she shot an infuriated glare at Shi Nuan. Her words had done nothing to help the situation.

Now that she thought about it, Song Zhenyan realized that Fu Chengyan had yet to take action against the Song family, throughout the three years. *However, he has chosen to strike today without any warning.* Song Zhenyan decided that

there was only Shi Nuan to blame for this—the vitriol in her eyes as she gazed at the girl doubled instantly.

Shi Nuan didn't know why Song Zhenyan was looking at her with so much fury, but she didn't, particularly care. She was more worried about Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan's gaze shifted from Shi Nuan to his mother. As he looked at her with a steely glint in his eyes, he pronounced, "The Song family has been in a decline ever since my uncle became the head of the family. Isn't it time for a change in leadership?"

"What do you think you're doing?" Song Zhenyan gazed fearfully at him. "Don't you dare go up against the Song family! My kinsmen are innocent!"

Fu Chengyan laughed, but there wasn't a hint of mirth in his voice when he spoke. "Innocent? That's the last word that I would use to describe the Song family. I might have been very young back then, but I knew exactly what was going on. My father went easy on you because he had feelings for you, but that doesn't mean that I'm going to do the same. You took advantage of my father's love, attempting to manipulate him into giving you all of the Fu family's assets. The Song family had planned everything out really well!"

"Do you even hear yourself? How could I have done that to the Fu family?" Song Zhenyan's face was white as a sheet. "I'm your mother! Do you really think that I could have done something like that?"

"You might not have been able to do it, but I wouldn't put it past the Song family to have done something like that. Why don't you ask your older brother yourself? Ask him what he had done to you, thirty-five years ago." Fu Chengyan walked slowly towards Song Zhenyan, backing her into a corner. "My father was loyal to you till the very end, but you'd helped the Song family, plotting against him. Here are a few more questions that you should ask your brother— what did he do to my father twenty-five years ago, and what did he do to Song Jingyu, three years ago?"

As Fu Chengyan inched closer to her, Song Zhenyan continued to back away in horror.

Fu Chengyan's words seemed rather innocuous, but Song Zhenyan knew exactly what he was talking about. After all, she had been around to witness it all— the incidents from thirty-five, twenty-five, and three years ago showed up vividly in her mind as though they had only just happened yesterday.

“That’s impossible!”

Seeing the devastated look on Song Zhenyan's face, Fu Chengyan smiled at her, rather mockingly. As the smile vanished from his face, he gazed coldly at Song Zhenyan and chided, “Madam Song, you have some brains in that head of yours, so you must know that I’m telling you the truth. If you want to know the answer to those questions now, however, I can merely provide you with the evidence this instant!”

“No, no! I don’t want to see it!” Song Zhenyan gazed at her son, looking as though she was in a trance. Suddenly, she burst into laughter. “Haha, look at this good-for-nothing son that I’ve given birth to! I’m his mother, but he has chosen to go up against me to side with this outsider instead!” Song Zhenyan jabbed an accusatory finger at Shi Nuan and spat, “Are you going to cut off all your relatives just for this wench? Does it make you happy to reopen old wounds from my past?”

Fu Chengyan was livid. When he spoke, however, his voice was perfectly even. “You’ve used those old wounds as an excuse to harm my father over the past few decades. Doesn’t that make you equally as poisonous and self-serving as you make me out to be?”

Song Zhenyan widened her eyes and looked at Fu Chengyan. She wanted to scream back at him, but she was at a loss for words.

“Is— is this how you’ve thought of me all along? Do I really seem like such a vile woman in your eyes?”

“Well, am I wrong?” Fu Chengyan snapped. He stuck his hands into his pockets and brooded in silence for a long while. Finally, he uttered, “When I was six, I saw you drug my father as you sent another woman into his bed. From that moment onwards, I knew that you were the sort of woman who would do anything to get what she wanted.”

“You...” Song Zhenyan’s eyes widened in shock. She stared at Fu Chengyan in disbelief.

*Six years old! Fu Chengyan had only been six!*

Back then, she had watched helplessly, as Fu Heng got married to that wretch, Ning Xin, having a daughter with her. The daughter had been named Fu Jiaqi. Afterward, she started to harbor a strong grudge against Fu Sheng. *Why had he taken her virginity back then? Why had he accepted her as his wife?*

Everyone knew that the man that she truly loved was Fu Heng. She was supposed to have married him instead.

However, Fu Heng had wound up marrying Ning Xin instead, and Song Zhenyan had nearly gone mad with jealousy. She had wanted to kill both Ning Xin and Fu Sheng, for taking away her chance at happiness.

Hence, on Fu Sheng’s birthday that year, she had coaxed him into drinking the drug-laced wine. When Fu Sheng was so drunk that he couldn’t tell left from right, she had sent one of his interns, a personal assistant, into his bed. She had wanted Fu Sheng to pay the price for his actions.

However, this plan of hers had merely backfired on her, in the end...



# I Want a Lifetime with You

## Chapter 305

Shi Nuan stared at Fu Chengyan, stunned. She hadn't expected this turn of events at all. As she gazed back and forth between Fu Chengyan and Song Zhenyan, the look in her eyes changed from shock to contempt.

Before this, she had wondered if Fu Chengyan was being a little unfilial towards Song Zhenyan by being so defiant towards her. Upon hearing about Song Zhenyan's evil deeds, however, she no longer felt that way.

Fu Chengyan had seen his mother lace his father's drink with drugs, dragging a completely innocent woman into her revenge plan.

Shi Nuan suddenly remembered something else— Fu Chengyan had once told her that he had a half-sister called Fu Ling who was born to a different woman. Shi Nuan wondered if that half-sister was the product of the tryst between Fu Sheng and that personal assistant.

"No, Yan! Listen to your mother! I had only done that because..."

"You did that because you'd wanted to find an excuse to divorce my father, didn't you? Afterward, you would have probably found a way to destroy Uncle Heng's marriage as well. After getting Aunt Ning to leave him, you would have married Uncle Heng, just like you'd wanted to all along."

"I..."

Song Zhenyan staggered backward. She had kept that secret buried, in the bottom of her heart for so long. She had never expected that someone else

would unearth it someday. To her consternation, Fu Chengyan had been the one to find out about it, and he now lay her intentions bare, for all to see.

“All this while, you had never gotten over the fact that my father had raped you, taking away your chance at happiness. Can you guess who was the one who had drugged him thirty-five years ago, forcing him upon you?” Fu Chengyan frowned. He refused to back down, despite seeing the look of distress on Song Zhenyan’s face. “I’ve already told you this before— you could’ve chosen to remain in the Song Residence, living out the rest of your life in peace and comfort. That would have been the best course of action for you. However, you’d chosen to return to the Fu family to stir up trouble for us again. I won’t stop you from doing that, but I’ll make you pay for everything that you’d done back then. I’m your biological son, and your blood flows through my veins. However, if you make a move to endanger my wife, I shall do the same to your beloved Song family!”

Fu Chengyan was giving her an ultimatum. “That’s all I have to say to you.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Fu Chengyan took Shi Nuan by the hand and left the room immediately. Shi Nuan could tell that he was in an awful mood— *to the Fu family and Fu Chengyan himself, these matters concerned deep and ancient grudges, and bringing them up again would reopen old wounds.*

Since he had exposed these secrets to the world today, Fu Chengyan must have made up his mind about his next course of action.

Others may not have known Fu Chengyan or understood him, but Shi Nuan knew this man like the back of her hand. *He isn’t as vicious and emotionless as he seems— in actual fact...* “Yan!”

Fu Chengyan got into the car and helped Shi Nuan in putting on her seatbelt, with a rather neutral expression on his face. Just as he was about to start the car, Shi Nuan clasped his hand worriedly as she prodded, “You...”

Fu Chengyan glanced at her from the side and forced a smile onto his face. Gazing gently at her, he asked, “Did I scare you back in there?”

Shi Nuan shook her head. Suddenly, she felt her heart begin to ache a little, for this man. Fu Chengyan always looked so impenetrable and invincible, but Shi Nuan knew that it was just a front that he put up.

*No matter how capable Fu Chengyan is, he is still human, and a normal man at that. Like everyone else, he longs for close relationships and concern, from the people around him.* Upon hearing the conversation between him and Song Zhenyan just now, Shi Nuan could surmise that he had probably never experienced a mother’s love before.

She hadn’t expected Song Zhenyan to fall for Fu Heng either— after all, she had been married to Fu Sheng for such a long time. Because of her jealousy towards Ning Xin and Fu Heng’s relationship, as well as her own grudge against Fu Sheng, Song Zhenyan had launched her own plan of revenge, causing so much harm to everyone else.

“Then, about Fu Ling...”

“Yes,” Fu Chengyan nodded. “The relationship between the Fu family members has always been a little complicated. Other than the few half-siblings that I’ve already mentioned to you, the rest don’t actually exist. Don’t believe those rumors!” Fu Chengyan patted Ning Xin’s hand gently. “Fu Ling is the daughter of that university student whom my mother had dragged into her revenge plans.”

“Then...”

“You probably want to know what happened to her, don’t you?”

Shi Nuan nodded. *After all, that university student was innocent. If she had not been drugged by Song Zhenyan, she might have led a very different life indeed.*

“Her family was very poor. After the incident with my father, she went back home and ditched her job at the company. However, her family wasn’t very nice to her, and she found it extremely difficult to raise a kid by herself. In the end, driven to starvation, she had no choice but to look for the Fu family, as she asked us to raise the child instead.”

Shi Nuan’s heart skipped a beat. “Why didn’t your parents get divorced then?”

“My father was so guilty that he had agreed to divorce my mother, returning her freedom to her. Everything was going according to plan, but my mother refused to go through with the divorce, at the last minute. In the end, my parents never got a divorce.”

“Why not?” Shi Nuan felt rather perplexed.

*Song Zhenyan did everything in her power to ensure that she would get a divorce from Fu Sheng. Since the opportunity had been offered to her, why didn’t she simply take it and leave?*

“Why not, you ask? Have you forgotten that the Song family was the mastermind behind my parents’ marriage? They would never have allowed my mother to get a divorce because that would mean a break in the two families’ relationship. The Song family would have destroyed their only chance at surviving on, in Jiang City. My uncle wasn’t an idiot.”

Shi Nuan could not help but shake a little. *The Song family was far too cruel.*

“What happened after that? Fu Ling...”

“My mother refused to divorce my father, but she also refused to allow the Fu family to acknowledge Fu Ling’s existence. In addition to that, she made sure that Fu Ling’s mother would never step foot into Jiang City ever again. Afterward, she took her dowry and left, for her maiden home in the capital. She never returned to the Fu family again.”

An involuntary shiver ran down Shi Nuan's spine. She had never imagined that Song Zhenyan would be so heartless.

Before this, she thought that Fu Chengyan had gone a little overboard, by serving his mother an ultimatum. Now, she had completely changed her mind.

*Song Zhenyan hated Fu Sheng, but she refused to allow anyone else to have him. In fact, anyone who tried to enter the picture as a third party had been eliminated by her. In the end, the whole affair orchestrated by Song Zhenyan had only made tragic victims out of that female university student and the bastard daughter, Fu Ling.*

"Is that why you've always treated Fu Ling so nicely? Because you feel rather sorry towards her?"

Something flickered in Fu Chengyan's eyes, but he chose to remain silent.

"Yan, that's all in the past now. Why should you continue to dwell on it? Furthermore, you're all grown up now, and you can be in charge of your own destiny. You..."

Before she could finish speaking, Fu Chengyan interrupted her and uttered, "Yes, I know. Do you really think that I'll let the things in my past affect me?" *Of course not— I am too old for that.* "I won't let my family decide how I shall live my life. It's my life, not theirs."

Fu Chengyan had made up his mind— *neither the Fu nor the Song family is going to have a say in how I live my life.*

"What about Uncle Heng and Aunt Ning?"

"Oh, they're very much in love with each other. They have been together since the beginning. Don't worry— I can tell if someone married for money or not."

Shi Nuan nodded. "Same here. I could tell just by looking at how well they treat each other."

"Truthfully, I wasn't the real victim in this situation. As far as everyone is concerned, I'm the legitimate son of the Fu family, and I'm the future head of the household. The actual victims," Fu Chengyan finished, "are my sister and Fu Ling."

"Your sister? Fu Jiayu?" Shi Nuan thought hard about it for a while and realized that Fu Jiayu was thirty-four this year. *Had Fu Jiayu been the product of Song Zhenyan's rape by Fu Sheng, thirty-five years ago?*

"You've guessed it correctly. My mother took her anger out on my elder sister, so my sister hates her even more than I do."

Shi Nuan sighed. She didn't know what to say in response to that.

"Alright. I'm not telling you about this to make you worried or upset. As your husband, I'm just trying to share some of my troubles with you. In the future, I'll make sure to share everything that happens in my life with you, be it bad or good."

"I got it." Shi Nuan affirmed, smiling slightly.

Her smile probably looked a little forced now, but she continued smiling anyway. She wanted to let Fu Chengyan know that she would always remain by his side, no matter what happened to him in the future.

"Oh, right. By the way, how did you know that your mother brought me here?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head haplessly as he ruffled her hair. "Have you forgotten that I'd sent some of my men to protect you?"

Realization dawned upon Shi Nuan. "So, it was the bodyguards who had informed you! Still, you'd arrived rather quickly." Fu Chengyan had arrived at the

restaurant barely a few minutes after she had arrived with Song Zhenyan. “Did you take a plane there, by any chance?”

Fu Chengyan laughed lightly. “Yes. I couldn’t bear the thought of you suffering, even just a tiny bit. I came as quickly as I could.”

“Yan, you’re so wonderful!” Shi Nuan laid her head on his shoulder and nuzzled up against his chest. “Don’t worry, I’ll take good care of myself, too. No matter who comes for me, I won’t let them bully me into submission.”

“Is that so?” Fu Chengyan laughed again. “There’s no way I’m going to buy that. Ever since we met, you’ve barely kept yourself out of trouble.”

Shi Nuan felt a little embarrassed. “Did you really have to say that aloud? That’s all in the past. In the future, however, I’ll make sure that nobody gets to bully me.”

“Alright. I’ll believe you just this once!”

When they got home, Fu Chengyan headed straight into his study room to finish up his work. Shi Nuan went into the kitchen to do some tidying up. She was still a little shaken up by the day’s events— she had heard way too much information today for her to process all at once.

Shi Nuan had always thought that her own childhood was pretty rough, but she had learnt today that the Fu Family had more secrets than she could count. *I could never have guessed that Fu Chengyan would have grown up in such a hostile environment.*

Shi Nuan sighed. As she washed the vegetables, she thought back on her conversation with Song Zhenyan.

Song Zhenyan’s words had bothered her deeply, but Shi Nuan couldn’t pinpoint the exact thing that had caused her to feel so uneasy. In addition to that, Song Zhenyan’s hatred towards her was quite concerning, considering the fact that they had never met each other before.

However, the more she dwelt on it, the more her head hurt.

When she finally came out of the kitchen, she spotted Ning Xin sitting in the living room. Walking over to her, Shi Nuan greeted, "Aunt Ning!"

"Nuan, what happened?" Ning Xin waved her over and gestured for her to sit down next to her. "Is something wrong? Both you and Yan looked rather distracted when you came home. Has something happened?"

"Huh? Oh, it's nothing." Shi Nuan shook her head and glanced at the closed door of the study room upstairs. Though a little hesitant, she still asked, "Aunt Ning, can I ask you something?"

"Sure! Is this about Yan or the Fu family?" Ning Xin was a rather intuitive person, and she could tell from Shi Nuan's face that one of the above was bothering her.

Shi Nuan nodded. Scratching her head rather awkwardly, she sat up straight and proclaimed politely, "Well, it's nothing serious, but Yan's mother had found me tonight and she told me a few things that have made me a little curious."

"Song Zhenyan?"

A look of distaste appeared on Ning Xin's face, but apart from that, her expression remained unchanged. "Why was she looking for you? Did she find out about your marriage to her son? Has she decided to make things difficult for you?"

"Aunt Ning, you're a genius!" Shi Nuan felt a little sheepish.

"I'm not a genius, my dear. She's just the type of person who would do that sort of stuff." Ning Xin shook her head. "Don't think too much about what she has said to you. Uncle Heng and I have been certain, in approving of your relationship with Yan."



“Yes, I know that,” Shi Nuan uttered, smiling. “If it were any other way, you wouldn’t be sitting here and telling me this. Actually, I just wanted to ask you about Yan’s mother... I’ve never met her before, but her attitude towards me is extremely strange. It seems almost as though she hates me. She seems to hate me very much, Aunt Ning. Why do you think that is such?”

Ning Xin frowned slightly before she gazed at Shi Nuan. A while later, she finally explained, “She’s like this towards everyone, and especially so towards people who try to get close to Yan and Heng.”