# I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 306

Shi Nuan's mind flew back to what Fu Chengyan had told her. Song Zhenyan has always loved Fu Heng. She looked at Ning Xin guilty. "I'm sorry, Aunt Ning!"

"Silly girl. Why are you apologizing to me? It's a fact that she loves Heng even if you have not probed about it." Ning Xin shook her head and sighed deeply. "At that time, she blamed Heng for not fighting hard enough to be with her. She also blamed Heng as her husband had forced her to marry him against her will. Thus, there hasn't been a day of peace since she joined the Fu clan. Those poor children and Ling... I guess Yan has told you about Ling?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yes. Yan feels very guilty towards her."

"Yan is a good kid. Although others may think he is ruthless, he is left with no choice as he has to lead the Fu clan since young. But he is really kind towards Jiayu and Ling. It's a pity that Ling can never be an official member of the Fu clan. What else do you want to know?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "Nothing so far."

"Okay. Feel free to ask me anything you want to know which you can't ask Yan. I have watched you and your brother grow up and will definitely tell you anything you like to know."

"What are you two talking about?"

Fu Chengyan had come downstairs. He had changed into a white tee paired with a knitted sweater, portraying an easy-going demeanor.

Shi Nuan smiled. "Nothing. We were only chit-chatting."

Fu Chengyan smiled, nodding his head lightly. "It's getting late. Continue chatting with Aunt Ning. I will go and prepare dinner."

"It's okay. I have started cooking already." Shi Nuan pulled Fu Chengyan down onto the sofa while getting up herself. "I'll count on you to accompany Aunt Ning now. Have a proper conversation with her."

With that, Shi Nuan headed into the kitchen. Fu Chengyan shook his head, amused by her antics.

"Yan, I heard from Nuan that both of you went to visit your mother today?"

Fu Chengyan was stunned for a moment. His fingers were trembling slightly as he nodded. "Yeah, we did."

"What has she told Nuan?"

"Nothing. I won't let her tell Nuan nonsense."

"I'm glad you understand this. Although I know you really love Nuan, not everyone gets that. After all, Shen Qianan is your ex-girlfriend. Nuan won't be able to accept it if she knows that she looks exactly like Shen Qianan..."

Ning Xin was genuinely worried. "This is not a small matter. Think about how you are going to tell Nuan."

"I can't be bothered."

"In that case, being the open-minded person that I am, I won't interfere in your relationship matters."

"Great!"

Song Zhenyan stumbled out of the hotel in a dazed state. Someone stood in her path. She raised her head and soon realized that it was Fu Sheng. At the sight of the man, anger rose in her as she recalled how Fu Chengyan had blamed and humiliated her. Stretching her hand out, she slapped Fu Sheng hard on his face. "It is all your fault! I have wasted my youth!"

"Enough!" Fu Sheng grabbed hold of her hands. "Have you had enough? Do you really want to make a scene on the streets?"

"[..."

"Why did you leave the hospital? You have yet to recover fully! It is none of my business if you want to die in the capital, but don't think about dying in Jiang City! This is my territory!"

Fu Sheng's anger rose as he stared at the defiant Song Zhenyan, and he sneered, "Are you here to look for Shi Nuan? What rights do you have to go looking for her?"

His eyes were filled with disdain; any trace of love he had once felt towards her years ago had vanished. "I warned you not to return when you left last time. But why do you return now? What benefits do you want to get from the Fu clan?"

"Fu Sheng, I don't understand what you are talking about. You owe me so much. If it weren't for you..."

"Even without me in the picture, Heng would not have married you too." Fu Sheng cut her off coldly. Grabbing Song Zhenyan by her hands, he dragged her into the car before slamming the car door shut.

The chauffeur was shocked to see the enraged Fu Shen. "Old master, where do you want to go?"

"Hospital!" Fu Sheng glared at Song Zhenyan. "Song Zhenyan, you knew exactly what happened back then. I would have never forced anyone to do anything

against their will. It was a scheme devised by you and your brother. After knowing that I would inherit the position as the Fu clan's head, Song Huaiyan purposely drugged me and forced me to marry you. Did you think I wouldn't know about it?"

"No... It's not true," Song Zhenyan denied in a flustered tone. "I am in love with Heng and..."

"And it turns out that my father let Heng be the head of the Fu clan?" Fu Sheng smiled coldly. "Do you really think Heng is the Fu clan's head?"

"What do you mean?" Song Zhenyan's face turned ghastly white.

"Heng and I have discussed the matter, and we've agreed to let him be the head of the Fu clan. Heng has no son, so he will let Yan succeed him in the future." Fu Sheng stared at her coldly. "I bet your brother did not see this coming now, did he? He did not expect my father to let Heng inherit his position as the Fu clan's head two years after you gave birth to Yan. Furthermore, you did not expect Heng to marry Ning Xin and have a daughter with her. So, you and your brother devised another scheme against me so that we would divorce in hopes that Heng would marry you? Song Zhenyan, no matter how gorgeous you think you are, do you really think Heng will want to marry you after you have married his brother before?"

"No... You..."

"But your father is smart. He knows Heng will never marry you, so he has dissuaded you from divorcing me. Instead, you and your family decided to target Yan. Song Zhenyan, do you really think I have no idea what you're up to?"

"]..."

"Don't think I'm in the dark on the matter just because I don't speak up about it. Let this be my warning to you. Yan's temperament is unlike mine. Feel free to push your luck. Let's see what he will do to you."

"You, you actually agreed for Yan to be together with that slut, Shi Nuan? Do you know what you are doing? She looks the same as the other slut, Shen Qianan..."

"Enough. Don't you call them 'sluts'! They are ten times better than you. No matter who Yan ends up with, it is none of your business!"

"Fu Sheng, did you think I wanted to come today? Haha! Let me enlighten you. Fu Zhengyun wants to make use of me to break them up. Even without me around, Fu Zhengyun will also try all means to break them up. Just wait and see if you don't believe me!"

"That's Fu clan's business. It has nothing to do with you!"

"What do you mean?"

"Song Zhenyan, the only reason I did not divorce you back then was to spare you from embarrassment!" Fu Sheng looked at Song Zhenyan in disgust. He couldn't recognize her as the woman he had loved years ago.

"Fu Sheng, what on earth are you talking about I knew you and that slut, Gu Yun, had an affair back then. Yet, you still refuse to admit it now? How dare you claim that it is all my fault? How could I have forced you to sleep with another woman against your will? Fu Sheng, you must have wanted to cheat on me, so..."

"Song Zhenyan, how heartless of you to make such accusations against me? No... Why am I even wasting my breath talking to you? You are a heartless and selfish creature. Gu Yun is an innocent party. We have hurt her badly, yet you still deny that it is your fault?"

Fu Sheng had never regretted anything in his life, but this matter. I have hurt an innocent woman and that poor child. "Not only have you caused Gu Yun to lose her job and be despised by everyone, but your actions have also resulted in Ling being my illegitimate daughter who can never be an official member of the Fu clan. You and I have caused them great harm to them."

"Fu Sheng. Are you scared now? Haha! Is she all that innocent? Why didn't she spare a thought for me when she decided to be your mistress back then?"

"You caused all these to happen!" *This woman is crazy. I can't talk to her any longer.* "I don't want to talk to you anymore. Get down and head to the hospital yourself!"

"Fu Sheng, how dare you treat me this way?" Song Zhenyan widened her eyes in disbelief. He wouldn't treat me in this way no matter what wrong I had done in the past. I can't believe he has changed so much.

The chauffeur stopped the car, and Fu Sheng opened the door to push Song Zhenyan out of the car.

Staring at her coldly, he warned her, "Try it if you don't believe my words. See if the Song family will still protect you. Song Huaiyan has aged, and the position of the Song family's leader is bound to be inherited by someone. Do you think you will be the successor? Song Huaiyan only has one son, Jingyao. He will definitely be the new leader of the Song family. Do you think Jingyao will still help you then?"

"I am his aunt." I don't believe Song Jingyao will disregard our aunt-nephew relationship.

"But between you and Song Jingyu, he will definitely choose the latter. Song Zhenyan, do you really think the Song family will continue to protect you forever?"

Fu Sheng stared at her coldly before closing the door on her. Song Zhenyan trembled at the sight of his frosty gaze.

"Let's go!" Fu Sheng ordered the chauffeur. Song Zhenyan was caught up in a bundle of inexplicable emotions the moment she was pushed out of the car.

She glared at the car as it drove away.

The ruckus Song Zhenyan had caused during her last visit had gradually slipped everyone's minds as time passed. Peace had soon descended upon everyone again.

After New Year, Jiang City was bustling with activities again. All the companies had resumed operations, and Shengyuan was no exception.

Shi Nuan was almost beside herself, dealing with the problems of her projects which had surfaced after the New Year break.

She was organizing the documents on her desk when Lin Yu walked over. "I will go to the construction site to take a look at it tomorrow. Come with me!"

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"Just me alone?" Shi Nuan raised her head in surprise and pointed at herself. "What about Yuan Jia?"

"I've asked her to stay here to follow up on another project. Is that a problem?"

"No, no problem!" Shi Nuan smiled. "Of course, there is no problem!"

"That's great!" Lin Yu tapped on Shi Nuan's desk. "You are looking quite good. It seems like you fully enjoyed the New Year celebration?"

Shi Nuan smiled. "It wasn't horrible!" Aside from those worrisome matters, I did have quite an enjoyable time during the celebration. "How about you? Did you enjoy your New Year celebration?" Suddenly, Shi Nuan thought about the phone call she had made to Su Yian a few days ago over the New Year. She was stammering when I asked about Lin Yu at that time. I assumed that she had a beef with him. But that's not in line with Lin Yu's character at all. After all, I have known him for a long time. Furthermore, he seems to be in quite a good mood today.

"Why?" Lin Yu asked as he looked at Shi Nuan, who was lost in thought. "Is there any other problem?"

"No. Let me organize my documents first. We may need to be at the construction site for almost a day tomorrow."

Lin Yu nodded. "Then I shall make a move first."

After Lin Yu left, Yuan Jia walked over and patted Shi Nuan on her shoulder. "What did Mr. Lin tell you just now?"

"Nothing." Shi Nuan shook her head. "So you are looking for me because..."

"Haha... I just wanted to gossip with you. Do you know that Mr. Lin has a girlfriend now?" Yuan Jia smiled wickedly at Shi Nuan, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

Surprised, Shi Nuan looked in the direction of Lin Yu's office unknowingly. "Mr. Lin has a girlfriend? How do you know that?" *If Lin Yu has a girlfriend, what about Su Yian...* 

She bit her lower lip with a troubled expression on her face.

"Why? Are you unhappy that Mr. Lin is attached? Don't tell me you're carrying a torch for him!" Yuan Jia nudged her shoulders and looked at her slyly. "Mr. Lin is definitely a good catch, although he can't match up to Mr. Fu. A lot of our female colleagues like Mr. Lin, so I'd understand if you like him too. But..." Suddenly, Yuan Jia let out a scream as her gaze landed upon Shi Nuan's finger. "Nuan!"

"What?"

Shi Nuan was startled by her scream and could not help but roll her eyes at her. "It's working hours now. Why are you shouting in the office?"

"You... you! You have a ring on your finger!" Yuan Jia pointed at Shi Nuan's ring in shock. Her face was filled with astonishment. "You are wearing a ring... You..."

"Shh!" Shi Nuan put her finger to her lips, signaling Yuan Jia to keep her voice down, "Yes, I'm married. So you need not suspect me of being in love with Mr. Lin."

While Shi Nuan did not mind letting Yuan Jia know about her marriage, she wanted to keep it from the others. "But not many people know about it, so..."

"I get it. I know I should not tell anyone about it!" Yuan Jia nodded. "But when did you get married? Why didn't you tell me about it beforehand?" Yuan Jia scrutinized Shi Nuan's ring but did not think much of it. "Your husband... is so stingy! There is not a single diamond on it! It's so plain and simple!"

Shi Nuan's husband must be some stingy commoner! Yuan Jia continued, "You guys will only get married once. Your husband... mustn't have been as good as Mr. Lin!"

Shi Nuan was speechless. Should I tell her that it's a ring of exquisite workmanship although it looks simple and plain? Also, this ring is the only one in the world. It must have been very expensive. Should I tell her that my husband is Fu Chengyan, the man she claims even Lin Yu can't match up to?

"Nuan, don't be mad with me. I don't actually mean that. I'm sure your husband has his own good qualities. Haha, I don't know your husband, so I should not comment too much. You..."

"It's okay. I'm not angry!" Shi Nuan withdrew her hand. "Let's not talk about me anymore. You mentioned that Mr. Lin is attached now? How do you know?"

Yuan Jia heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing that Shi Nuan was not mad with her. She whipped out her phone hurriedly. "Haha, it's all thanks to my shopping trip a few days ago, during which I ran into Mr. Lin and a lady in a restaurant together! He seemed very happy at that time!"

Yuan Jia passed the phone to Shi Nuan. "It's the lady in this photograph. As we were standing quite far apart, I could not capture her face clearly. But I'm sure she is Mr. Lin's girlfriend!"

"You took the photograph without their knowledge?" Shi Nuan was shocked by the woman's paparazzi-like behavior. Nevertheless, she still took Yuan Jia's phone to take a closer look. If Lin Yu is really attached, I should warn Su Yian to prevent her from developing any unrequited feelings for him. After all, she is my good friend.

But why does she look so familiar? Shi Nuan zoomed into the photograph. Suddenly, her eyes widened in astonishment.

"What happened?" Yuan Jia sensed something amiss with Shi Nuan. "Why do you keep looking at the photograph? It's not very clear, I know."

"Are there other photographs?" Shi Nuan asked frantically.

"Eh, as you know, I should not take photographs of other people secretly. I only took a couple of photographs. Aside from this, there's another photograph on the phone, but it's not very clear either. Why are you so nervous? Are you..."

Shi Nuan swiped to the next photograph, which is slightly clearer. Shi Nuan was sure that the lady in it was Su Yian. The corners of her lips curved upwards. She whipped out her phone and asked, "Send these two photographs to me!"

"Why do you want them? Don't tell me you are planning to ask Mr. Lin about them? Please don't do that! I'll be dead if he knows I took his photographs in secret." Shi Nuan smiled and assured Yuan Jia, who had worked herself up into quite a bit of state, "Don't worry. Am I that sort of person?"

"Then why do you want the photographs?"

Shi Nuan only shot her a mysterious smile in return. "Let me explain everything to you after I confirm some stuff!" With that, Shi Nuan burst into a loud guffaw as she took another look at the photographs that Yuan Jia had sent her.

Yuan Jia was knee-deep in curiosity by now, but Shi Nuan refused to let her in the loop, which only served to pique her curiosity further.

That night, Shi Nuan asked Su Yian about Lin Yu again. Su Yian continued to answer her in a stammering voice, refusing to divulge anything about their relationship until Shi Nuan finally sent the photographs to her. Only then did she confess that she had taken a liking to Lin Yu. But she insisted that she and Lin Yu were not dating. She had run into Lin Yu coincidentally that day, and the latter had invited her for a mere dinner.

Shi Nuan understood that Su Yian was a cautious person, more so in love matters. Thus she believed her friend's words. However, being her good friend, she felt obliged to warn her that she should not lose the chance with Lin Yu because of her cautious nature.

Upon returning from the study, Fu Chengyan caught Shi Nuan chatting on the phone while snuggling under the duvet. She looks quite adorable this way.

Fu Chengyan walked over to her side and lifted the duvet. "You'll barely be able to breathe if you're covered under this duvet!"

"Yan, you're done with your work already?" Shi Nuan's eyes sparkled with joy as she sat up on the bed hurriedly. Holding Fu Chengyan's hands, she pulled him to join her on the bed and placed the duvet over his body. "Are you very busy today?"

"Hmm, I have finished my work for today." Fu Chengyan swept his gaze over the phone in Shi Nuan's hand and asked, "Are you chatting with your friend?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yes, I'm chatting with Yian. Oh, by the way, how do you find Lin Yu?"

Fu Chengyan lifted a brow questioningly. He took another look at her phone and registered the messages on it before smiling knowingly. "So you want to matchmake them?"

"Can I?" Shi Nuan smiled sheepishly. "I think Yian is a quiet and nice girl. She is rather suitable for Lin Yu."

"It's not up to you to decide if they are compatible." Fu Chengyan pinched her nose affectionately. "They should judge it for themselves."

"The probability of successfully matchmaking them is very high. My colleague ran into Lin Yu and Yian on a 'date' a few days ago. So I really think there is a chance of them being together. But I still have to ask for your opinions on Lin Yu's character."

"Aren't you working for him?" Smiling, Fu Chengyan took her phone away from her, wrapped his arms around her, and rubbed her arms affectionately. "Shouldn't you understand him well enough?"

"He is quite a good boss, but I'm not sure if he is as nice outside of work!" I am really going all out for Su Yian to the extent of finding out about her potential boyfriend's character!

"Am I supposed to know how he's like?" Fu Chengyan was amused, but he continued after giving it a serious thought, "I don't know too much about Lin Yu. I heard nothing but good reviews about him when he was overseas, and that's why I've valued him a lot since he joined Shengyuan. As for his personal matters, I'm really not sure. I think he has only been in one relationship before, and even that was only one-sided love on his part."

"One-sided love? You mean he was carrying a torch for a woman? So the woman is...."

"Enough. That was ages ago. Besides, I have not heard about him liking anyone now. So what if you think that he and your friend are compatible? Let them decide for themselves. Don't try to matchmake them. Otherwise, you may be caught in the middle one day."

"That's true!" Shi Nuan nodded. "Love matters shouldn't be influenced by others."

"Yep!" Fu Chengyan agreed wholeheartedly. "I heard you're visiting the construction site tomorrow?"

"How do you know that?" Shi Nuan asked in astonishment, "Did Mr. Lin tell you?"

"Since when I do not keep track of your project management department's activities?" Fu Chengyan ran a finger across her nose before continuing, "Be careful."

"I know that!" Why must he treat me like a kid? "I'm a grown-up. I will take care of myself." She continued after a thoughtful pause, "Oh yes! Zhou Zheng told me yesterday that the movie 'Beneath the Sky' is about to start filming?"

"Yes, it's due to start a few days later in H Nation. So you need not worry about anyone disturbing you during the filming." Fu Chengyan smiled. "Just concentrate on your work!"

"Okay, Mr. Fu!" Shi Nuan got up and planted her lips onto his, biting his lower lip gently.

Fu Chengyan's eyes twinkled with humor. He turned around and pinned Shi Nuan under him. With one hand beside her petite figure, he lifted her chin with his other hand. "Mrs. Fu, do you want to start a battle with me?"

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Her face flushed scarlet red immediately, and she smacked his hand away. "You are so shameless!"

"Is this shameless?" His eyes twinkled with humor as he lifted her chin with his finger and planted his lips firmly onto hers. The kiss left them slightly out of breath. Fu Chengyan teased, "I can be even more shameless. Mrs. Fu, would you like to try me?"

The next morning, Shi Nuan headed downstairs with an aching back. Along the way down, she grumbled about the unrelenting drive of Fu Chengyan. *I shouldn't believe any word of what a man says on the bed!* 

"You've finally woken up."

Fu Chengyan came out of the kitchen with two small bowls in his hands. Noticing the resentful look on Shi Nuan's face, he made a peace offering to her by pointing at the sumptuous breakfast on the dining table. "Quickly, finish up your breakfast. Don't you need to visit the construction site later? You should have a full breakfast before going."

Shi Nuan walked to the dining table grudgingly. The resentment on her face was replaced by astonishment, and she could not help but blurt out, "There's only both of us here. Why do you cook so much food?"

"Didn't you say you would be going to the construction site today? Bring some food along with you. Otherwise, you may be starved to death as you need to spend some time in the construction site!"

"Okay!" Shi Nuan nodded as her gaze towards Fu Chengyan softened. *He must have gotten up very early to cook this much food.* With that thought in mind, she could not help but sneak a peek at Fu Chengyan again.

He smiled. "Why is Mrs. Fu looking at me? Would she rather have me than the food for breakfast?"

Shi Nuan stared at him, speechless.

After calling Fu Chengyan shameless in her heart, she started to tuck in happily.

While Fu Chengyan was packing up some food for her to bring along with her to the construction site, he asked, "Will you be stopping by the office first, or are you heading to the site straightaway?"

"I left some documents in the office, so I agreed to meet Mr. Lin in the office first before going to the site together." Furthermore, it doesn't seem very appropriate for me to drive my car to the site. "Do you remember Mr. Lin winning a Land Rover during a lucky draw? I can take the opportunity to check out his new car!"

"You cheeky imp!" Fu Chengyan pinched her nose. "Okay, let's set off now."

Shi Nuan had just parked her car when she saw Lin Yu waiting for her beside his Land Rover that had been parked by the roadside. At the sight of her, he checked his watch and said, "Let's go!"

"Mr. Lin, I left some documents in the office!"

"I've already taken them. Just get into the car."

Shi Nuan boarded the car obediently. After putting on his seat belt, Lin Yu sensed Shi Nuan's gaze on him. Puzzled, he asked, "Is there any other matter?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "Nothing!"

"Then let us set off now! We may stay there for a long time. Thank god it's not summer now. But the wind over there is rather strong. I hope you have brought along a jacket to keep you warm?"

"It's fine. Mr. Lin, you're even more attentive than my mom!" Shi Nuan could not help but tease him. Lin Yu smiled good-naturedly and said, "The documents are beside you, do have a look at them. George will be returning next week, so once everyone agrees on the proposal, our collaboration with Li Group will start immediately."

"Li Group? Have we already confirmed the collaboration with them?" Shi Nuan was surprised as she thought that Fu Chengyan had planned to study the proposals made by other companies first before making a decision. *Is he not considering other companies right from the start?* 

Lin Yu smiled. "Only the Li Group is qualified so far. I guess Mr. Fu has his own considerations too."

"Yes, yes!" I don't really care which company we'll be working with anyway. Furthermore, the Li Group is really quite outstanding in all aspects. But Fu Chengyan has mentioned before that Shengyuan seldom works with Li Group because of Li Heng. Why is he making an exception now?

"Why? Do you have any other questions?"

"No, I'm good. Let me continue reading through the documents!"

Indeed, both of them were caught up in work once they arrived at the construction site in the morning. Furthermore, Lin Yu had a tendency to forget about the time once he started working. Thus when he finally raised his head, he was stunned for a second at the sight of Shi Nuan having her lunch in the car and headed to the car immediately.

"I'm so sorry. We seemed to have missed our lunch time."

"Mr. Lin, do you want to have some?"

Not only had Fu Chengyan prepared appetizing dishes, but he had also even packed them in thermos lunch boxes to keep the food warm.

Lin Yu swept an astonished gaze across all the thermos lunch boxes that Shi Nuan had laid out on the car seat. Struggling to find an appropriate reaction, he finally asked, "So you have prepared your own lunch, knowing that you may go hungry during your site visit with me..."

He broke out into a smile. "I'm so sorry. I haven't been a thoughtful boss."

"That's not true." Shi Nuan smiled. "Anyway, I have brought extra food. Do you want some?"

"Did you make them yourself?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "Yan made them!"

Yan?

Lin Yu raised a brow. Fu Chengyan made them?

He looked at Shi Nuan with a conflicted look; he could not digest the fact that a wildly successful businessman such as Fu Chengyan could make such a delicious soup.

"What's wrong? Aren't you hungry?" Shi Nuan sensed something was amiss with Lin Yu.

"No, I shouldn't eat them since Mr. Fu has prepared them especially for you. Initially, I planned to buy you lunch. I guess there's no need for it now?"

Shi Nuan stared at her boss in silence upon hearing his statement.

Lin Yu burst out laughing at the sight of Shi Nuan's dumbfounded look. "I'm just kidding!"

Shi Nuan almost choked on her food amidst Lin Yu's laughter, and she finally managed an awkward smile after a long while. "So Mr. Lin, do you really not want some? We may be stuck at work for a long time."

Lin Yu accepted her offer and tried a few mouthfuls. His eyes lit up in surprise. Although the food is slightly cold, it tastes quite good! Judging from Lin Yu's expression, Shi Nuan knew that the food must be delicious. "Aren't Yan's culinary skills good?"

Lin Yu nodded in agreement. "Yeah, it's not bad, actually!"

"Have you tried Yian's cooking before?"

Lin Yu spat out his food in shock, and his face flushed red instantly.

Seeing that Lin Yu was coughing badly as he almost choked on his food, Shi Nuan hurriedly passed him a bottle. "Mr. Lin, here, some water for you."

Lin Yu opened the bottle frantically and gulped the liquid down. Finally, he stopped coughing and looked at Shi Nuan with conflicted feelings as he swallowed hard.

Feeling sorry, Shi Nuan tried to explain, "I... I don't mean to pry. I'm only asking out of concern for my friend and my boss. It's only a coincidence that my friend and my boss..."

Lin Yu blushed again upon hearing Shi Nuan's words. After a long silence, he finally said to Shi Nuan, "Ms. Su is quite good."

Batting her eyelids at him cheekily, Shi Nuan waited for him to continue but to no avail. Hence, she had no choice but to ask, "Then?"

Lin Yu met her gaze. "Sorry, but I only see Ms. Su as a good friend."

He did not explain further, but Shi Nuan caught his meaning. Feeling indignant on her friend's behalf, she could not help but ask, "Why? Are you still unable to forget about her?"

Her?

Lin Yu replied in a puzzled tone, "How do you know about her?"

So it's true? "I don't know the person, but I have heard that you used to like someone. Mr. Lin, everyone needs to let go of their past and move on. I think..."

"Ms. Shi, this is a personal matter of mine. I don't think I need to explain myself to you."

Shi Nuan's body stiffened for a moment before letting out a burst of awkward laughter to ease the tension in the air. "I'm sorry. I have gone overboard."

For the rest of the afternoon, the two of them were relatively quiet, only talking about work matters. After wrapping up their work at the construction site, they returned to the office. Lin Yu drove to the car park after dropping off Shi Nuan at the company lobby.

Shi Nuan was about to head upstairs to her office when two stern-looking men decked in black suits blocked her path. "Ms. Shi?"

"That's me. And you are?"

"Old Master would like to see you." One of the men said, "Please come with us."

"Old Master?" Shi Nuan was stunned for a second before looking around her. She looked at the two men before her again and asked, "You mean Old Master Fu?"

Who else can it be but him? Only he has the authority to allow his men to come in and go out of Shengyuan at their own will and to take someone away forcibly. They even refer to him as Old Master.

She bit her lower lip and pondered for a moment before asking, "Can you let me go up to put my stuff first?"

"Ms. Shi, why don't you go with us now since you know that Old Master Fu wants to meet you? You must drop everything and rush to meet Old Master Fu so long as he wishes to meet you!"

Shi Nuan's mouth twitched.

These men are so arrogant! Even Fu Chengyan wasn't this arrogant when I met him for the first time!

"Please leave with us now!"

Shi Nuan was left without a choice. Curling her lips, she said, "Let me make a call to my boss first. I need to pass these documents to him! These are very important documents. He will need to use them later!"

The two men before her frowned in apparent impatience. But Shi Nuan ignored them and called Lin Yu on her phone immediately, who happened to enter the lobby at this moment. He furrowed his brows at the sight of Shi Nuan, who appeared to be worried. "Ms. Shi."

"Mr. Lin, it's great seeing you here." Shi Nuan hurried over to Lin Yu. "These documents are for you. Didn't you mention that these documents are very important?"

"Yes, These are very important, but we haven't finished working on them yet. Didn't I ask you to complete them by this afternoon?" Lin Yu looked at the two men behind Shi Nuan, noticing their intent gaze on her.

Lin Yu turned to look at Shi Nuan again. "Mr. Fu wants this document, but I need to go out for a while. Please hand this over to Mr. Fu." With that, Shi Nuan passed the document to Lin Yu and held his hands tightly. "You must tell Mr. Fu."

Lin Yu narrowed his eyes. "Rest assured. I will pass this document to Mr. Fu. Go ahead if you have something urgent to attend to. Give me a call if you need me."

"Great, Mr. Lin! Thanks!" Shi Nuan heaved a deep sigh of relief and turned around to look at the two men in black suits. "Where does Old Master Fu want to meet me? Bring me there!"

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After watching Shi Nuan leave with the two men in suits with a frown, Lin Yu took the elevator and made a beeline for Fu Chengyan's office.

As he made his entrance looking flustered, Mai Qi immediately greeted him, "Mr. Lin, are you here for Mr. Fu?"

"Yes, where's he?"

"He's gone out with Mr. Zhou. Do you have anything urgent to tell him?" Seeing the worried expression on Lin Yu's face, Mai Qi suggested, "You may tell me, and I'll pass the message to him."

"There's no need for that."

As Fu Chengyan was not in, Lin Yu had no choice but to leave. However, he quickly dialed the former's number because he was worried about Shi Nuan's safety. Yet, he couldn't reach Fu Chengyan because he was somewhere out of coverage area. That only deepened the crease on Lin Yu's forehead.

Shi Nuan got into a car with the two suited men. The car kept moving forward, but none of them told her where they were heading to.

Thinking that it would do her no good to be panicked, she decided to be patient and find out why Old Master Fu wanted to meet her. Her mind slowly wandered to her last encounter with Fu Chengyan's mother, Song Zhenyan, which escalated into something horrible. Because of that experience, she decided to steel herself to face Old Master Fu, who was highly likely to be even more difficult to deal with than Song Zhenyan.

Holding her head low, she fished out her phone from her bag. One of the suited men at the front passenger seat instantly whirled around and fixed his sharp gaze on her.

Looking stunned, Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows slightly and said in what sounded like a breezy tone, "Why are you staring at me like that? Can't I even check and reply to my messages?" She added with a relaxed smile, "If I'm not mistaken, Old Master Fu only instructed you guys to bring me to his place instead of restricting my freedom."

It was obvious that the suited men were taken aback by what she said. They couldn't help but admit that Shi Nuan had a point – it was true that they had not been asked to do so. However, the sight of her holding her phone was alarming. Is she trying to ask for help?

"Don't worry; I'm only chatting with my friend. I'm not trying to reach Fu Chengyan!" Waving the screen of her phone at him, she chuckled. "Why are you guys so uptight about this? It's not like I'm a criminal!"

"Ms. Shi, I advise you to behave yourself," the man warned.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but roll her eyes in her mind at the man. Despite feeling reluctant, she stuffed her phone back into her bag obediently. She pressed a button on her phone before leaving it in her bag. After that, she was on her best behavior.

The two suited guys stopped giving her a hard time after that. During the rest of the journey, she switched on her chatterbox mode by talking to the two guys non-stop. As they ignored her most of the time, she decided to talk to herself.

Soon, the car pulled up in front of a seaside mansion. After exiting the car, she followed the two guys into the mansion. One of them cast her a glance before saying, "Old Master Fu is waiting for you upstairs."

She raised her brows at him. "Should I go look for him?"

"Please just wait for him here."

"Okay!" She nodded at him before adding, "May I have a glass of water? My mouth is parched. I haven't drunk a drop of water since I was at the construction site. I reckon your boss didn't ask you guys to abuse me, did he?"

The two guys narrowed their eyes at her before one of them bellowed irritably, "I'll go upstairs to get Old Master Fu while you go and get her a glass of water!"

Wearing a smirk, Shi Nuan first thanked the guy in a level voice before sitting down on the sofa. After making sure the suited guy had left to the kitchen to fetch her a glass of water, she made use of the opportunity to give the mansion a scan. The guy made it back quickly enough. Handing her the water, he yelled at her, "Drop your escape plan if you're trying to come up with one!"

"Why would I even need such a thing?" With composure, she took a sip of the water and leaned back against the sofa, pretending to look calm while waiting for Old Master Fu. She had no idea what was on Fu Zhengyun's mind or what he planned to do to her. However, she knew there was no point in looking restless or anxious at the moment.

After waiting in the living room for around half an hour, Old Master Fu was still nowhere in sight. She furrowed her brows slightly, wondering what he might be hiding up his sleeves.

In the meantime, Fu Zhengyun was staring at the CCTV footage upstairs. He had been observing every action and movement of Shi Nuan right from the time she entered the mansion.

He was really surprised by her composure; she did not fidget much even after having been waiting for more than half an hour. Other than asking for a glass of water at the beginning, she was showing no signs of losing her patience.

Standing next to Fu Zhengyun was his butler, who was also watching Shi Nuan from the CCTV camera. He, too, was slightly amazed by her poise.

Fu Zhengyun knitted his brows at the screen and asked, "What do you make of this girl?"

The question was meant for the butler, who looked stunned to be asked such a question. After a moment of contemplation, he answered, "Old Master, I'm not good at judging people."

Hmph! Fu Zhengyun snorted icily, "We should steer clear from this girl!"

"Why is that so?"

"It's because she's got even more composure than Song Jingyu and Shen Qianan."

"Isn't that a good thing? Young Master Chengyan is in need of someone like that to assist him." The butler was puzzled by Fu Zhengyun's reaction. Yet, the elderly man disdainfully cast the butler an oblique glance. "Do you think I'm wrong to think of her in that way?" he asked.

"Certainly not!" As the butler of the Fu family, he knew his opinion did not carry much weight.

Then, Fu Zhengyun returned his gaze on the screen to continue staring at Shi Nuan.

In fact, he had to admit that the girl was indeed quite excellent. He knew she was also outstanding at work, judging from her performance at Shengyuan. Despite that, he still would not give his permission to the marriage between Fu Chengyan and her. The calmer she was, the more she looked like the perfect girl for Fu Chengyan, the more determined he was to make sure the girl stayed away from his family.

The family only needed one talented person at its helm. What his grandson needed was a girl like Song Jingyu or Shen Qianan – a girl who came from a rich and powerful family. In comparison to them, it seemed hard to keep Shi Nuan

under control. On top of that, he was not satisfied with her family background either.

"Let's go and meet her now."

"Right away!"

The butler quickly offered his help as Fu Zhengyun took the stairs, making his way to the living room.

Meanwhile, Shi Nuan had been patiently waiting and wondering what Old Master Fu was up to.

He had not shown up yet, although he had asked her to meet him there. All she could do was wait because she couldn't figure him out.

Only after quite a long while did Fu Zhengyun arrive at the living room together with the butler.

Immediately, she rose to her feet and greeted him, "Grandpa!"

"Ms. Shi, I'm afraid I don't deserve to be addressed by you in that way." It was clear that Fu Zhengyun did not buy her adulatory tone.

A pleasant smile spread across Shi Nuan's face. In a gentle tone, she explained, "I'm calling you that simply out of basic courtesy because you're of a similar age as my own grandfather. Since I've done my part to show my manners, it's up to you whether you're willing to accept it or not."

With that, Shi Nuan freed herself from the awkward situation effortlessly.

Watching Fu Zhengyun making his way over, she flashed him a faint smile. "May I know why you've asked me here?"

Fu Zhengyun, who had his brows furrowed, was slightly irritated by how unfazed Shi Nuan was in response to the trouble he had brought upon her. However, it took him a short time to adjust his emotions, thinking that it was inappropriate of him to get mad at a young girl.

"Ms. Shi, may I know more about your family members?"

With her eyebrows slightly raised, Shi Nuan wondered whether Old Master Fu was finally losing his cool. Judging the way he had posed her the question, she knew he had already done exhaustive research on her family tree before this.

She braced herself to answer him with a smile. "I have my parents, my Granddad, my Grandpa, and a sister."

"Oh, is that so?" Fu Zhengyun quirked an eyebrow, taken aback by how readily she answered his question. "By the way, I heard from the grapevine that you've not been on good terms with your family members."

"Grandpa, isn't it common sense to take rumors with a pinch of salt? Sometime before this, I too heard about the rumored dispute among your family members who weren't completely fine with having Yan as the successor to the family wealth!"

"You..." Fu Zhengyun leaped to his feet furiously and snapped, "Shi Nuan, I'm going straight to the point with you here. Look, I don't care whether you and Yan have married each other or not because I'm not going to accept you as one of us in any event. So, you'd better don't get your hopes up."

"Old Master Fu, aren't you going to share with me some of your insights on a familial relationship?" Instead of looking obedient as docile like how she had been earlier, Shi Nuan looked up at him and fearlessly stared straight into his eyes.

"Since you've decided to be straightforward with me, I don't mind making my stance clear to you either." Clearing her throat and sitting with her back straight,

Shi Nuan forced herself to stay calm. At the same time, her eyes were gleaming with determination.

"In fact, Yan and I already married each other six months ago. It was Yan who proposed such a plan to me. Since we are married, we plan to keep it that way forever. I've never thought of leaving him unless he dumps me first. Until the day he asks to break up with me, no one will be able to break us apart."

"You certainly sound arrogant!" All of a sudden, Fu Zhengyun knocked his walking stick against the floor with a loud *thud*.

He fixed his sunken eyes on her as he raged, "Girl, you sure have guts despite your tender age. I know you only married Yan for his family background. To be honest, I'm not blaming you for having such an intention because every single lady in this town is dreaming of becoming a member of our family. However, let me make this very clear to you — not every Tom, Dick, and Harry is allowed to become one of us. You won't be part of this family as long as I refuse to acknowledge you. At the same time, Yan won't be able to take charge of the family too!"

"Old Master Fu, are you trying to threaten me?" Clenching her fists tightly, she confronted him, "Are you going to deprive him of his right to inherit the family wealth just because he's married to me?"

"What's the matter? Are you feeling disappointed because I mentioned that his right of inheritance would be taken away?" While Fu Zhengyun was staring unflinchingly at Shi Nuan, she suddenly let out a chuckle.

The latter laughed out loud for several seconds before snorting icily, "Old Master Fu, I must say that you're really a very interesting man. Do you really think I only married Yan so that I could become a part of your family?"

"Did you not?"

"I don't see the need to explain myself to you. In fact, I was laughing so hard at how little you know about your own grandson just now. Do you think he'll be left with nothing without his family?" Meeting Fu Zhengyun's gaze, she continued, "Indeed, the Fu family has a business that's lasted for a century, and it is without a doubt, still going strong. It might be a glittering treasure box to outsiders, but that family business might not be able to survive without Yan."

"What did you just say? I dare you to repeat that!"

"Old Master Fu, you don't seem firm about the purpose of meeting me here. Are you trying to convince me to break up with Yan? I've already given you a very simple solution concerning that. You just have to ask Yan to be here himself. Once he agrees to part ways with a sound reason, I won't hesitate to leave him. However, judging from how you would rather have me here alone, I highly doubt you understand Yan at all."

Before she could finish her sentence, the two of them heard the sound of a car engine being switched off coming from the courtyard of the mansion. Raising her brows, Shi Nuan chuckled. "I'm afraid you've missed the best time to threaten me or bribe me into leaving Yan."

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"Did... Did you ask Yan to be here?"

Shi Nuan scowled. "Why are you looking so surprised about that? Since you kidnapped me here, you should have expected his visit too!" Letting out a snort, she added, "But then again, I don't think he's..."

Her voice trailed off as the main door was kicked open from the outside. Standing with his arms crossed in front of his chest, a man raised his brows at Shi Nuan with a good-natured smile on his face. "Hey, Nuan!"

Shi Nuan greeted the man back with a smile, "Mr. Su!"

Leaning against the door frame, Su Shaoqing gave his surroundings a scan before fixing his gaze on the broken door. "Old Master Fu, I don't suppose you're going to punish me for breaking the door?"

"Su Shaoqing!" Fu Zhengyun glared at Su Shaoqing, whose visit had obviously taken him by surprise. "What are you doing here?"

"Oh, nothing. Chengyan told me to look after Nuan because he's been busy with work lately. He told me to be extra careful as there are ruffians out there who have been trying to do bad things to her lately. Is that true, Nuan?"

Shi Nuan smirked. "You're right. I've lost count of how many times you've made time out of your busy schedule just to come to my rescue lately." With a broad grin, she continued, "However, I'm afraid to say that you might have wasted your time coming here as I'm sure Yan's grandfather will neither harm me nor kidnap me. Will you now, Grandpa?"

Clenching his walking stick tightly, Fu Zhengyun let out a cold snort. There was no way she would be able to win him over by saying those things. "Don't you dare think that there's nothing I can do to you because this young man is here."

"What do you want then, Grandpa?" She raised her brows at him and asked, "Do you really have to make me leave Yan?"

"Shi Nuan, you're not the right girl for Yan. If you're willing to leave him, I'll offer you any..."

"I want a billion." She interrupted him by saying," Old Master Fu, will you give me that sum of money?"

"W-What a ravenous appetite you have there! Do you think you are worth that much money?" Fu Zhengyun's gaze turned menacing and fierce in a second.

However, Shi Nuan was unperturbed. "Seems like you're unwilling to fork out the money. Or is it because you think Yan isn't worth one billion?"

"I won't give you the money regardless of what I think of my grandson!" What a gold-digger this girl is! I have to let Yan know that she only married him for his money!

"Do you think I care? For your information, I know what matters more to me between the money and Yan. Old Master Fu, let's not plunge into any negotiation if you aren't generous enough with your offer." Shi Nuan's expression turned icy too.

The truth was, she had always known that she was bound to face a lot of challenges once her marriage with Fu Chengyan came to light. She thought she had fully prepared herself to deal with those obstacles, but when the trouble really came in torrents, she found herself hardly able to cope.

Back when she was dating Fu Xicheng, her family members had deceived her. Her sister had also seduced her boyfriend, taking him away from her. When she later married Fu Chengyan, she had to be secretive about their relationship. Now that it was exposed, she was forced to deal with his family members on more than one occasion.

As tough and resilient as Shi Nuan was, she couldn't help but feel overwhelmed by everything.

Why does everyone assume I only married Fu Chengyan for his family background and money?

Holding her head high and sitting with her back ramrod straight, she tried hard to avoid looking weak. She stared icily at Fu Zhengyun, her eyes tinged with a glint of determination. "Old Master Fu, I only love Fu Chengyan's soul. I won't leave him even if he'll be left with nothing one day. Until the day he stops loving me or vice versa, no one will be able to force us apart, you included!"

She turned around and cast Su Shaoqing a glance. "Mr. Su, please give me a ride home."

Su Shaoqing nodded at her. "My car is just parked outside."

"Young man!" Fu Zhengyun bellowed to stop Su Shaoqing from going. Fixing him a baleful stare, he seethed, "You'd better think twice before you decide to become the enemy of my family. Yan still doesn't have a clear idea of the burden and responsibilities on his shoulder right now. So, are you sure you want to help him make a mistake when his thinking isn't matured enough?"

"Old Master Fu, I don't quite get what you mean. As someone who has made countless important decisions for his company before, I don't think Chengyan's a guy who doesn't know what he wants. Besides, I don't think there's anything wrong with helping him to give his wife a lift back home."

"A-Are you sure you want to do this?"

"Old Master Fu, may I ask you what you're doing next? Are you going to keep Nuan here and then continue the negotiation with her?" Su Shaoqing chuckled. "I suppose you're out of your wits, and this is your last resort, isn't it?"

As Fu Zhengyun furrowed his brows in annoyance, Su Shaoqing continued, "Old Master Fu, your family is indeed very influential and powerful in Jiang City, but you shouldn't underestimate my family either. Although I'd prefer not to get involved in my family business, I have family members who will be more than willing to help me." He glanced at Shi Nuan before carrying on, "Just be honest with me. Are you reluctant to accept Nuan as part of your family because you think she isn't good enough for Chengyan?"

When Fu Zhengyun did not answer him, he continued with a smirk, "Old Master Fu, don't you know that Nuan is a part of my family?"

"Say what?"

Fu Zhengyun was not the only one shocked to hear that. Even Shi Nuan herself found Su Shaoqing's sudden remark incredulous.

She gave him an oblique glance, and he winked at her in response. Once again, he put on his typical good-natured smile and clarified, "I bet you know how rare female members are in my family. I'm the only child of my parents, but my mother yearns to have a daughter. However, she was too weak to be pregnant again after giving birth to me back then. Thus, my mother decided to make Nuan her goddaughter. Come to think of it – I'm actually Chengyan's brother-in-law as Nuan is my god sister. Now, do you still think Nuan is not good enough for your grandson?"

Shi Nuan parted her lips to say something but thought better of it in the end. After all, she knew what he said was all but fabricated; he had only said that to help her.

Sensing Fu Zhengyun's skeptical stare on her, she glimpsed at Su Shaoqing, only to find the man looking confident as usual. "Since Old Master Fu doesn't

fancy my sister, I'm going to bring her home. If she stays here, your mood will be affected, and my mother will be upset for not having her goddaughter's company!"

With that, he was ready to take Shi Nuan with him. However, there was no way Fu Zhengyun would let them leave so easily. He immediately barked an order at the bodyguards standing by outside to block their way.

Su Shaoqing looked sullen at once. "Old Master Fu, what's this supposed to mean? Does it mean you aren't taking my family seriously anymore?"

"You can leave, but not with this girl! Young man, don't ever think you can bluff your way out in my presence so easily! I won't ever allow this girl to be with Yan!"

"Is that so?"

Suddenly, a cold and indifferent voice emerged from outside, followed by the noise of things falling onto the ground.

As it turned out, the entire troop of Fu Zhengyun's bodyguards was slumping miserably on the ground after being beaten up by Fu Chengyan and his men. Shi Nuan whirled around, delighted to see him. "Yan!"

Fu Chengyan cast a fleeting glimpse at the bodyguards before shouting his instruction at Zhou Zheng and Jiang Hu, "Break their limbs!" Then, he put aside his murderous aura before walking up to Shi Nuan. "Are you alright?" He sized her up to check whether she was injured anywhere.

Shi Nuan, who could detect the worry in his eyes, shook her head vigorously. "I'm alright. Please don't worry about me; they didn't hurt me at all." Flashing him a smile, she asked, "How come you're here?"

"Didn't you summon me to be here?" Fu Chengyan reached out to stroke the tip of her nose endearingly. Unable to stand their public display of affection, Su

Shaoqing cleared his throat and intervened, "Can you guys please get a room? I'm here to help you, remember?"

Only then did Shi Nuan remember the man's presence. Looking shy, she gently pushed Fu Chengyan away and said, "Mr. Su, I'm really grateful that you're here."

Fu Chengyan nodded at him approvingly and said, "I owe you one!" Then, he told Shi Nuan, "Go and stand beside Shaoqing."

After soothingly patting her shoulder, he rounded her and walked over to his grandfather. With a nonchalant face, he stared at Fu Zhengyun, who went livid with rage the moment he saw his grandson. "Why are you even here!" he fumed.

"Why can't I be here?" Tucking one of his hands in his trouser pocket, his eyes lacked warmth while staring at his grandfather. "Grandpa, I must say this trick you're trying to work isn't too brilliant!"

"You..."

"It isn't wise to keep me away with work. In fact, you should just tell me directly if you'd like to meet May. I won't stop you from seeing her." After a short beat, Fu Chengyan continued, "However, you chose to abduct her from the office without telling me beforehand. Although I won't probe into your motive of doing that, that doesn't mean I will let you have your way without trying to stop you!"

"Yan, are you sure you want to set yourself against me for the sake of this woman? Do you have any idea what she just told me? She said..."

"What she said doesn't matter. The point that I'd like to make is this – please inform me before you arrange another meeting with May next time. Otherwise, things will become ugly if I assume May is in danger. Grandpa, you know very well how I usually deal with a dangerous situation, don't you? Anyone who hurts her will have to pay a heavy price for doing so!"

With that, Fu Chengyan turned around and dragged Shi Nuan out of the mansion. Su Shaoqing was leaning against the door frame in a laid-back manner while watching the drama. It was only after a while did he flash Old Master Fu one of his typical smiles. "Old Master Fu, I've got to go. Hey, Chengyan! Wait for me!"

Back at Wutong Residence, Shi Nuan served Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing tea before sitting down next to her husband. "Mr. Su, thank you for your help just now."

"Hey, don't mention it. Who are you to me? You're my sister, aren't you?" Su Shaoqing blew a whistle before raising his brows at Shi Nuan with amusement in his eyes.

Shi Nuan was stunned for a second before she came to her senses. "Mr. Su, I understand that you only made that up just now to help me."

"Who told you so?" Su Shaoqing was not pleased to hear what she said. "Clearly, you're kicking me aside after using me, aren't you? I meant everything I said just now, and I'm never one who retracts my promises." He was eager to find support for his argument from Fu Chengyan. "Chengyan, am I right?"

Giving him a penetrating stare with his eyes gleaming with suspicion, Fu Chengyan put on a crafty smile as he snapped, "I can see that you're trying to take advantage of her!"

Su Shaoqing immediately pursed his lips in displeasure. "Why're you making me sound like a villain? I'm doing this for the good of my god sister. Am I right, Nuan?" Su Shaoqing, who acted as though Shi Nuan had been his younger sister right from the time she was born, remarked, "At the moment, her status in her family, as well as your family, is awkward.

However, she doesn't face that kind of issue in my family. Even though your grandfather doesn't like her, I bet he will have to think twice before harming her from now on if she becomes part of my family!"