

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 311

After a long silent moment, Fu Chengyan finally nodded in approval. “What do your parents think about this?”

“Don’t worry. I’m sure they’ll be thrilled to have Nuan as their goddaughter. Even if they don’t, I can always go to my aunt for help.” With a smile, Su Shaoqing added, “Don’t forget that my cousin still owes you one. Perhaps, it’ll be better for Nuan to be my aunt’s goddaughter because they’ve got the Jiang family backing them up.”

Keeping his eyes downcast, Fu Chengyan got lost in thought for a moment before he agreed, “I’ll leave it to you then.”

“Of course! Isn’t it nice to have a brother-in-law like me?”

Fu Chengyan shot Su Shaoqing a stiff smile that sent a tingling sensation creeping over the latter’s scalp. “Nuan is younger than me, isn’t she? After she becomes my mother’s goddaughter, she’ll be my god sister. That naturally makes me your brother-in-law! Why are you looking so upset hearing that?”

Fu Chengyan sneered, “I’m just worried that the title might stress you out eventually!”

Pursing his lips, Su Shaoqing countered, “Don’t try to threaten me because threats don’t work on me.”

“Enough, you both!” As the two started bickering with one another, Shi Nuan spoke in a resigned tone in an attempt to mediate their argument, “I know both of

you are doing this for my good! Mr. Su, I don't even know how to express my gratitude for you."

Shi Nuan was really thankful for Su Shaoqing, who always came to her rescue in the nick of time. Although she knew he did not do that solely for her sake, she still saw the need to express her appreciation for his help. "By the way, I remember speed dialing Mr. Su when I was on my way to the mansion earlier. Yan, how come you..."

"Why was I there too?" Fu Chengyan chuckled. "I must say that it was a smart move speed dialing Shaoqing."

"Didn't you tell me before to do so once I found myself in danger?" Shi Nuan had been bearing his advice carefully in mind all the time. "Before I left with your grandfather's men, I asked Mr. Lin to inform you about my whereabouts. But, I only remembered that you had gone out for work at the time, so I was worrying that Mr. Lin might not be able to reach you."

"Yes, Lin Yu did visit my office earlier today." Fu Chengyan nodded his head in agreement. "I'm sorry. It was my oversight that caused you the trouble."

Ever since the moment he was suddenly asked to attend to some work outside in the morning, he had had a premonition that something bad might happen to Shi Nuan.

His family had been behaving unusually low-key since his mother visited Shi Nuan. That was certainly not his grandfather's style of doing things – that was unless he was waiting for an opportune time to execute his plan. Fu Chengyan's guess had been proven right when he received a call from the customs early that morning, informing him that a batch of his goods had been seized. He had no choice but to settle the issue himself because none of his subordinates were capable of solving it.

As he happened to switch off his phone in the midst of the negotiation with the customs people, he had missed the call from Lin Yu.

Meanwhile, Zhou Zheng had received a call from Jiang Hu when he was waiting for Fu Chengyan outside the customs. The bodyguards who had been secretly protecting Shi Nuan reported that she had been brought to the seaside mansion by Old Master Fu. As soon as Zhou Zheng got hold of the information, he immediately passed it on to Fu Chengyan.

“You did the right thing by calling Shaoqing.” The moment Su Shaoqing got the call from Shi Nuan, he immediately started tracking down her location using her phone signal. As her phone had been kept inside her bag, the phone call had remained connected all the time. Thanks to that, it only took him a short time to locate her and rush his way to her rescue.

After having detected her phone signal from the same location for quite a long time, he confirmed the exact bearings and took the risk to make his way over there. To his surprise, he saw Old Master Fu at the seaside mansion he had arrived at.

“Your grandfather was behaving really weird when I got there. It looked like he was having some sort of negotiation with Nuan at the time. The things he said were nothing but a truckload of crap.”

Fu Chengyan turned to Shi Nuan, hoping to get her side of the story. She nodded and elaborated, “The men who took me to the mansion left me alone in the living room, where I waited for around thirty to forty minutes before your grandfather appeared. Besides, it’s really puzzling because none of the things he said made sense to me. He didn’t even try to threaten or bribe me into doing anything.” Just like Su Shaoqing, she had no idea what Fu Zhengyun had been hiding up his sleeves.

“He didn’t say anything important?”

“He only asked me to break up with you, or you would lose your right of inheritance. What did he even mean by saying that?”

Knitting his brows, Fu Chengyan consoled her, “Don’t worry. There’s no need for you to dwell on what he said.” He patted her shoulder soothingly and reassured, “I promise that you wouldn’t be forced to meet with him by yourself ever again.”

“Really?” Shi Nuan was not too convinced as something about his tone did not sit right with her.

In fact, she could tell that Fu Chengyan’s grandfather did not really hate her as a person. He was only treating her with hostility merely because he did not want his grandson to be with her.

It was quite different from the interaction she had with Song Zhenyan last time. At the very least, her intention was clear-cut – she could not allow her son to be with Shi Nuan because she resented her. Shi Nuan was having a hard time trying to gauge what was on Fu Zhengyun’s mind this time.

“Of course it is. Have I ever lied to you before? Let’s put this matter aside for now. Do you have any updates for me after visiting the construction site with Lin Yu?”

“Speaking of which, I have yet to sort out the information to have anything solid to tell you. The truth is, I was taken away by your grandfather minutes after Mr. Lin and I returned to the office.” Making a helpless smart shrug, she continued, “According to Mr. Lin, you don’t intend to recruit the subcontractors by way of accepting tenders this time?”

“He’s right!” Fu Chengyan nodded at her and said, “I didn’t intend to do so from the beginning.”

“So, does this mean you’ve already decided to work on the project together with Li Group all along?”

“That’s not completely true. This time... I’m doing this to help Li Heng.” Fu Chengyan answered with a sly smile. “Do you have any other questions for me?”

While he ran his fingers through her long hair, she shook her head at him in response.

“Are you hungry?”

She nodded after stroking her belly. “I am!”

“Let me go and fix you something to eat then.” With that, he removed his suit jacket and rolled up the sleeves of his shirt as he was on his way to the kitchen.

Meanwhile, Su Shaoqing had been watching them getting all lovey-dovey with each other. *Tsk, tsk*. At last, he couldn’t help but shake his head in disgust. “I’m drowning in this overloading sweetness coming from the two of you.”

Shi Nuan spun around and glared at him as two crimson patches began forming on her cheeks. “Mr. Su!”

“Fine, fine. I’m keeping my mouth shut,” Su Shaoqing said with a smile while holding both hands up in the air. “By the way, you should start calling me Shaoqing from now on. I can’t describe how great it feels to finally have some leverage over Chengyan!”

Pfft!

Shi Nuan couldn’t help but burst out laughing at his hilarious remark. Yet, Su Shaoqing was obviously not pleased with her reaction. “What’s wrong with you? Am I asking too much from you by letting you call me Shaoqing?”

“Of course not! I’ll be more than willing to do so!”

In fact, Shi Nuan knew deep down inside that Fu Chengyan was the reason why Su Shaoqing was being so friendly with her and so enthusiastic in offering her help.

Meanwhile, at the seaside mansion, Fu Zhengyun remained seated on the sofa for a long time after Fu Chengyan left. Thinking that it was unusual of him to behave this way, the butler quickly approached him and ventured, “Old Master, are you...”

“Let’s go home!”

After a while, Fu Zhengyun rose to his feet and left the seaside mansion together with the butler.

“Old Master, Young Master Chengyan instructed his men to... “ The butler informed Fu Zhengyun about the damage done by his grandson just now in a tentative tone, “They broke the tendons in the limbs of the bodyguards...”

“Just pay them one hundred grand each as compensation!”

“Yes!”

It was obvious that Fu Zhengyun was the loser this round. However, that did not bother him much because the purpose of him arranging the meeting with Shi Nuan had been to achieve something else. At first, he purely wanted to sound her out and find out more about her background, but his plan had been ruined by his grandson’s sudden visit. In his opinion, there was nothing special about Shi Nuan, who had a face that resembled Shen Qianan. Thus, when he saw Fu Chengyan going to the extent of giving him a warning for Shi Nuan’s sake, he was really surprised. His grandson had never done the same thing for Shen Qianan before.

“Help me find out where’s Shen Qianan staying now. I suppose she’s come back after being away for so many years. Also, how’s the Shen family faring in the capital recently? Who’s leading the family now?”

“Old Master, it’s Shen Shixiu, the son of Shen Feng!”

“It’s him?” Fu Zhengyun narrowed his eyes. “Is he Shen Qianan’s brother?”

“Yes!”

“Great. Now, you find out where she’s staying and then create some trouble for her. After all, she’s still part of the family. Although she’s been banished by her family for three years, I’m sure her family will do their part to help her.”

“Yes!”

During the days subsequent to Chinese New Year, Ning Xin’s health had been deteriorating. At first, she thought she only needed enough rest to feel better, but things had not been working lately. Fu Heng had been bringing her to the hospital so frequently that she was forced to be hospitalized due to his relentless persuasion.

Knowing well that her days were numbered, her desire to meet her daughter, Pei Huan, grew increasingly intense.

It went without saying that Fu Heng was well aware of that too. On top of that, he was also aware that Fu Chengyan had once met with Ning Xin in private before. Although he did not spell it out, he understood that making sure Pei Huan came back to visit her mother was the top priority.

Three years ago, when Ning Xin was dying of her illness and was in desperate need of bone marrow donation in order to survive, none of her family was eligible to be her donor except Pei Huan. Thanks to Pei Huan risking her life to undergo the bone marrow transplant surgery, Ning Xin’s life was extended. Unfortunately, Pei Huan had suffered substantial damage to her body, and that had eventually brought about the miscarriage of her baby...

After keeping Ning Xin company for a while, Fu Heng walked out of the ward to give Fu Chengyan a call. “I’d like to meet Li Heng.”

Without hesitation, Fu Chengyan immediately visited Li Heng and asked him to meet Fu Heng. “You’d better be mentally prepared as Aunt Ning’s condition isn’t

very optimistic. This time, it's highly likely that Uncle Heng is asking Huan back so that she can see her mother for the very last time. If Huan is unable to..."

"I understand!" Li Heng interrupted. He took a huge puff of his cigarette, stubbed it out, and closed the car window. He then cast Fu Chengyan a glance. "Thanks!"

"It's no biggie." Fu Chengyan nodded at him. "Please don't mind Uncle Heng's attitude. It's probably because he still harbors some prejudicial opinion against you."

"Sure!"

Then, Li Heng opened the car door and left.

As Ning Xin's body was growing weaker and weaker, Fu Heng, as a man who loved his wife very dearly, was insistent on staying by her side at all times. Therefore, Li Heng was asked to meet him at the hospital that was owned by Su Shaoqing.

At that moment, Su Shaoqing happened to walk out of his office when he spotted Li Heng outside. Surprised to see him there, he couldn't help but tease him, "How come you're here? Are you here to visit your mother-in-law?" He quickly adjusted his attitude when he noticed the worried expression on Li Heng's face. "I mean no offense."

Li Heng nodded at him to show he did not take his comment seriously. "How's the condition of my mother-in-law?"

"It's not looking good. She's been drifting in and out of consciousness over the past few days. In fact, her health's never been well since three years ago. To put it bluntly, she wouldn't have made it until now without Pei Huan's bone marrow. Were you asked to be here by your father-in-law or your mother-in-law?"

Taking a sharp intake of breath, Li Heng patted Su Shaoqing's shoulder and pleaded, "Please do your best to put off the inevitable as long as you can. Huan... Huan will be back soon."

"Of course I will do that. Go ahead and visit your mother-in-law now!"

Then, Li Heng strode off at a quick pace to the ward where Ning Xin stayed. At the sound of his footsteps, Fu Heng stood up and walked toward the door.

"You're here."

"Dad!"

Fu Heng responded to the way he addressed him with an icy snort. He did not go as far as rectifying him. Glancing at Ning Xin, he told Li Heng, "Your mother is asleep. Let's go over there and talk."

"Uncle Heng, I've allocated an empty ward next to this one for you guys to have a chat. Please don't worry because I will look after Aunt Ning here."

Fu Heng appreciatively nodded at Su Shaoqing before patting his shoulder. "I'm really grateful for your help."

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Li Heng and Fu Heng walked to the next ward. Fu Heng found a seat and sat down, whereas Li Heng remained standing. Fu Heng gave Li Heng a look and waved his hand. "Have a seat!"

"Ok!" Li Heng sat himself down. "Dad, Mom's illness cannot be left untreated any longer."

Fu Heng raised his head and looked at Li Heng sharply. After a while, the former said, "You have a way to get Huan to return?"

"It's not 100% foolproof, but I'm 70% sure my plan will work." Pei Huan would never stand around and do nothing while her mother's condition deteriorates. She could never be at peace with herself if anything were to happen to Ning Xin.

Li Heng knew Pei Huan well enough to know that she longed for her family more than anything else, even if she might act as if nothing mattered to her.

Just like years ago when her adoptive mother and her boyfriend betrayed her. She woman had done everything in her power to get revenge, but she let go of her resentment in the end because of Pei Qingcheng, her adoptive father. Pei Qingcheng had taught her well.

If it weren't for the misunderstanding between the two of them, Pei Huan wouldn't have abandoned the family members she just met.

Li Heng figured Pei Huan would visit Ning Xin no matter how much she hated him.

She never returned during these three years because of two main reasons. She didn't want to see him; two, she knew Ning Xin would be in good hands with Fu Heng around.

Fu Heng closed his eyes and sighed. "I don't know what happened between you and Huan, but you betrayed her trust first. If she doesn't agree to be with you even if she returns, you should not force yourself on her."

Li Heng clenched his fists. He frowned and kept quiet about it.

"Li Heng, Huan is a grown-up now. If she isn't willing..."

"Fine!" Li Heng nodded. "As long as she returns!" He couldn't care less about anything else.

"You must have heard from Fu Chengyan that He Beiting is returning soon. I'm worried about Huan being on her own out there." Li Heng paused before saying, "I can ensure her safety as long as she is within my reach."

Fu Heng was silent for a moment. He had a vague impression of He Beiting, who was just slightly older than Li Heng. Rumors had it that he was a child born out of wedlock...

Fu Heng couldn't quite remember what happened to him. He only knew that Li Heng's uncle had disappeared after that. Li Group must be the sole reason for his return this time around.

"How can I trust you when you failed to protect Huan years ago when she was by your side?" This was another reason why Fu Heng wasn't very fond of Li Heng.

Li Heng frowned. "I will do everything in my power to ensure her safety. I will be by her side wherever she goes."

"Ok then. I look forward to hearing some good news from you. However, not even Yan knows where she is at the moment. How are you..."

“I have an idea in mind.” Li Heng stood up. “It’s getting late.”

Fu Heng nodded. “You can head back first then.”

Li Heng left desolately.

He felt drained after meeting up with Fu Heng even though the meeting wasn’t as bad as he initially thought it would be. He wasn’t afraid of Fu Heng – he just wanted to impress him.

When Li Heng got into his car, he noticed that Fu Chengyan was still hanging around. He looked at Fu Chengyan in surprise. “Don’t you have anything else to do?”

Fu Chengyan reached for a pack of cigarettes from the side of the car. “I thought you’ve quit smoking?”

Li Heng took the pack of cigarettes away from him and pursed his lips. “It’s none of your business!”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “I’m surprised you’re still in one piece after meeting up with Fu Heng.”

Li Heng raised his brows and looked at Fu Chengyan disapprovingly. “What is it?”

“You must be serious about Huan... Have you decided not to let her go this time?” Fu Chengyan straightened up and looked into Li Heng’s deep-set eyes. The latter’s hands were placed on the steering wheel as he stared straight ahead with a sharp gaze.

Li Heng shot him a look. “Stop sounding me out. I wouldn’t have dragged it out if not for this.”

He could only feel at ease by keeping his enemies close.

Moreover, it had been three years, seven months, and thirteen days since Pei Huan left him. It's been long enough.

Li Heng clutched the pack of cigarettes in one hand. After a long while, he said, "I found out that Shen Qianan has been frequenting K Nation recently. I'm not sure who brought her there, but she's a ticking time bomb, so you'd better be careful of her. Moreover, make use of your connections and spread the news about my mother-in-law's condition. I'm sure that won't be a difficult task for you."

Fu Chengyan curled his lips. "You've always refused to be on the losing end regarding this matter. I won't just stand by and do nothing since you gave me the news. Give me two weeks."

"Seven days. I can't wait that long. Also, Mom... She doesn't have much time left!"

Fu Chengyan was stunned. "Ok!"

With that, he opened the car door and got out of the car. "Are you sure Li Cenbei is coming back?"

"I'm not sure." However, he couldn't think of anyone else if it weren't his third uncle, Li Cenbei.

After Fu Chengyan left, Li Heng sat in his car for a long while. He then pulled out his phone and gave Liang Lin a call. "Still no news from C Country?"

"No, Mr. Li." Liang Lin was still investigating but to no avail. "Perhaps Mrs. Li is not in C Country. Should I try somewhere else?"

"No, just carry on." Li Heng had a strong feeling that Pei Huan was in C Country. That was also where Li Cenbei had gone before he disappeared.

Someone suddenly came knocking on his car window when he hung up the phone. Li Heng narrowed his eyes as he saw a man and a woman standing by

his car. After a long while, he rolled down the car window. The woman had a smile on her face. "It's you, brother-in-law! I'm with..."

"What do you want?" Li Heng looked at the woman coldly, making the woman slightly taken aback by his words. "It's nothing. Are you here to visit Dad and Mom as well?"

Li Heng frowned. "Who are you?"

She was stunned for a moment before saying, "I'm Fu Jiaqi..."

"The imposter?" Li Heng curled his lips in disdain and turned his gaze towards the man who was standing behind Fu Jiaqi. He had a vague impression of him as he had also coveted Pei Huan back then.

Li Heng noticed that the color had drained from Fu Jiaqi's face, and he gave her a cold-eyed stare. "I don't think we're that close. Moreover, I'm afraid you're not worthy enough to call me brother-in-law."

"I..." Lai Jingdong held on to Fu Jiaqi's hand. "I thought we're here to visit Mom and Dad. What are you still doing here?"

"I..."

Li Heng gave Lai Jingdong a slight nod before he rolled up the windows and floored the accelerator.

Fu Jiaqi seethed in anger as she watched Li Heng sped away in his car. She glared at Li Heng's car viciously before shaking Lai Jingdong's hand off her. "Why are you stopping me? How could you be so cowardly in front of your former love rival? Lai Jingdong, what kind of a man are you?"

"You should know better if I'm a man or not." Lai Jingdong sneered, "Fu Jiaqi, I'm here to visit Mom and Dad like you asked me to. Don't push your luck."

Lai Jingdong couldn't be bothered with Fu Jiaqi anymore as he headed into the hospital. Fu Jiaqi stood rooted to the ground as she lashed out in anger. "Lai Jingdong, you seriously think I don't know you're still yearning for that b*tch, Pei Huan? You'd better stop dreaming; she will never fall for you!"

"Fu Jiaqi, that's enough!" Lai Jingdong scowled through gritted teeth. "Just look at yourself – you certainly don't look like a lady who came from a prestigious family right now." He wouldn't have married Fu Jiaqi if she hadn't tricked him into it years ago.

Her face contorted with rage, and she clenched her fists. "I was never from a prestigious family, to begin with. Aren't you aware of that? But so what? So what if Pei Huan hails from a prestigious family? She still grew up as an orphan for the past twenty years."

"You scum!"

Lai Jingdong stormed off. He couldn't be bothered to argue with her anymore; it was just plain embarrassing.

Meanwhile, Fu Heng had been staying by Ning Xin's side long after Li Heng left. Su Shaoqing found a doctor to check up on Ning Xin. Fu Heng finally breathed a sigh of relief after making sure Ning Xin's condition had stabilized.

"Don't worry, Uncle Heng. I'm sure Huan will return soon. Fu Chengyan and Li Heng are very capable; you know that."

"Let's hope so!" Fu Heng sighed. He hadn't been able to sleep well these few nights as he kept dreaming about his past and the time spent together with Ning Xin. He then dreamt about how their child was taken away from them and left on the streets for more than twenty years. Fu Heng was then jolted awake from the nightmare.

He soon heard someone knocking on the door and also some people arguing. Fu Heng furrowed his brows slightly. Su Shaoqing's gaze turned sharp when he turned around and saw that it was Fu Jiaqi.

The door of the ward was pushed open. Fu Jiaqi was about to enter when Fu Heng stepped out of the ward. "What are you doing here?"

"Dad, I heard Mom is sick and has been hospitalized. I came to pay her a visit with Jingdong."

Fu Heng frowned. "Your aunt is fine!" Fu Jiaqi's face stiffened with dismay upon hearing those words. She said awkwardly, "Dad... I was also a victim of what happened back then. I didn't know Lin Yunjia would switch Huan and I at birth. I have no intention of occupying everything that belonged to Huan. Dad, I..."

"That's enough!" Fu Heng cut her off. "You know better than anyone whether you're innocent or not. I treated you well all these years, and you have also found a good husband. I won't put the blame on you for what your biological mother did to Huan, but Ning and I are not your parents. We've been very clear about this since three years ago."

"But Dad..." Fu Jiaqi was unwilling to concede defeat. *Why should I give way to Pei Huan after being the Fu's heiress for over twenty years? She's not fit to be an heiress, nor can she compared to me at all.*

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Fu Heng did not have the patience to continue arguing with Fu Jiaqi. “Jingdong, since she’s now your wife, she’s a part of your Lai family. You should know what to do!”

Fu Heng took a glance at Lai Jingdong and felt that it was such a pity that the situation had boiled down to this.

If Pei Huan had chosen Lai Jingdong then, they would have made a good pair. It was just too bad that he and Huan were not fated to be together.

“Sure!” Lai Jingdong nodded. “I shall not disturb you any further,” said the man said as he grabbed Fu Jiaqi’s hand. “Let’s go back now!”

“No, I’m not leaving! Dad, please listen to me. I’ve always been your daughter. You... Pei Huan has already been away for three years. She has never treated you and Mom as her parents. Even when mom was so sick, she still refused to come back, she... “

“That’s enough! I don’t want to hear you badmouthing Huan again. I’ve already done my utmost for you and this is as far as I would go.” If not for Fu Heng, Fu Jiaqi would not have been able to marry Lai Jingdong with her own abilities. Even though the Lai family was not within the ranks of the most powerful or influential in Jiang City, it was still a family of scholars. Besides, Lai Jingdong was an outstanding young man.

Fu Jiaqi was not willing to leave just like that, but Fu Heng’s stance was firm. He shut the door decisively, cutting off all connections with Fu Jiaqi.

“Let go of me!” Fu Jiaqi flung Lai Jingdong’s hand away and glared angrily at him. “Aren’t you very capable? Why were you not able to convince my dad? Lai Jingdong, you... “

“I can’t be bothered with you!” Lai Jingdong was extremely annoyed with the woman and left by himself. Fu Jiaqi remained on the spot, storming mad. She kept muttering to herself, “Pei Huan? Ha! You guys really think that Pei Huan can come back?”

“What do you mean?”

Suddenly, a voice sounded behind Fu Jiaqi, which almost scared the woman out of her wits.

She took a few steps back and only managed to stop herself from falling by leaning against the wall. With a terrified expression, she looked at Su Shaoqing. “Su... Su... “

Su Shaoqing curled his lips into an innocuous smile. He rubbed his chin and said, “Su? Hi, imposter, you don’t remember my name?”

“Su Shaoqing... “

Fu Jiaqi stuck herself to the wall in fear. She wanted to run but her legs felt like lead and were unable to move even an inch. The woman swallowed the huge lump in her throat and was almost bursting out in tears.

Su Shaoqing let out a disarming smile and said, “Why are you staring at me with such wide eyes? Have I grown so handsome that it surprised you?”

Even though what Su Shaoqing said seemed to be harmless, every word of his sent fear coursing through Fu Jiaqi.

She had personally witnessed Su Shaoqing’s merciless ways a few years back. When she was imprisoned with another man in the darkroom at that time, she

saw Su Shaoqing cutting off the other captive's manhood with a surgical knife, which was worse to him than death itself.

Ever since then, Fu Jiaqi would try her very best to avoid Su Shaoqing.

How could she have forgotten that they were at the Su family's hospital! That was clearly Su Shaoqing's territory.

"Su... Master Su, I have something on, I shall, I... "

"Hush!" Su Shaoqing observed the changes in Fu Jiaqi's expression with interest before taking his time to speak. "Come to think of it, we haven't met each other in a long time. Since it's such a coincidence that we managed to bump into each other, shall we find somewhere to catch up, my old friend?"

"I'm afraid I'll have to pass. I really have something on... " Fu Jiaqi retreated a few steps and almost stumbled. Supporting herself on a chair by the wall, the woman took a deep breath and reiterated, "Master Su, I have something on... "

"Master Su" was how Fu Jiaqi addressed the man during the days when she was always around Fu Chengyan and before her identity was exposed.

However, after her true identity was revealed and the things she did to hurt Pei Huan became known, Su Shaoqing no longer treated the woman in the same friendly manner. As such, she no longer dared to address Su Shaoqing that way.

Su Shaoqing might appear to be the most easy-going one among Jiang City's so-called "Big Four", but he was also the most ruthless among them. Even Pei Jingxiu was not his match.

"What could be more important than us catching up?" Su Shaoqing flashed a warm smile as he removed his white coat. Smoothing out the creases of his shirt, he said, "Why don't we go back to our old haunt? So that we can have a conducive environment to talk about what you said just now!"

“I... I didn’t say anything!” Fu Jiaqi was already utterly terrified and trembling in fear. That “old haunt” Su Shaoqing referred to was the woman’s worst nightmare in her entire life. She would never, ever want to go back to that place again.

Fu Jiaqi took another two steps back and said, “No! You can’t do this to me, Su Shaoqing. I’m Lai Jingdong’s wife; you can’t treat me like this!”

“Wife?” Su Shaoqing loosened his necktie and smiled innocently. “I think Lai Jingdong would thank me instead. With a wife like you, it’s nothing but trouble for him!” The man’s face darkened as he continued, “Do you know how precious my time is? People are queuing up to meet me but you’re refusing my personal invite?”

“Su Shaoqing, don’t you dare! I’m Fu Chengyan’s sister, I... “

“Well, try me and see if I dare then. You can also see whose side Chengyan is on!” Su Shaoqing did not want to continue this conversation with Fu Jiaqi any further. He took one huge stride forward and delivered a blow to the back of the woman’s head. It was so quick that Fu Jiaqi had no chance to dodge before collapsing on the ground.

Su Shaoqing looked at the woman’s motionless body and kicked her arm while letting out a light snort.

“Hey, Li Heng, I have a present for you. Oh yeah, ask Chengyan to come along!” Su Shaoqing hung up immediately after he finished speaking. He then frowned at Fu Jiaqi for a while. In the end, Su Shaoqing still decided to carry her, albeit very unwillingly.

Ugh, how unlucky can I get! I have to remember to disinfect myself thoroughly later!

By the time Fu Jiaqi regained consciousness, she found herself shivering in the cold. It was a kind of frigidty that felt familiar to her. *Isn’t this just like four years back...*

Fu Jiaqi suddenly widened her eyes in shock, especially when she recognized that icy environment. She started trembling from the low temperature as well as her own fear.

“Let me out!”

Only then did Fu Jiaqi realize that her arms and legs were shackled; she had been locked up.

“Su Shaoqing, how dare you do this to me! It’s a criminal offense. The Lai family will not let you off for this. My brother won’t let you off, either!”

Fu Jiaqi screamed her lungs out in the darkroom for half an hour but received no response.

Meanwhile, inside a private room at Prosperous Dynasty, four men were in the middle of a card game. Su Shaoqing was taking his time to arrange his cards while the other three stared at him. “Shaoqing, you’d better have something important to tell us,” Fu Chengyan said, “I hope I didn’t leave work just to play cards with you!”

Su Shaoqing cocked his brows and chuckled. “Don’t worry, for me to gather you busy people here, I definitely have some good news to share. But Jingxiu... are you very free these days?” Su Shaoqing did not remember inviting Pei Jingxiu and was surprised that he showed up as well.

When Pei Jingxiu heard that, he shot a glance at Su Shaoqing while fiddling the corner of a card with his fingers. “You mean, you wanted to meet Chengyan and Heng but not me?”

Su Shaoqing was at a loss for words.

“Just say it. What is it?” Li Heng was also growing impatient, which was a rather rare occurrence for the man. “You told me over the phone just now that you have a present for me? What’s the present?”

“Tsk tsk, why can’t you have a little more patience?” Su Shaoqing tossed his cards on the table and stood up. “Do you guys still remember Fu Jiaqi?”

Li Heng and Fu Chengyan looked up at Su Shaoqing when they heard the woman’s name.

Li Heng was sensitive towards Fu Jiaqi’s name because he had bumped into her earlier today. Fu Chengyan, on the other hand, would pay attention to that name because he had assumed the role of that woman’s elder brother for over two decades. Fu Chengyan’s gaze darkened almost instantly as he asked, “Why do you suddenly mention her?”

“I found out something interesting. We might be able to find Pei Huan soon!”

“You mean...” When Li Heng heard “Pei Huan”, his spirits immediately lifted. “She knows where Huan is?”

“Well, I’m not too sure about that.” Su Shaoqing shook his head.

“Then why...”

“Fu Jiaqi went to visit your in-laws today and was chased out by your father-in-law!” Su Shaoqing touched his chin as he observed that Li Heng’s expression did not change much. “Are you not curious at all?”

“I already saw her at the hospital. C’mon, what’s the point you’re trying to make?” Li Heng was increasingly impatient.

“Okay, fine! The main point is, she was chased out by Fu Heng and I think it was very upsetting for her. Moreover, Lai Jingdong had a huge argument with her after that, and I caught her mumbling to herself.”

“Mumbling to herself? Is it related to Huan?”

Su Shaoqing nodded and replied, "You guys really think that Pei Huan can come back?" Su Shaoqing repeated the exact sentence Fu Jiaqi had said and looked at Li Heng. "Don't you think there's something very wrong with that sentence?"

Li Heng frowned and Su Shaoqing carried on speaking, "Even if she did not know where exactly Pei Huan is, at least we can be sure that she knows who's the mastermind behind that incident. As for why Pei Huan left... Li Heng, I've locked that woman in there. You can ask her yourself!"

Li Heng narrowed his eyes and looked at Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan simply shrugged and said, "My sister is Huan. Besides, like mother, like daughter. After all, Fu Jiaqi is Lin Yunjia's daughter. If Lin Yunjia could be so cruel as to harm your child previously, I'm sure Fu Jiaqi wouldn't be any better... Just do whatever you want!"

Li Heng nodded and threw his cards on the table as he stood up. "I'm going to take a look now!"

Su Shaoqing watched Li Heng leave and started spinning a card on his fingers. "Why do I feel like Li Heng is out to kill?"

Fu Chengyan smirked, "As long as he doesn't literally kill her!" He stood up right after he finished speaking and said, "I still have something to attend to, so I'll make a move first."

"Hey, Chengyan, aren't you going to stay and watch the show? After all, she's once a member of your Fu family. Don't you..." Su Shaoqing stopped mid-sentence as he noticed Fu Chengyan's cold gaze. After that, Fu Chengyan turned to Pei Jingxiu and spoke casually, "Don't let Li Heng take her life. At the end of the day, she's still Mrs. Lai. Let's show some respect to Lai Jingdong."

Pei Jingxiu nodded in agreement. "Yup! We have to let her live; otherwise, given her current status, it'll be troublesome if she suddenly goes missing." Pei Jingxiu rose from his seat as well and said, "Shaoqing, let's go have a look, too!"

“Right away!” Su Shaoqing stood up and followed Pei Jingxiu to that place.

Li Heng stomped into the underground darkroom, giving off a deadly vibe as he made his way there. When Jiang Hu saw the man, he scurried over at once and greeted, “Mr. Li!”

Li Heng nodded and asked, “Where’s she?”

“She’s here, right inside!” Jiang Hu answered as he led Li Heng toward Fu Jiaqi. Even though Jiang Hu was a well-built man, he was actually rather daft. Li Heng’s appearance had piqued Jiang Hu’s curiosity as, after all, the former had not set foot here since that incident three years back.

When they reached the outside of the room, Jiang Hu said, “Mr. Li, she’s inside.”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 314

With a deep crease in between his brows, Li Heng gave a death stare at Fu Jiaqi, who at that moment was incoherently dishing out vulgarities like a madwoman. When she started scolding Su Shaoqing and Pei Huan, Li Heng's gaze turned murderous at once. Even Jiang Hu, who could be very dense, detected the change in the man's vibe. "Mr. Li... "

"Stand guard outside!" Li Heng said with a wave of his hands and Jiang Hu opened the door immediately. As the door swung open, the woman inside the room lifted her head. Seeing that it was Li Heng, Fu Jiaqi took a few steps back instinctively, "Li... "

"Here we meet again," Li Heng said as the corners of his mouth curled up. Even though he appeared to be smiling, it was a bone-chilling smile. Fu Jiaqi's heart did a double somersault and she started regretting her decision to visit that old hag, Ning Xin, at the hospital earlier in the day. *If only I didn't go there...* "Li, Mr. Li, I... Why did you take me here? Remember, I'm Lai Jingdong's wife. You guys can't... "

"Ha!" Li Heng let out a soft laugh. "Lai Jingdong? Should I be afraid of him?"

Fu Jiaqi's heart skipped another beat.

How is it possible for Li Heng to be scared of Lai Jingdong? Even though Lais were a family of scholars, their power and sphere of influence were far behind the Li clan in Jiang City. Because of that, even though Lai Jingdong was not willing to marry Fu Jiaqi, he still did so at the insistence of his family. The Lai family strongly supported the marriage as the woman had the backing of the Fu clan. Besides, the Fu clan and the Li clan had a close relationship...

“That’s not what I meant, Mr. Li, I just... just...” Fu Jiaqi swallowed the lump in her throat before continuing, “I really have no idea why you took me here!”

Fu Jiaqi felt terrified whenever she recalled her experience four years ago. At that moment, she could feel her hair raising.

“No idea?” Li Heng laughed slightly and found a random spot to sit down on. He fiddled with his cuff links while gazing at Fu Jiaqi’s disheveled appearance. The look in his eyes was unfathomable; it housed a whirlpool of emotions.

Fu Jiaqi took in a deep breath and tried her best to suppress the extreme fear she was feeling at the moment. Nodding vigorously, she said, “Li... Li Heng, I really don’t know.”

Li Heng looked up suddenly and narrowed his eyes. “Don’t know? or don’t remember? Or can’t say?” Li Heng interrogated. “Well, there’s no rush. I have all the time in the world anyway. I haven’t been here in a long while. Do you still remember what happened four years back?”

“Li Heng!”

“Who gave you the right to call me by my name?” Li Heng said as he stood up. Fu Jiaqi did not even notice the man approaching her, but by the time she was aware of that, he was already holding her by her neck. His pitch-black eyes were bloodthirsty and filled with the intent to kill. “It seems like you have not learned your lesson well. I’m not as merciful as Pei Huan. She’s soft-hearted and benevolent, but I’m not the same. Would you like to experience my teachings instead?”

“No, Li... Mr. Li, I don’t want that. I really don’t know why you guys took me here!” Fu Jiaqi shook her head continuously. She would rather die than to experience what happened four years ago again. However, judging from Li Heng’s look, she... “Is there some misunderstanding? I only went to visit Dad and Mom today. Mom’s sick and I’m worried about her, so I...”

“You? worried?” Li Heng let out a cold snort. “She’s Huan’s mom, not yours. Your mom is in jail right now; do you need me to remind you?” Li Heng’s every word was a sharp blade cutting through Fu Jiaqi’s pretense.

“No, that’s not my mom! She’s not! My mom is Ning Xin. I am Fu Heng and Ning Xin’s daughter. I’m not a murderer’s daughter!” Fu Jiaqi yelled as she was pushed to the brink of insanity, “I don’t want her! She’s not my mom!”

Yup, I’m a daughter of the Fu clan. I’m Fu Heng’s daughter, the respected young lady of the Fu clan. To Fu Jiaqi, she was of noble birth. She could not possibly be the daughter of a country bumpkin-cum-murderer!

Li Heng stared at Fu Jiaqi frostily, and the hostility heightened by the second. “It’s no use even if you keep denying it. You’ve stolen Pei Huan’s parents from her for so many years and even framed her. It would have been perfectly understandable if she had killed you previously, but she did not do so, as she is such a kind-hearted woman. As for me...” Li Heng applied more pressure on the woman’s neck and continued, “Even though I have a lot of time, I don’t have much to spend on you. So tell me, where’s Pei Huan?”

Fu Jiaqi could feel that she was suffocating as the man tightened his grip. Her face was flushed from being out of breath and was getting increasingly red.

Fu Jiaqi kept hitting Li Heng’s arm nonstop; the metal chains on her wrists made a clanging noise as she did so. Li Heng hardened his gaze and lifted Fu Jiaqi off the ground, further increasing his grip on her. “Seems like you don’t know me very well. I don’t like to waste time. You still don’t want to tell me, eh?”

Li Heng suddenly loosed his grip and sent Fu Jiaqi slamming against the ground. Then, he took out his handkerchief to wipe his hands while looking at the woman in disgust. Inside the darkroom, Li Heng’s chilling gaze was like the snow in the deep winter.

Just then, the door flung open, revealing Pei Jingxiu and Su Shaoqing at the doorway. “Heng, Chengyan asked you to spare her life.”

Fu Jiaqi jolted up and said, "I want to see my brother. I want to see my brother!" She was convinced that Fu Chengyan would not treat her so cruelly.

After all, she had been his younger sister for more than twenty years. Fu Chengyan was always kind and obliging towards her and gave her anything she wanted. "I want to see my brother. If he knows you guys are treating me in this manner, he will definitely not let you off."

"Ha!" Su Shaoqing was amused by the woman's words. "You're an interesting character. Your brother? You usurped the position of the young lady of the Fu clan for so many years and still have the nerves to call Fu Chengyan your brother? Don't worry, since Chengyan told us to spare your life, we will definitely not kill you."

After Su Shaoqing finished speaking, he turned to look at Li Heng and said, "Heng, Jingxiu and myself are thinking of going for a walk. Want to come with us?"

Li Heng turned to his side and swept a glance at Fu Jiaqi. He nodded and replied, "Sure!" After that, he instructed Jiang Hu, "Strike. Just don't kill her. Call me when she's ready to speak!"

Li Heng loosened up a little and saw that there was something dirty on his jacket. He removed his jacket and threw it at Jiang Hu. "Get rid of this!"

"Tsk tsk, seems like I'm not the only one who's germophobic. Before I met you guys just now, I have already disinfected myself thoroughly and changed into a new set of clothes," Su Shaoqing said.

Fu Jiaqi, who was sitting helplessly on the ground, turned ghastly pale when she heard the men's conversation. She got to her feet immediately and yelled at them, "No! Let me out! What you are doing is illegal. I'm going to sue you—I'll make sure I do that!"

“Jiang Hu, what are you waiting for?” Li Heng shot a glance at Jiang Hu, after which the latter immediately replied, “Understood, Mr. Li.”

Fu Jiaqi had gone missing for three days. Since that day after Lai Jingdong left her at the hospital, she had not been seen anywhere.

Lai Jingdong did not really care about Fu Jiaqi. After all, their marriage was purely a result of his family's doing. Besides, Lai Jingdong rarely went home in the past few years. What they had was a loveless marriage. However, as Fu Jiaqi was a proud person, she would act appropriately in front of others as to not reveal the true relationship between herself and her husband.

The reason for Lai Jingdong's return was because of Old Madam Lai's strict orders and also Ning Xin's illness. Ning Xin was Pei Huan's mom, after all. Even though Lai Jingdong and Pei Huan were not fated to be together, he had a lot of respect for Fu Heng and Ning Xin.

The Lai family was rather concerned about the fact that Fu Jiaqi was missing and had tasked Lai Jingdong to find her as soon as possible.

Lai Jingdong had initially assumed that Fu Jiaqi was just upset with him and would be back after cooling off for a few days. However, even Lai Jingdong became worried after three days had passed with no news of the woman.

Although he had never regarded Fu Jiaqi as his wife and was not fond of her, she was still a human being, after all. Besides, she was officially his wife. As such, Lai Jingdong went out to look for the woman. Frustratingly, he did not manage to make any headway after a whole day of searching.

Lai Jingdong had no choice but to return to the hospital to look for Fu Heng.

“Dad, I'm here to ask you if Jiaqi had come to look for you after that day?”

“Jiaqi?” Fu Heng was stunned for a moment before he replied, “Nope, ever since you guys left together the previous time, she hasn’t been here. Did anything happen?”

After all, she was once his daughter. When Fu Heng heard that Fu Jiaqi had gone missing, he couldn’t help but worry. “Did you two have a fight?”

“Not exactly.” Lai Jingdong narrated what happened that day to Li Heng, who frowned as he listened. “You mean, Jiaqi did not follow you when you left the hospital? And ever since then, she was nowhere to be seen?”

Lai Jingdong nodded. “That’s right. I assumed that she was angry with me. But today’s already the fourth day, so...”

“Since you are quite certain that she was last seen at the hospital, I’ll check with that lad from the Su family if anything was caught on the surveillance cameras. If the cameras don’t show anything fishy, that would mean that something only happened to Jiaqi after she left the hospital. If that’s the case, we should report it to the police.”

Fu Heng headed to look for Su Shaoqing and stated the purpose of his visit. After checking the recordings of the surveillance cameras, they found nothing.

Fu Heng and Lai Jingdong decided to go to the police, but they were stopped by Su Shaoqing. “Uncle Heng, leave this matter to me. There’s no need to waste public resources. Have you forgotten what Chengyan’s forte is?”

Seeing that Fu Heng was slightly hesitant, Su Shaoqing smiled and said, “Don’t worry, Uncle Heng. I’ll be sure to bring Fu Jiaqi back.”

“But...” Fu Heng looked at Su Shaoqing before turning towards Lai Jingdong.

Lai Jingdong was frowning as he fixed his gaze on Su Shaoqing. Su Shaoqing let out an innocuous smile and said, “Does Mr. Lai have some time now? Care to have a cup of tea?”

“Sure!” Lai Jingdong had a gut feeling that Su Shaoqing knew something, something Su Shaoqing did not want Fu Heng to know. As such, Lai Jingdong asked Fu Heng, “Dad, let me have a talk with Mr. Su first?”

“Sure. I’ll leave you guys to talk.” Fu Heng nodded and continued, “I’ll go back to see your mom first. I’m worried about leaving her alone in the ward.”

After Fu Heng left, Lai Jingdong met Su Shaoqing’s unfathomable gaze again and asked, “Do you know where Fu Jiaqi is?”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 315

Su Shaoqing writhed his lips as he untied the string holding the white robe around him. "There's a cafe downstairs. Do you want to check it out, Mr. Lai?"

Lai Jingdong was a bit flummoxed but he still nodded. "Sure."

The two of them came to the cafe. Su Shaoqing sat down comfortably and ordered a sugar-free Americano, whereas Lai Jingdong ordered a cup of Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee. The two of them sat facing each other. Being next to Lai Jingdong whose outfit was nothing out of the ordinary, Su Shaoqing looked like an eccentric madman.

Twiddling his fingers while they waited for their drinks, Su Shaoqing made a welcoming gesture when the coffees were served. "Hmm, how tasteful of you, Mr. Lai! The Blue Mountain is indeed a special blend."

Lai Jingdong spaced out for a while. Then, he picked his lower lip and asked, "Mr. Su, why did you ask me out? Do you have something to tell?"

"What if I say I have news of Pei Huan?"

At the mention of Pei Huan, Lai Jingdong's hand trembled and he almost spilled his coffee.

Lai Jingdong scrunched his brows and stared Su Shaoqing in the eyes. "What do you know? Do you have anything to do with Fu Jiaqi's disappearance?" For some reason, Lai Jingdong had an ominous feeling pooling in his heart. Yet, Lai Jingdong did not want to trust his sixth sense. At that moment, he prayed hard

that what Su Shaoqing was going to tell him had nothing to do with Pei Huan nor Fu Jiaqi.

Su Shaoqing wriggled his lips. "Mr. Lai, you are a smart man. You should know that I will not simply divulge secrets to anyone."

Lai Jingdong pursed his lips. "Mr. Su, please tell me!"

"Haha, alright!" Su Shaoqing chuckled as he pinched his chin. "Do you still remember what happened four years ago?"

Four years ago?

Lai Jingdong's eyes narrowed into one line as he coiled his fingers around his cup. "Are you suggesting that Fu Jiaqi was the one who made Pei Huan leave?"

"Hmm," Su Shaoqing arched one of his brows. "I didn't say so."

"Then, do you know where Fu Jiaqi is right now? Or have you been holding her hostage all this while?"

Lai Jingdong was indeed a smart man. His guess was not the least bit inaccurate. "Then, what is your purpose of seeing me today? Do you not know that Fu Jiaqi is my wife?"

"May I ask you a question, Mr. Lai? Have you ever treated Fu Jiaqi as your wife?"

Lai Jingdong took a deep breath. "Just cut to the chase, Mr. Su. What do you want me to do for you?"

Lai Jingdong knew there was no reason for a clever man like Su Shaoqing to show up just to inform Lai Jingdong that he was the one who kidnapped Fu Jiaqi. The only explanation was that Su Shaoqing needed something from Lai Jingdong.

“Awesome! Mr. Lai, it is a pleasure to work with someone as straightforward as you,” Su Shaoqing said as he took out a USB drive from his pocket. “This is the actual security footage from the hospital. The one you guys saw just now has been tampered with by yours truly. At the moment, I have all the reasons to believe that Pei Huan’s disappearance has something to do with Fu Jiaqi. In the past three years, even Fu Chengyan and Li Heng could not identify her whereabouts. Who do you think is responsible for this?”

“Then it’s even less likely to be Fu Jiaqi.” Even though Fu Jiaqi was a cruel woman, she was not capable enough to hide her tracks from Fu Chengyan and Li Heng. Lai Jingdong figured that the person who abducted Pei Huan must be someone with great power.

“Yes, I know Fu Jiaqi isn’t competent enough for us to suspect her, but that doesn’t mean she doesn’t have someone instructing her.” Su Shaoqing looked stern. “Do you not want to know where Pei Huan has been for the past three years? I remember she was pregnant before she went missing...”

Lai Jingdong’s face was as pale as a sheet of paper. He clenched his fingers tightly. “Okay. I’ll do whatever you want me to do.”

Su Shaoqing curled his lips. “You don’t have to give me an answer right away. Think of what you actually want out of this.”

“It’s fine. Where is Pei Huan? Bring me to her.” Lai Jingdong’s chest rose as he inhaled deeply. “As long as Pei Huan can return safely, I’ll do whatever you want me to do!”

Su Shaoqing lifted one brow in astonishment. “Tsk, no wonder Fu Jiaqi wanted to get rid of Pei Huan so desperately. If I were in her shoes, I think I’ll also do the same thing.”

Lai Jingdong looked morose but Su Shaoqing still rambled on. “If Li Heng knew that his old love rival still has a thing for his wife, I think he will-”

“If I recall correctly, Pei Huan and Li Heng are no longer together.” Lai Jingdong interrupted Su Shaoqing. “He was the one who chose to leave Pei Huan in the first place.”

Su Shaoqing shrugged his shoulders. “I am not interested in your romance whatsoever. Let’s not waste time, shall we? Since you seem to have agreed to my offer, I will bring you to her. But before that, I want you to contemplate one last time. Do you really not want anything else? For instance, you can ask for Fu Jiaqi to be completely removed from your life.”

Lai Jingdong furrowed his brows. “That’s my own business. I’ll take care of it myself.”

“Okay then!” Since Lai Jingdong had already made up his mind, Su Shaoqing didn’t want to nag at him any longer; that would be pointless.

The two men left the cafe. Su Shaoqing brought Lai Jingdong to the basement of Prosperous Dynasty. It was the first time Lai Jingdong visited this section of the building. He was in awe because he never knew such a place existed. Lai Jingdong was even more surprised by the people running it.

“Master Shaoqing!”

Jiang Hu saw Su Shaoqing and ran up to him. “What are you here for?”

“Where is she?”

“She’s inside.” Jiang Hu glanced at the man next to Su Shaoqing warily. “Master Shaoqing, Mr. Li ordered us to not let any outsiders in. Who is this-”

“It’s alright! If Li Heng knows about this, he will even thank me!” Su Shaoqing waved his hand dismissively. “How is she now?”

“Mr. Fu said as long as she’s alive, she’s well!” Jiang Hu pushed the doors apart. The place was instantly pervaded with a metallic smell of stale blood.

Lai Jingdong frowned. "What did you guys..." He didn't expect them to torment Fu Jiaqi in such an inhumane way, especially since he had learned that Fu Chengyan was involved in all of this just seconds ago.

"Jingdong!"

Fu Jiaqi could recognize Lai Jingdong's voice from inside. Out of joy, she tried to get up on her legs, but she tripped and fell the next instant. She let out a painful groan. "Jingdong, are you here to save me? I know you won't abandon me! Come and save me! They want me dead!"

Lai Jingdong's senses were lagging when Fu Jiaqi's voice hit him. Again, Fu Jiaqi tried to stand up. "Jingdong! Is that you?"

"Yes, it's me!" Lai Jingdong responded, "I'm here to see you!" Having said that he turned to Su Shaoqing. "Could you let us have some time alone?"

Su Shaoqing flexed his shoulders. "Of course, you may."

Only after Lai Jingdong heard the doors close up behind him did he approach Fu Jiaqi and squat down in front of her.

The room was poorly lit. Lai Jingdong could not clearly see how Fu Jiaqi looked at that moment, but the smell of blood was so strong that he could imagine wounds scattering across her body.

"Jingdong!"

Fu Jiaqi grabbed Lai Jingdong's hands. "Are you here to get me out of here? Please, take me away from this place as fast as you can! T-they are-"

"Fu Jiaqi." Lai Jingdong clasped his fingers around Fu Jiaqi's arms. He continued to speak, "They say you know where Pei Huan is."

Fu Jiaqi loosened her fingers in an instant. She shoved Lai Jingdong away from her. "Are you on their side? Haha! You want to know where that skank is?"

Lai Jingdong heard Fu Jiaqi's words and frowned, "So you do know where she is?"

"Hah! So what? I won't tell you anyway." For the past few days, Fu Jiaqi went through so much torture that she felt like her body was no longer hers. She couldn't believe that the first thing coming out of Lai Jingdong's mouth was about Pei Huan instead of herself. Instantly, her hatred for Pei Huan resurfaced. "Pei Huan is nothing but a wretched girl from a small town. I have no idea why she always gets everyone's attention! I am the lady of the prestigious Fu family, not her!"

"That's enough! You are crazy! Pei Huan is the direct kin of the Fu family. Your mother stole her away and left you behind in her stead. All these years, you've been taking what Pei Huan was supposed to have, but has Pei Huan ever asked you to repay her? Even when Pei Huan was reunited with the Fu family, did they kick you out? Since when have you ever been mistreated by them?"

Lai Jingdong could tell from the contorted expression on Fu Jiaqi's face that she still hated Pei Huan to the bones after all these years. Now, he found himself one more reason to believe Su Shaoqing's words. Now, Lai Jingdong was certain that Fu Jiaqi knew where Pei Huan was. In other words, he knew Fu Jiaqi was to be blamed for Pei Huan's disappearance.

"Tell me! Do you know where Pei Huan is?"

"Of course I know! How can I not? But the more you guys are worried about her, the less likely I am going to tell you guys her whereabouts," Fu Jiaqi sneered. Suddenly, she whimpered as she felt a sharp pain coming from her knee. But she continued to talk, "Why are you guys only looking for her after three years? Aren't you guys scared that Pei Huan is already dead? Hahaha, how about I let you in on a secret? She died three years ago! Hahahaha!"

“I am going to kill you!”

The door burst open. Li Heng stood at the doorway, his deadly gaze fixed on Fu Jiaqi. “If she’s dead, I’ll strangle both you and your mother alive!”

Li Heng walked over and placed his arm on Fu Jiaqi’s arm. With one twist, he broke her arm.

“Aaaaaaah! F*ck you, Li Heng! You will die a painful death!” Fu Jiaqi’s harrowing wail echoed in the room. “Hah! I still won’t tell you a thing! Kill me if you dare!”

“I won’t kill you, but I will make you regret being born into this world.” With that said, Li Heng wrapped his fingers around Fu Jiaqi’s other arm. Lai Jingdong saw the cold gleam in his eyes and hurriedly uttered, “Li Heng, stop.”

Li Heng narrowed his eyes. “What now? You still have feelings for her?”

Lai Jingdong writhed her lips. “Do you not want to know Pei Huan’s whereabouts? Hand her to me. Trust me, I’ll make her spill the beans. Don’t hurt her anymore.” After all, Fu Jiaqi was still Lai Jingdong’s wife; he could not watch her suffer an agonizing death.

Li Heng loosened his grip on Fu Jiaqi. He glared at her, who was now sprawled on the ground. “Even if you don’t tell me, I still have my ways to find out Pei Huan’s location. Your life means nothing to me.”

Fu Jiaqi began to tremble. Her hands were shaking as she grasped the cuff of Lai Jingdong’s sleeve. “Jingdong! Jingdong!”

“Mr. Li, please head outside.”

Li Heng glanced at Lai Jingdong and then Fu Jiaqi. He tucked his lips in. “How many months has it been?” Fu Jiaqi raised her head in horror. Even in the darkness, she could see the frigid gleam in Li Heng’s dark eyes.

Upon noticing the apprehension on Fu Jiaqi's face, Li Heng slanted his eyes at Lai Jingdong before leaving the room.

Once the doors closed up behind Li Heng, Lai Jingdong let out a breath in relief. He helped Fu Jiaqi up and looked her in the eyes. "You know what Li Heng is capable of. Since you are my wife, I will not allow him to kill you. If you tell me where Pei Huan is, I promise to not divorce you when we go back to Jiang City."