

# I Want a Lifetime with You

## Chapter 31

“Nuan is here?”

Mr. Yang, the Shi family’s housekeeper, was the first person to notice Shi Nuan. “Hurry over! What are you standing outside for?” he said with a smile.

“It may not be winter yet, but the autumn wind can get pretty cold. Come on in, Nuan. Go say hi to the old man. You have no idea how much he misses you!”

Mr. Yang had been the one to serve and remain alongside Shi Yunsheng all these years. Having stayed in the Shi family home all this while, he was well aware of everyone’s characters and certainly knew how much the old man loved Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan’s felt tears well up in her eyes. Her hand felt warm in his. “OK, then take me to see grandpa! How has he been? Is he eating well?”

“He’s eating well and is full of energy!” Mr. Yang said with a smile. “You really do care about him. He’s exceptionally happy knowing that you’d come back today.”

Mr. Yang knew Shi Nuan didn’t like being in noisy settings, so they avoided the crowd by passing through the backyard, then headed upstairs to meet Shi Yunsheng.

It may have been Shi Yunsheng’s birthday, but the true motive behind this party was for Shi Jingzheng to make some new connections with well-known businessmen. Shi Yunsheng was already old, so he had little interest in such affairs. If it weren’t for Shi Nuan, he wouldn’t have agreed to this celebration.

Shi Nuan went up to the second floor, walked pass the corridor and reached Shi Yunsheng's study room. She knocked on the door. "Grandpa! It's me, Nuan!"

Shi Yunsheng's eyes instantly lit up. "Come in, Nuan!"

Shi Nuan pushed the door open to see Shi Yunsheng practicing his calligraphy. She walked over with a smile. "Hi, grandpa."

"Nuan!"

Meanwhile, in the banquet room downstairs, Shi Wei paced back and forth while looking towards the door from time to time. "Mom, didn't you say Shi Nuan would surely come? Why hasn't she arrived yet?"

"Don't worry. Considering how close that brat is with the old man, there's no way she wouldn't come. Just be patient!" Jiang Yu was starting to feel anxious too, but Shi Jingzheng had said that Shi Nuan would surely turn up.

"Mommy will surely be on your side. We'll make sure your grandpa and Shi Nuan approve of your relationship with Xicheng no matter what," she said while patting Shi Wei's hand.

"Thank you, mom!" Shi Wei's eyes reddened as she hugged Jiang Yu. "You always treat me the best, mom. When I get married to Xicheng, he'll be good to you too!"

"That little brat," Jiang Yu said as she patted Shi Wei's head, her eyes full of rage.

If that little brat, Shi Nuan, were to ruin her plans, she would make her pay.

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By 8pm, almost all the guests had already arrived. Shi Jingzheng was busy introducing Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng to some prominent figures in the corporate world. Meanwhile, Fu Yuqing and his wife just stood by the side watching, increasingly satisfied with their future daughter-in-law.

Suddenly, someone among the crowd asked, “Mr. Shi, it’s the old man’s birthday, but why haven’t I seen him?”

It was only then that Shi Jingzheng awkwardly summoned Mr. Yang over. The housekeeper gave Shi Jingzheng a meaningful glance and said, “I’ll have the old master and Ms. Nuan come down at once.”

Ms. Nuan? Shi Jingzheng’s eyes narrowed. “Shi Nuan is back?”

“Yes. Ms. Nuan has always been very filial. She went to see the old master the moment she came back.” Mr. Yang only stated the facts, but his words weren’t pleasing to Shi Jingzheng’s ears.

Shi Jingzheng’s expression darkened, but he couldn’t lash out in front of all these people here. Furthermore, Mr. Yang worked for the old man, so there was nothing Shi Jingzheng could do to him. “In that case, please call the old man and Shi Nuan down here, Mr. Yang!”

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The place was already filled with tons of guests when Shi Nuan walked down the stairs supporting Shi Yunsheng, Shi Nuan didn't like crowds, but today was a special occasion and she didn't want to spoil Shi Yunsheng's mood.

Naturally, Shi Yunsheng could tell that Shi Nuan was reluctant, so he patted her hand and said, "Nuan, if you're not willing, you can always leave first. I don't mind at all."

"What are you talking about, grandpa? It's just once a year, so of course I'll accompany you! I'll even stay for the cake!" Most people found Shi Nuan hard to talk to, so she wasn't as well-liked as Shi Wei in the Shi Family. Nevertheless, Shi Yunsheng knew that in truth, Shi Nuan was kind and a sweet talker – it just depended on who she was speaking to.

Hearing Shi Nuan's response, Shi Yunsheng could only sigh helplessly. He patted the back of her hand and said, "Don't worry. You can always leave the heavy matters to me. If you like Fu Xicheng, I'll..."

"Grandpa!" Shi Nuan shook her head gently as she interrupted Shi Yunsheng. "A man who's disloyal once will be disloyal for life – this I'm well aware of. Besides, he's already tainted. I won't want him anymore!"

"Oh, that's great! You deserve better, Nuan!" Shi Yunsheng was thankful that Shi Nuan wasn't bothered by this matter. But since Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng had done such a thing, the old man certainly wasn't going to let them off easily. "I'll make them apologize to you and explain themselves!"

As Shi Yunsheng and Shi Nuan walked down the stairs, all the guests were filled with curiosity about the girl Shi Yunsheng was holding on to.

It wasn't as though nobody had heard of the incident that occurred recently, but all these years, people only one young lady of the Shi family had been made known to the public. They had never heard of a second young lady.

Back when the news got out, everyone even thought Shi Nuan was an illegitimate child. But seeing how Shi Yunsheng treated her, they began to doubt their assumptions.

Jiang Yu was beyond livid to see Shi Yunsheng holding Shi Nuan's hand. She glared daggers at Shi Nuan.

Shi Wei's expression was just as bad. She felt even worse after seeing how much her grandfather protected Shi Nuan. When Shi Wei turned to find Fu Xicheng also looking at Shi Nuan, she became filled with even more rage. "Are you regretting your decision, Xicheng?"

Fu Xicheng quickly returned to his senses. Seeing how pitifully Shi Wei looked at him, he felt his heart melt. He grabbed Shi Wei's hand and shook his head, saying, "How could I? Being with you is the best thing to ever happen to me. But today, Nuan..."

Fu Xicheng didn't know how to describe it, but Shi Nuan looking different from usual. The sight of her standing elegantly by Shi Yunsheng made him unable to avert his gaze from her. But Fu Xicheng knew he now belonged to Shi Wei. "I'm just worried that your grandfather..."

"Don't worry. Grandpa will surely approve. He will!" Shi Wei said confidently.

As Shi Nuan walked Shi Yunsheng down the stairs, Jiang Yu cast a glance at Shi Jingzheng and the latter quickly rushed over. "Dad! Nuan!"

Deep down, Shi Jingzheng was unhappy that Shi Nuan had actually arrived long ago and immediately went to see the old man, but there were more important matters to worry about right now. “I thought you wouldn’t come even though your grandpa treats you so well, Nuan. Thank goodness you’re here!”

“What are you trying to say?” Shi Yunsheng glared at Shi Jingzheng upon hearing his son talk like that. “I was the one who told Nuan to come and see me once she arrived. Is there a problem?”

“O-Of course not. It’s not that I was worried Nuan wouldn’t come because she’d be too embarrassed about what hap—”

Shi Jingzheng immediately stopped talking under Shi Yunsheng’s sharp glare, but he had said what he needed to say. The guests quickly remembered the incident that had occurred not long ago.

Standing not far off, a smug Shi Wei smiled goadingly at Shi Nuan.

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Shi Nuan looked rather unhappy as her grip on Shi Yunsheng's arm tightened marginally. Shi Yunsheng naturally felt it. His blood began to boil. "It's my birthday today, and my dear granddaughter is here with me. What embarrassment are you talking about? Is this how you behave as a father!? Hmph!"

Shi Yunsheng supported himself with his cane and stared angrily at Shi Jingzheng. He then smiled and patted Shi Nuan's hand. "Don't be afraid, Nuan. With grandpa around, no one will pick on you. Some things should be left behind after they've been tainted."

"What are you talking about, father?" Shi Jingzheng's expression was beyond ghastly.

Jiang Yu and Shi Wei's faces didn't look any better. They both stared at Shi Nuan furiously. Shi Nuan merely narrowed her eyes and pretended not to see them. Had it not been her grandpa's birthday today, she definitely wouldn't have come.

She knew that no one in this house welcomed her, but didn't expect them to take it this far. Her father, who normally knew his limits, actually ended up doing such a thing on her grandpa's birthday. She was now aware of her father's true character.

"I'll sit down with you, grandpa!" Shi Nuan said with a smile. "Look at how many guests there are today. They're all here to celebrate with you." Saying that, she held the old man's arm and was about to walk away with him.

Shi Jingzheng was red with anger, but he couldn't say whatever he wanted with all these people around.

Suddenly, the crowd began to stir and the guests to called out one after another. Shi Nuan looked towards the crowd and saw a person walking into the large room. The tall man walked steadily and had such an aura that nobody dared near him. His arrival had caused such a commotion that Shi Nuan's incident was put on the backburner.

The man wore a black suit that was perfectly tailored to accentuate his handsome appearance. He walked with confidence and stead, followed by an equally well-dressed man. The other man held a gift in his hands and walked towards Shi Nuan.

The guests began to talk among themselves. "Isn't he... That guy from the Fu family?"

"Isn't that Mr. Fu?"

"My god! The Shi family is so well-known that even the Fu family's second master would come."

"But to me, it's not because of the Shi family. It's clearly because the Fu family is here. Have you forgotten that the Shi family's young lady is engaged to someone from the Fu family?"

Shi Wei couldn't keep her eyes off the dazzling man. She then looked at Fu Xicheng and asked suspiciously, "Since when was there such a man in your family, Xicheng? And he's what – the second master?"

Fu Xicheng pursed his lips and turned to his father, feeling complicated. But with Fu Chengyan's arrival, it was indeed a moment of pride for the Fu family. So he smiled and said, "He's Fu Chengyan, a member of the Fu family."

"Fu Chengyan." So he's Fu Chengyan – the second young master of Jiang City's Big Four!



Shi Wei was astounded as she grabbed onto Fu Xicheng's hand rather happily. "He's THAT Mr. Fu?"

While Shi Wei was excited, Shi Nuan was much calmer on the other hand. She cast a complicated glance at the person walking towards her. That man had his own unique aura, turning heads wherever he went. He strode over confidently and stood in front of her under everyone's eager gaze.

Shi Nuan didn't know why, but her heart suddenly beat wildly. She looked at Fu Chengyan, her eyes meaningful as she asked, "What are you doing here?"

Fu Chengyan merely took a quick glance at Shi Nuan before looking away and signaling to the man next to him. Zhou Zheng immediately came over and held a gift box in front of Shi Nuan. "This is Mr. Fu's birthday gift to Mr. Shi. Wishing you a long life with great prosperity."

Shi Yunsheng looked at Fu Chengyan suspiciously. This young man looked rather pleasant, but Shi Yunsheng didn't know who he was. Still, Shi Yunsheng had been alive for many decades, so he certainly knew how to handle such a situation. He lifted his gaze beckoned Shi Nuan to accept the gift.

Shi Nuan didn't know what Fu Chengyan was up to, but the man looked respectful and didn't look like he was here to cause trouble, so she took the gift.

"My nephew, you're here to celebrate the old man's birthday too?"

That was the kind of person Fu Yuqing was. Now that Fu Chengyan was here, now could he not show off in front of everyone? He quickly cast a glance at Fu Xicheng, hinting at his son to come over. "Chengyan, this is... Ah, our family... What are you waiting for, Xicheng? Hurry up and get over here! Your uncle is here because of you!"

"Why are you here too, uncle!?"

Fu Xicheng wasn't quite willing, but he was still one generation younger than Fu Chengyan. Furthermore, someone like Fu Chengyan was the family's pride...

Thanks to Fu Yuqing, the guests immediately understood what was going on. These were all the Fu family members, and Fu Yuqing had such a huge tree to lean on.

Fu Chengyan squinted and his lips curled into a smile. However, there was a deeper meaning to his smile. His narrowed eyes fell on Fu Xicheng and his sharp gaze was like knives stabbing into the latter. For some reason, Fu Xicheng actually felt terrified in front of Fu Chengyan.

The audience watched as Fu Chengyan remained silent all this while, wearing distant smile on his face. Nobody dared speculate anything.

Seeing the situation, Zhou Zheng let out a chuckle. "Why don't you take a look at the gift, Mr. Shi?"

Shi Nuan cast a complicated glance at Zhou Zheng, not knowing what his intentions were. But as she turned to her grandfather, Shi Yunsheng nodded and said, "Nuan, since it's a gift from Mr. Fu, let's have a look!"

Shi Yunsheng wasn't a slow-witted. He could tell from their conversation that Fu Chengyan wasn't any ordinary young man. He could also tell that this man wasn't too close with Fu Yuqing. He was also curious as to what Fu Chengyan had prepared for him.

Shi Nuan bit her lip and opened the box. "This is..." she looked at Fu Chengyan in shock.

Shi Yunsheng also looked at Fu Chengyan in surprised before happily reaching out to touch the gift inside. "Oh my! This is a chessboard from the Ming dynasty. It's a jade chessboard!"

Shi Yunsheng was well-versed in these items and could tell at first glance that it was authentic. “This...”

Everyone was astonished and tried to peek at the gift, but those who were too far away couldn't get a proper glimpse. Meanwhile, those who were near, such as Fu Xicheng, could easily tell that the chessboard was an expensive one.

Shi Nuan was dumbfounded too. She didn't expect Fu Chengyan to give this chessboard to her grandfather. It was the same chessboard she and Fu Chengyan saw together at the antique shop, but at that time, Shi Nuan was worried that it would cost too much.

Seeing Shi Nuan glance towards him, Fu Chengyan smiled slightly, instantly taking the woman's breath away. “Do you like it, Mr. Shi?”

Fu Chengyan's words were meant for Shi Yunsheng, but his gaze was directed at Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan turned pink and lowered her head as her heart pounded.

“I like it. I do! But you're being too generous, Mr. Fu. You must have spent a lot on this.”

“No matter. Money isn't a problem. It's all worth it if you like the gift.”

“You've really splurged, Chengyan.” With a movement of his eyes, Fu Yuqing signaled to Fu Xicheng. What better time than now to have his son bring out his gift for the old man? “Cheng, where is the gift from you and Wei?”

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“It’s over here!” Shi Wei had already ordered someone to bring the gift over. It wasn’t as extravagant as Fu Chengyan’s gift, but it was still quite exceptional. “Grandpa, this is your gift from Xicheng and me. May you live a long and abundant life.”

Everyone knew how much of a sweet-talker Shi Wei was, especially since she was a celebrity. She had a dignified and elegant reputation.

Seeing the gift Shi Wei had brought over, the audience exclaimed, “T-This... How lucky Old Man Shi is to have such a filial granddaughter!”

Shi Wei had given the old man a painting by the famous Zhang Daqian. Knowing how much Shi Yunsheng enjoyed Zhang Daqian’s artwork, Shi Wei had naturally spent a long time searching for this gift. She then turned to Shi Nuan and asked smugly, “What did you get grandpa, Nuan?”

The crowd turned to Shi Nuan. Since Shi Nuan was also Shi Yunsheng’s granddaughter, everyone would naturally compare the two girls. Thinking about how radiant and dazzling Shi Wei looked, Shi Nuan was much dimmer in comparison. She also looked like she had a dull personality. All this while, she had never even said a word.

Shi Nuan frowned slightly as she heard Shi Wei talk to her.

She certainly knew what Shi Wei had up her sleeve; she just never really bothered. It was always better to avoid trouble whenever possible, but clearly, that was not how Shi Wei thought. Ever since she stole Fu Xicheng from Shi Nian, all of Shi Wei’s thoughts now showed on her face.

“That’s right, Nuan. Your grandpa loves you the most. What did you get him?” Jiang Yu came up just in time, acting like she was on Shi Nuan’s side. “Did you know that your grandpa has been worried that you aren’t doing well? He looked forward to your return every day, and you’re finally back.”

Jiang Yu clung to Shi Nuan’s arm, as though she was afraid the latter would run off after being humiliated. “Mommy knows you’re not happy, Nuan, but we’re a family. It’s your grandpa’s birthday and you’re such a filial child. There’s no way you’d make him sad, right?”

Jiang Yu continued as she leaned over and lowered her head, “Nuan, your grandpa is old now. He can’t take too much stress. Besides, your sister’s marriage to Xicheng has long been confirmed – why would you want to separate them?”

Jiang Yu tried to pacify Shi Nuan, thinking she sounded very reasonable, but it was clear that she didn’t care about how Shi Nuan felt at all.

Shi Nuan only felt her blood boiling. She didn’t think that Jiang Yu had the nerve to talk like this in front of everyone. She smiled loathingly, saying, “So you’re taking advantage of grandpa’s birthday celebration to force me into submitting, right, mother? There’s no need for you to do this. I’ve told you long ago that there’s no longer anything going on between Fu Xicheng and I.” She just couldn’t understand why they had to go such lengths.

“That’s what you think, but your grandpa thinks we’re bullying you. Listen to us and go pacify your grandpa. I promise I’ll find you a better man. I have lots of young candidates in mind.”

“There’s no need.”

With that, Shi Nuan broke free of Jiang Yu’s grasp and walked in front of Shi Yunsheng with a smile. “Of course I’ve prepared a gift for grandpa. Would you like to see it now, grandpa?”

Shi Yunsheng initially wanted to say there was no need, but seeing the strange expression on Shi Nuan's face and the gazes of everyone around, he nodded. "Sure, sure! What did you get for me? I'm sure I'll love anything you got me."

Then he turned to the housekeeper. "Yang?"

"The second young lady's gift is with me, sir. Look, this is what she brought you."

Mr. Yang opened up the box, revealing a calligraphy brush. Everyone was stunned. There was so much anticipation for her gift, but it turned out to be just a brush. Disappointment hung the air.

Shi Wei smiled triumphantly, but she still wore a surprised expression on her face. "Is that a brush? That's so thoughtful of you, Nuan. Seems like we both remembered that grandpa loves calligraphy, but thankfully our gifts aren't the same."

Shi Wei's statement created another wave to discussion. The audience agreed that both gifts were related to calligraphy, but judging by appearance, it was clear that one was much better than the other. Their perception of Shi Nuan changed yet again. "I'm a bit cliché. Your brother-in-law and I thought grandpa would surely like a calligraphy painting, but we didn't think about giving him a brush."

Seeing Shi Wei put on a show like that, Shi Nuan felt an unexplainable feeling. But she just didn't know how to respond with everyone looking.

Then, Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and glanced at Zhou Zheng.

Zhou Zheng couldn't help but ashamed. How could he have not realized how nosy his boss was?

That was how he felt inside, but in reality, Zhou Zheng dared not slack off. He immediately coughed and faked a surprised expression. "Huh? Isn't that the brush from the antique shop a few days ago!?" He looked at Shi Nuan suspiciously before turning to his own boss and saying calmly, "Turns out it was

Ms. Shi who made the purchase! What a coincidence! Mr. Fu wanted had wanted this brush and sent me over to get it, but someone had already bought it before I could! It was you after all, Ms. Shi!”

The audience immediately came to a realization. “So it’s an antique! On top of that, Mr. Fu was interested in it! It must be valuable then.”

Hearing that, Shi Yunsheng picked up the brush and said in surprise, “You rascal! How much did you spend on this? You... I told you I didn’t need anything! Why did you splurge so much?” That was what Shi Yunsheng said, but he just couldn’t put the brush down.

Suddenly, someone among the crowd said, “It’s from the Ming dynasty. I’ve had the privilege to see it once. I heard it once belonged to Emperor Yongle...”

Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan in shock, but the latter merely gazed at her meaningfully with amusement in his eyes.

Shi Nuan didn’t know how to describe her feelings right then. She just felt rather complicated for not being able to understand Fu Chengyan at all. She had even more trouble understanding his intentions.

He had clearly said the brush wasn’t expensive, so... Did she owe him now?

This small episode blew over and no one paid attention to it anymore. After all, it was another family’s matter, and everyone was just here to watch the fun.

Shi Nuan circled the area with Shi Yunsheng before finally heading to the back garden to relax. In truth, she was well aware what they wanted to do to her, but she still came anyway. She secretly hoped that her parents would be partial to her, but it turned out to be a huge disappointment.

“What are you doing here?”

Shi Nuan turned in shock as a tall shadow appeared from behind her, only to see the man who had been surrounded by the crowd earlier. Thinking about what just happened, Shi Nuan's lips curled into a smile. "What about you? What are you doing here?" She wanted to know why he had come today.

Fu Chengyan walked over with a smile and stopped in front of Shi Nuan.

Slightly caught off guard, Shi Nuan took two steps back and looked up at Fu Chengyan. He was tall. She wasn't short, but despite wearing heels, she was still a head shorter than him. So she looked up with some difficulty. "You..."



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“Shh!”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and grabbed Shi Nuan by the hand. Before she could even react, he turned and dragged her to hide behind a pillar.

The man wrapped a strong arm around Shi Nuan’s waist, pulling her into an embrace.

Shi Nuan didn’t understand what was going on and wanted to push Fu Chengyan away, but the latter held onto her tightly and placed his index finger on her lips, telling her to remain quiet.

“Didn’t you say you’d make sure that grandpa and Shi Nuan will approve of my relationship with Xicheng today? It’s still not happening.”

Extremely agitated at Shi Nuan, Shi Wei had dragged Jiang Yu to the back garden. “Mom, did you see how arrogant Shi Nuan looked just now? She’s deliberately trying to make me suffer. She knows how much Xicheng and I love each other – why is she still trying to make things difficult for us?”

“That’s enough. When have I not fulfilled my promises? Don’t worry. Mommy has it all planned out.” Jiang Yu looked around before continuing, “Go keep Xicheng company, got it? You don’t need to worry about anything else.”

Jiang Yu and Shi Wei’s voices slowly disappeared. Shi Nuan blinked, tears forming in her eyes. She tilted her head to look at Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan gazed upon Shi Nuan with his deep eyes. He noticed she looked shaken for a moment but quickly concealed her feelings.

“You’re upset?” Fu Chengyan asked as he let go of Shi Nuan.

Looking slightly dazed, Shi Nuan forced a smile on her face. “What’s there to be upset about? I’ve known about this long ago.” She looked down and felt that his warmth and aura were long gone. “Do you think I’m miserable?”

Fu Chengyan frowned, his eyes carrying depth. “Everyone has their own path to walk. But as for what I’ve suggested before, have you thought about it?”

“What?” Shi Nuan looked up in shock. “Are you here today... Are you actually related to Fu Xicheng?”

Fu Chengyan smiled slightly. “Is it that important?” His eyes were like bottomless pools, she could not see what was lurking in the depths of them. Shi Nuan’s instincts told her that Fu Chengyan was a dangerous man, but she just couldn’t contain her curiosity. Fu Chengyan stretched out a hand to stroke the hair that had fallen into her face and gently patted her on the head. “I always live by this motto: don’t mess with me and I won’t mess with you. If someone dares try to hurt my loved ones, I won’t hold back. My relationship with Fu Xicheng isn’t important; what’s important is what I’m able to do with my status. I’ll be awaiting your good news, dear woman!”

Shi Nuan was lost in her thoughts and gazed at Fu Chengyan’s back for a long time as he walked away, only shaking herself out of the daze when someone else came over. “What are you doing here, Ms. Nuan? Master Shi is looking for you.”

Her father was looking for her?

Shi Nuan frowned but followed the maid anyway.

Shi Jingzheng was waiting in the study room on the second floor. As Shi Nuan arrived, he waved his hand at her. “Come on over, Nuan. I have something to talk

to you about!” He then cast Jiang Yu a glance. The woman then frowned and nodded reluctantly, saying, “Have a good talk with your father, Nuan. I’ll take my leave first.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips, watching Jiang Yu leave before turning to look at Shi Jingzheng. “What have you called me over for, father?”

Shi Jingzheng looked up at Shi Nuan then pointed to the chair next to him. “Have a seat. Your mother made you some tea – it’s made with fresh tea leaves from this year. It’s been a year since you left home and I know how much you’ve gone through outside. Your sister…”

“Father, if you intend to talk about my sister, then save it. You should know that I’ve have been in a relationship with Fu Xicheng long ago and even nearly got engaged, but to think that Wei actually…” Shi Nuan smiled bitterly. “Have you ever considered me? If any of you had thought about me even once, then none of that would have happened.”

“Nuan,” Shi Jingzheng interrupted. “It’s not like your sister wanted this, but when it comes to love…”

“That’s enough. You’re my father and she’s my sister, so there’s nothing I can do. But that doesn’t mean I will forgive her or approve of their marriage.” Shi Nuan took a sip of the tea, but it was so bitter that she frowned. “New tea? I guess mother has never thought about giving me anything good! But whenever something involves Shi Wei, mother would never think about how I feel. What about you, father?”

“Nuan…” Shi Jingzheng looked at Shi Nuan awkwardly. A hint of disappointment flashed across his eyes as he shook his head in distress. “I’ve told you so many times – why are you still being so stubborn? How has your sister treated you since young? Even when you were kidnapped back then, she was the one who rescued you! How could you be so ungrateful that you’d even try to steal her boyfriend!?”

“Father... What do you mean?” Shi Nuan suddenly got up, trembling lightly as she stared at Shi Jingzheng with a pale face.

She didn't expect that even her father would think this way. Back then, it was true that Shi Wei had rescued her. However, those people were actually after Shi Wei, not her. All these years, their mother had blamed Shi Nuan for the incident. To think that even her father was blaming her too!

Shi Nuan became misty-eyed. “So even you think I treat Shi Wei horribly? All these years, she would take everything that belonged to me; when would I ever not give in? Don't you think that's more than enough? Is everything I do never enough to repay what I owe her? She took my toys and now she just took my boyfriend, so what's next?”

Shi Nuan watched her father remain silent. The man's gaze was so deep and foreign that it scared her. Unable to contain the tightness in her chest, she continued, “In every family, the older sister would always give in to the younger sister, yet the Shi family is the complete opposite. Whatever Shi Wei wanted, you guys would do anything to make sure she gets it! What if she wants my life taken one day?”

Bang! The door slammed open. A furious Jiang Yu stormed in and viciously slapped Shi Nuan across the face. “What the hell are you saying, you little b\*tch!?”

“Why are you still trying to talk sense into her? This little brat is always just asking for it! She'll never know her place if we don't punish her!”

Shi Nuan held a hand to her face. The slap she received from Jiang Yu was a solid one. It hurt so much that her tears nearly spilled over, especially after hearing Jiang Yu talk about her that way. “Punish me? Right, that's what you said at the back garden earlier.”

“You heard it?” Jiang Yu's expression became even more hideous and she turned to Shi Jingzheng. “What are you standing there for? This little brat has a

knack for screwing everything up, but at least she'll be able to do one thing right today!" she said as she cast Shi Jingzheng a glance.

"Your mother has set you up with a man. His name is..."

Before Shi Jingzheng could finish speaking, Shi Nuan felt that something was wrong with her body. She staggered two steps back and fell onto the chair. "What have you done to me?"

"Nuan, your father recently scored a huge deal. The other party promised that as long as you marry into their family, he'd inject two hundred million worth of assets into Huancheng. I'm sure you're aware that your father is expanding the business, so you should know how important this sum is to the company."

Shi Nuan smiled coldly. "So you intend to sell me out? You two..." Shi Nuan got up only to fall back heavily. All the strength had left her body. "Father, I'm your daughter too... Why?"

"What do you mean 'why'? Consider yourself lucky that those people actually value you. You should be thankful that you still have this little amount of worth."

Jiang Yu's voice sounded more and more distant as Shi Nuan's vision started to blur. She gritted her teeth and stood up once more, but eventually collapsed heavily on the ground. Before passing out, she still heard Jiang Yu scoff, "Hurry up and take her to the room next door! We can't let Master Yun wait!"