

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 316

1

“Do you really mean it?” Hope rekindled in Fu Jiaqi’s eyes. She couldn’t believe Lai Jingdong’s words. “Are you not bluffing?”

“You of all people should know that I never lie. I will definitely keep to my promise!” Lai Jingdong’s eyes were fixated on Fu Jiaqi. “You cannot change the situation you were born into, but you sure can alter the path of your destiny. I stopped loving you not because you no longer belong to the Fu family. I stopped loving you because you did too many things that I find unacceptable. Jiaqi, if you are willing to better yourself, I will learn to have you back in my life. I promise I will not bring up divorce ever again!”

“Are you for real?” Fu Jiaqi still couldn’t quite believe her ears until she saw Lai Jingdong nodding. She felt herself loosening up, but in the next instant, she seemed to remember something and wrapped her arms around her belly. “But...”

“But what?” Lai Jingdong cast a questioning gaze at Fu Jiaqi. He was confused as to what concerns Fu Jiaqi still had at this point in time, especially since she was in a dead-end now. “Do you still not trust me?”

“No! I trust you!” Fu Jiaqi shook her head violently. “I believe in everything you said. O-okay, I’ll tell you about what happened three years ago. To be honest, until today, I am still not sure what happened to Pei Huan. I remember someone calling me on the phone...” Fu Jiaqi gave Lai Jingdong the entire account of what she knew about the incident that happened three years ago.

In another room, Li Heng and Su Shaoqing were monitoring the two of them via the security camera. They were able to eavesdrop on the information Fu Jiaqi was sharing.

Su Shaoqing scoffed and patted Li Heng on his shoulder. "I didn't think that a guy like Lai Jingdong would be willing to sacrifice his happiness for Pei Huan."

Suddenly, before Su Shaoqing could finish his sentence, he felt a pressing killer intent directed at him. The next instant, Su Shaoqing ducked down as a fist came flying at his face. He took a step back and avoided Li Heng's punch. "What the hell are you doing, Li Heng!" Su Shaoqing was confounded by Li Heng's sudden outburst at him. What's wrong with me suggesting that Lai Jingdong fancies Pei Huan a lot?

Li Heng narrowed his eyes and continued to throw a few more punches at Su Shaoqing. Each of his attacks seemed to carry his entire body weight. For the next few minutes, Su Shaoqing was busy dodging the incoming blows from Li Heng. Finally, Su Shaoqing tired himself out and raised both of his hands in defeat. "Alright, alright! I won't say anything about Lai Jingdong and Pei Huan again! Pei Huan belongs to you and no one else!"

Only then Li Heng came to a rest. His fiery eyes met Su Shaoqing's, and he said, "You are weaker now."

"Of course! My hands are built to hold scalpels, not to fight you!" Su Shaoqing was never really interested in martial arts or anything that involved physical violence. I am a literal gentleman, okay?

Li Heng's lips curled up into a crescent. He took the jacket hanging on the chair. "Since you're the one who brought him here, you take care of him later when he's done."

"Hey, don't go yet! You want me to settle the rest alone?" Su Shaoqing bawled but Li Heng was already gone.

"That rascal! He just likes to make my life difficult!" Yet, as much as Su Shaoqing didn't want to confront the couple, he still went down to the darkroom a few moments later.

At this point, Lai Jingdong had already calmed Fu Jiaqi down. When he saw Su Shaoqing walking into the room, he asked, "Where's Li Heng?"

"He left. If there's anything important, just let me know." Su Shaoqing simpered as his eyes fell onto Fu Jiaqi.

That stare instantly made Fu Jiaqi's hair stand on end. She tugged at Lai Jingdong's shirt restlessly. "Jingdong!"

Lai Jingdong faltered as he tried to endure the discomfort, and gently patted her on the back. "It's okay! He won't do anything to you."

Even though Lai Jingdong had reassured her, Fu Jiaqi still stared at Su Shaoqing watchfully.

Su Shaoqing snickered, "You don't have to be so afraid of me, Mrs. Lai! After all, we were once on pretty good terms! Rest assured, you can always tell me if anyone does anything to you."

Fu Jiaqi shrank her body and stepped backward just as Lai Jingdong wrinkled his brows. "Mr. Su, if there isn't anything else, I'll bring her away with me."

"Oh. That's fine with me. However..." As Su Shaoqing spoke, his gaze returned to Fu Jiaqi. Immediately, every inch of Fu Jiaqi's body tensed up. Su Shaoqing looked at her with a vague smile, his eyes moving down to her belly before shifting back to her face again. "Mrs. Lai, you don't seem well. Before you leave, why not come to my hospital for a visit? It'll make it complimentary for you."

"No need!" Fu Jiaqi declined in a hurry.

Fu Jiaqi's abrupt refusal made her smell fishy. Lai Jingdong also felt that Fu Jiaqi was acting weird. Nevertheless, he glanced at the wounds all over her body, then at Su Shaoqing's strange expression, and figured that she must be afraid of him. "It's okay, Mr. Su. I will tend to her injuries myself."

“That’s fine with me. Bye then. See you again!”

Su Shaoqing writhed his lips. His eyes stayed glued on Fu Jiaqi as the couple took their leave.

Fu Jiaqi could also feel that someone was throwing daggers at her back. To her, this was as terrorizing as the treatment she had received in the past few days. Fu Jiaqi clutched Lai Jingdong’s hand tightly. “Jingdong, let’s go!”

Su Shaoqing’s smile vanished. But when he turned around and saw Jiang Hu, he was again grinning. “Have you been staring at me this whole time?”

“Master Shaoqing, won’t it be better if we keep her locked up here? What if she stirs up trouble again?” Jiang Hu recalled that the woman seemed to also have visited this place four years ago, but that was apparently not enough for her to learn her lesson.

“Nah, you have overestimated her. She won’t be much of a threat to us. For the time being, I reckon she will stay low. However, speaking about that woman, I think we have something interesting to expect from her belly.” Even though Lai Jingdong promised Fu Jiaqi not to divorce her, Su Shaoqing had a feeling that someday in the near future, he would have to help Lai Jingdong take care of his deranged wife.

Now that Li Heng had what he wanted from Fu Jiaqi, he got in touch with Fu Chengyan at once. “She’s in C Country.”

“Alright, I will handle this. Wait for my good news.”

Fu Chengyan hung up the call and tilted his head to look at Shi Nuan, whose body was coiled up on the couch like a lazy snake. She had been watching TV earlier but fell asleep midway through a show. Fu Chengyan shook her head with a sigh. He patted Shi Nuan on her cheek. “May?”

“Hmm?”

Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan with her sleepy eyes. "What is it?"

"If you're sleepy, just sleep in the bedroom upstairs!" Fu Chengyan chuckled heartily. "Why are you so drowsy as of late?"

"I don't know. Perhaps I have too much work recently!" Shi Nuan stretched her back before she continued, "I wanted to go out since it's a holiday." Shi Nuan sighed. "But I have so much work to do!" As she lamented, her eyes went to the stack of documents on the table. Suddenly, she was startled. "Huh? Since when have I finished all this work?"

She raised her head to give Fu Chengyan a questioning stare. "Did you finish it for me?"

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. "You already did the earlier part; I only helped you to wrap things up. I think your idea is pretty good."

"Oh, is it?" Shi Nuan was overjoyed to receive Fu Chengyan's compliment. "You really think it is not bad?"

"Yeah!" Fu Chengyan nodded and patted Shi Nuan on her shoulders. "Are you still sleepy?"

"Not anymore!" She didn't want to sleep anymore now that she's awake. Besides, it was already noon. If she slept any longer, she wouldn't be able to fall asleep at night. She rose from the couch and started to tidy up her documents. "Mr. George will be visiting us soon!"

"Yep! I think his flight was supposed to be a few days ago but I think there were some problems on his side. He only managed to straighten everything out yesterday. By the way, are you going to fetch him from the airport tomorrow?" Fu Chengyan knelt down next to Shi Nuan to help her with the documents.

Shi Nuan paused for a while before replying. "Yeah, I think I will. I have already asked someone to clean up Mr. George's residence here some time ago, but since he's coming back tomorrow, I'll ask them to clean it again."

"Yea, good idea." Fu Chengyan nodded. "But don't worry about it. I already have you covered."

"Yan!" Shi Nuan sighed and gave Fu Chengyan a firm pat on his shoulder. "Tell me. What can I do now that you have already done everything?"

"Stop it, silly!" Fu Chengyan saw Shi Nuan acting like a proud mother and pinched her nose. "You little monkey!"

"Ouch! Stop pinching my nose! You will ruin its shape!" Then, she continued, "Thank goodness my nose is original. If it's plastic, you might have ruined it. Anyway, don't pinch my nose again!"

"Hehe!" Fu Chengyan broke into laughter. "Let's go out to eat tonight?"

"Alright!" It had been a long time since the two of them last went out for dinner. "Oh right, how's Aunt Ning?" Shi Nuan remembered that a few days ago when she visited Ning Xin, the latter looked troubled, though she didn't say anything. "When is Pei Huan coming back?"

"Soon, I think." Fu Chengyan's expression darkened at the mention of Pei Huan. "I don't think Aunt Ning has much time left. I hope Pei Huan can still save Aunt Ning again when she returns this time. She's hurt herself pretty badly in the incident three years ago."

"Don't worry, everything will get better." Shi Nuan heard Fu Chengyan's stricken voice and figured that he was feeling down. After all, Ning Xin had a special place in Fu Chengyan's heart.

Fu Chengyan was brought up by Ning Xin; she was like a mother figure to him.

In addition, Ning Xin was a kind soul. Shi Nuan also experienced her kindness herself many times before. "Let's go visit Aunt Ning!"

"Uncle Heng is with her now. Let's visit her the day after tomorrow." By now, Fu Chengyan was done organizing the documents and he pulled Shi Nuan to get up from the floor. "Go get changed. We are going out!"

"But it's not even time for dinner yet. Where are we going? It's so early," Shi Nuan queried as she headed upstairs.

Fu Chengyan's eyes lingered at Shi Nuan's back as she disappeared up the stairs. Half a beat later, he gave his men in C Country a call. "Pick up your speed. You have only three days more."

Shi Nuan walked down the stairs after she had changed. She saw that Fu Chengyan was already done tidying and smiled. "I bought you something when I was out shopping with Yian. Do you want to try it out?"

"Come over!" Fu Chengyan beckoned Shi Nuan to him with a wave of his hand. She walked over to him and passed him a jacket. "Yian said you are born to model clothes. She even said you will look good even in a burlap sack."

"Hmm?" Fu Chengyan arched a brow as he put the jacket on. "Are you complimenting me?"

"Haha!"

Shi Nuan edged in closer to have a better look at Fu Chengyan with his new jacket on. She nodded gleefully. "Not bad at all!"

Fu Chengyan knocked Shi Nuan on the nook of her head. "You sure have good taste in clothing." And in men too!

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The next day, Shi Nuan went to pick up George at the airport after spending half a day at work. As Fu Chengyan was busy with something else, Shi Nuan made Yuan Jia go with her instead. After helping George settle down, she was about to head back to the office with Yuan Jia when Fu Chengyan's call came in again. "I need you to pick someone else up at the airport!"

"The airport? Like, right now?" Shi Nuan was confused. "But I've just sent George to his place. Who else is coming back?"

"It's Pei Huan!" Fu Chengyan said.

Shi Nuan almost stepped on the gas by accident when she heard that. "Pei Huan is back? Then..."

I didn't think she'd come back this soon!

"That's right. According to the people from C Country, her flight will be landing in about two hours' time. I'm a little busy at the moment, so I need you to go pick her up."

Fu Chengyan had just been informed of her arrival as well. He had no choice but to ask Shi Nuan for help as he was too busy to make the trip.

"Alright, I'll head over right away!" Shi Nuan continued, "So, about Li Heng..."

"Don't tell him about this yet." Fu Chengyan paused for a moment. "We don't know how Pei Huan feels about him. She might leave if she sees him!"

Shi Nuan nodded. *While I don't think Pei Huan would leave, I can understand Yan's concerns.* "Got it. I'm on my way to the airport. Wait a minute... I don't even know what Pei Huan looks like!"

"She looks kinda like Aunt Ning." Fu Chengyan chuckled. "They're like two peas in a pod. You'll get what I mean when you see her, but I'll just send you a photo in a bit anyway."

"Okay, I'll hang up for now. Talk to you later!"

Shortly after the call ended, Fu Chengyan sent her a picture of Pei Huan. Shi Nuan looked at the picture. *This was probably taken a few years ago... Apart from looking a little younger, she really does resemble Ning Xin! The power of genetics sure is scary!*

Fu Chengyan had included information on Pei Huan's flight in his text message. Seeing as the flight had yet to arrive, Shi Nuan decided to wait for her near the waiting area at the arrivals hall.

A familiar figure loomed before her; Shi Nuan was surprised when she looked up and saw who it was. "Li Heng? What are you doing here?"

Li Heng pursed his lips and frowned at Shi Nuan. "Did Chengyan send you?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yeah! I was supposed to come to pick up Mr. George, but then Yan found out that Pei Huan's flight was also arriving at this time so I figured I'd pick her up, too. How..."

"How did I know?" Li Heng chuckled, his voice sounding a little cold.

That tone... He's definitely angry! I bet he would've hit me if I were a guy! Shi Nuan swallowed nervously. "Uh... Li Heng, Yan is just... I mean, I'm going to take Pei Huan straight to Aunt Ning, so..."

“You don’t have to explain. I know Chengyan very well.” *Fu Chengyan is just worried that Pei Huan would leave if she saw me!* Li Heng continued, “Don’t worry, I know Pei Huan isn’t the type to do that. Even if she hates me to death, she wouldn’t mess around when the lives of her biological parents are at stake.” *If Pei Huan has chosen to return, then she must’ve prepared herself.*

“Yeah, I know.” Shi Nuan nodded. “But if Pei Huan doesn’t want to see you, could you...”

Li Heng narrowed his eyes and gave Shi Nuan a cold stare, sending shivers down her spine.

“I know you still have feelings for Pei Huan, and you’ve already been waiting three years for her return. Why not just wait a little longer now?” Shi Nuan suggested.

She could tell that Li Heng was deeply in love with Pei Huan, as he wouldn’t have waited three years for her otherwise.

Li Heng kept quiet, so Shi Nuan decided to follow suit. The two of them then stood by the waiting area in silence. Feeling awkward, Shi Nuan whipped out her phone and sent Fu Chengyan a crying emoji with the text: *Li Heng knows!*

Fu Chengyan’s reply came in a few seconds later: *I see.* Shi Nuan figured he was probably busy and texted back: *Don’t worry, we’re both waiting at the airport right now.*

Li Heng lowered his gaze and asked, “Are you reporting to Chengyan?”

Shi Nuan felt like he had caught her in the act and forced an awkward smile as she said, “I didn’t mean anything else by this!”

“Right.”

Pei Huan’s flight finally landed after what felt like forever.

Pei Huan switched on her phone and saw that she had a few missed calls and text messages. Dragging her suitcase behind her, Pei Huan narrowed her eyes and pointed at the boy next to her. “Mommy is going to give Daddy a call now. You be a good boy and stay where you are, okay?”

The boy then sat on top of her suitcase and propped his head with his hands. “Where are we going, Mommy?”

“We’ll find a place to stay, and then we’ll go see Grandpa and the others.” Pei Huan smiled and gently pinched Bao on the face. The call got through shortly after. “Hello, Beiting. You looking for me?”

“Where have you been, Pei Huan?” Beiting sounded worried.

“I just got off the plane in Jiang City.” Pei Huan said while looking at Bao. “What? Who gave you permission to go back there?” Beiting shouted.

“My mother is sick, Beiting. I’m sorry, but I have to stay here for a while. I’ll come back with Bao when she gets better!” Pei Huan hung up the call and hesitated for a bit before taking Bao’s hand. “Come on, let’s go home!”

Pei Huan felt a sharp glare the moment she reached the arrivals hall with Bao. Her eyes went wide with shock when she looked up and saw Li Heng in front of her. However, disappointment soon filled her heart when she saw Shi Nuan standing beside him, and she tightened her grip on Bao’s hand.

Heh... It’s only been three years and he’s already seeing someone else? So much for...

“Mommy, you’re hurting me!” Bao’s voice snapped Pei Huan out of her trance and she quickly took a look at his hand. “Where does it hurt? Mommy’s sorry! Here, let me give it a blow to lessen the pain!”

Li Heng found himself frozen in place when he saw Pei Huan and the little boy next to her. “Huan!”

Pei Huan quickly picked Bao up and was about to make a run for it, but Li Heng was faster and stopped her from leaving. “Where do you think you’re going?”

“Let go of me, Li Heng!”

Pei Huan saw the cold look in his eyes and squeezed hard at his wrist. “I said, let go!”

“Li Heng!” Shi Nuan didn’t expect things to turn out like this. She was especially surprised by the fact that Pei Huan now had an adorable son. “I mean... We’re here to pick up Pei Huan, aren’t we?”

Li Heng came back to his senses and loosened his grip on her. “Y-Yeah... We’re here to pick her up...”

Pei Huan shifted her gaze towards Shi Nuan with a judgmental look in her eyes. *I didn’t think Li Heng would be seeing someone else so soon... The way he treats me is also different now...*

Shi Nuan smiled. “You must be Pei Huan, right? My name is Shi Nuan, and I’m...”

“Save it.” Pei Huan cut her off curtly. “I’m not interested in knowing who you are, and I don’t want to see the both of you, either!” Pei Huan said coldly as she put Bao down. “Come on, Bao. Let’s go see Grandpa and Grandma.”

“Uh...” Shi Nuan was not expecting such a hostile response from Pei Huan.

“Pei Huan, I...”

“Is there anything else I can help you with, Ms. Shi?” Pei Huan glared at her impatiently.

“Yan told me to come and pick you up. Aunt Ning is at the hospital right now. Would you like to stay at the Fu Residence or Wutong Residence?”

Yan?

Pei Huan paused for a moment before shifting her gaze towards Shi Nuan once again. “You mean my brother sent you?” She then looked at Li Heng. “You two didn’t come here together?”

“I...” Shi Nuan didn’t know what to say. *So Pei Huan thought I came here with Li Heng? Did she think I am dating him? Is that why she was so hostile towards me?*

“Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Shi Nuan, and I’m Yan’s wife.” Shi Nuan smiled and reached out her hand. “Nice to meet you!”

Pei Huan froze. To her, that was a lot more shocking than running into Li Heng. “You’re my brother’s wife?” Pei Huan frowned as she asked Li Heng, “Since when did he get married?”

Li Heng pursed his lips. Although he didn’t like being questioned, he felt glad that she was at least speaking to him. “About six months ago,” he replied and looked at the child in Pei Huan’s arms. “Huan, this boy...”

“He’s my son, Bao. Bao, this is your aunt and... Well, you can call him Uncle Li.”

Uncle Li?

Li Heng glared at her. “You... You’re married?”

It took Li Heng every ounce of his strength to utter those words. “H-How could you, Pei Huan? Have you forgotten that you’re my wife?”

“If I recall, we’re divorced, Mr. Li!” Pei Huan said coldly.

“As long as I haven’t signed the divorce papers, you’re still my wife! Nothing can change that fact, Pei Huan! You’re my wife until the day I die!”

“You...”

“Li Heng!” Shi Nuan noticed that Bao was frightened. “Remember what you promised me? Also, Aunt Ning is still waiting for Pei Huan at the hospital.” She grabbed Li Heng by the arm and whispered, “Let it go for now. You have plenty of time to deal with this later!”

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Bao was scared by Li Heng's aggressive attitude and buried his face into Pei Huan's chest. "Mommy!"

"There, there... Don't be scared, Bao." Pei Huan gave him a few pats on the back before glaring at Li Heng. "Mr. Li, if this is what it takes to cut ties with you, then you can go to hell for all I care!"

She then turned towards Shi Nuan and said, "I'd like to see my parents at the hospital, please, before heading back to Wutong Residence."

"Sure, my car is parked right outside. Let's go!" Shi Nuan waited till Pei Huan wasn't looking before motioning at Li Heng to not try anything funny. "I'll help you with your suitcase so you can just carry Bao to my car."

"Thanks, Shi Nuan!" Pei Huan's attitude towards her naturally changed after finding out that she was Fu Chengyan's wife, but she was still a little skeptical about Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan placed her suitcase in the trunk before opening the car door for her. "Sorry... I didn't know you were bringing Bao with you, so I didn't prepare a car seat for him."

"That's fine, I can just carry him in my arms!" Pei Huan said as she got into the car. After seeing Shi Nuan put on her seatbelt and adjust the air conditioning settings, Pei Huan couldn't help but apologize. "I'm sorry about my behavior earlier. I..."

"Don't worry about it!" Shi Nuan smiled. "Is the temperature okay?"

“Yeah, it’s fine!” Pei Huan nodded and waited till Bao fell asleep before asking, “I didn’t know about you dating my brother. In fact, I didn’t even know a single girl that liked him!”

“Really?” Shi Nuan chuckled. “Why wouldn’t anyone like Yan? He’s so amazing!” She opened up a bit to Pei Huan after noticing the change in the latter’s attitude. “Well... It was a little strange, the way our relationship started. He saved me many times and we just sort of developed feelings for each other over time.”

Pei Huan nodded. “I was just a little surprised. After all, my brother is...” She stopped her sentence there and didn’t say anything further.

Shi Nuan didn’t bother to inquire further, either. “Aunt Ning’s condition started to deteriorate a while back, so her husband quit his job at Shengyuan to look after her. She didn’t want to bother you like this, but... Her condition has worsened so much that she fears she won’t be able to wait any longer.”

“I know... It was unfilial of me...” Pei Huan hung her head low in guilt. “Is... Is my mother okay? I didn’t know her condition would get this bad. I remember her being...”

“Her body showed signs of rejection. According to the doctors, there was no way of predicting that.”

“She should’ve told me sooner! She...” Pei Huan was still blaming herself. “I’ve been sending them letters throughout the past few years, but they never replied. I thought they were worried about me and Li Heng...”

“Letters?” Shi Nuan paused. “What letters?”

“I gave them a letter with my address and phone number before I left. That way, they can contact me whenever they like.”

“What number? They told me they didn’t know where you were at all. Yan only managed to find out that you were in C Country a while back. You know Yan, so

you know he'd definitely be looking for you." Shi Nuan felt something wasn't quite right. "Yan told me he's been searching for you throughout the past three years but he's never been able to find any clues to your whereabouts."

"How is that possible?" Pei Huan went pale. "You've gotta be kidding me!"

"Do I look like I'd joke about this? In fact, Li Heng has also been looking for you for the past three years. He couldn't find you, either! Considering both of their methods and resources in Jiang City, why is it that they couldn't find you?"

Pei Huang seemed upset upon hearing that and kept her head low. "Don't talk about Li Heng..."

Shi Nuan looked at Bao, who was sleeping soundly in Pei Huan's arms. "And the father of this child..."

"Li Heng isn't the father!" Pei Huan cut her off. "I got married in C Country."

Shi Nuan was so shocked that she nearly lost control of the steering wheel. She gave Pei Huan a confused and awkward look. "But... Aren't you and Li Heng..."

"Our relationship ended three years ago." Pei Huan seemed unwilling to talk about him, and Shi Nuan knew better than to continue the conversation.

As the car stopped outside Su Shaoqing's hospital, Pei Huan carefully carried Bao out of the car. Worried that she might be tired from the long flight, Shi Nuan offered to help carry the boy. "You must be tired from the trip. Here, let me help."

"No..." Pei Huan was about to refuse her offer when a pair of hands took Bao out of her arms.

"What are you doing, Li Heng?" Pei Huan shouted in shock, "Give him back to me!" She reached out to snatch her child from him but he quickly avoided her by turning the other way. "Stop yelling! Can't you see he's asleep?"

“You...”

“Pei Huan!” Shi Nuan grabbed her by the arm. “Don’t worry, Aunt Ning is just upstairs so Li Heng won’t do anything to hurt Bao. You must be tired from carrying him in the car, so why not let Li Heng help you out for a bit? He’s been waiting for you all this while; you might as well make him do something for you!”

“But...”

Pei Huan looked at Bao worriedly and got upset when she saw him sleeping soundly in Li Heng’s arms.

Shi Nuan let out a sigh and said, “Li Heng, how about you let me carry Bao instead?”

“No way. Look at how skinny you are! What if you drop him?” Li Heng gave her a condescending look. “Come on, Mom and Dad are in the hospital.”

Shi Nuan took a closer look at her own arms after hearing what he said.

Pei Huan, on the other hand, became agitated. “The child isn’t yours, Li Heng! Also, I’m married now, so my parents are no longer your parents!”

Li Heng was about to say something when he noticed Shi Nuan motioning at him and suppressed his anger. “I know you’re still mad at me, but now isn’t the time to vent your anger. Let’s go see your parents, and then I’ll send you home.”

Shi Nuan shuddered when she saw him speaking softly despite being on the verge of losing his temper.

I’ve never seen Li Heng behave like this before!

“Y-Yeah... Li Heng is right. Aunt Ning and Uncle Heng are still waiting for you upstairs! I don’t know if Yan told them about you coming over today, but I bet they’d be happy to see you!” Shi Nuan said with a smile.

Pei Huan seemed to feel a little easier after hearing that; she nodded. “Alright... Lead the way, Shi Nuan.”

“No need to be so formal. Just call me Nuan!”

“Okay, Nuan!” Pei Huan smiled and went upstairs with Shi Nuan, but not before taking one more look at Bao. The look of worry in her eyes was obvious, much to Li Heng’s displeasure.

I should be the one who’s angry right now! She left me for 3 years and 7 months! Judging by how much her child has grown, she probably got pregnant and gave birth shortly after leaving Jiang City. Why is it that all my anger and hatred just seem to disappear in front of her? Why do I feel my heart racing when I’m carrying a child she had with another man? Am I that generous?

Li Heng thought to himself as he looked at Bao’s innocent face in his arms.

Pei Huan kept her eyes on him the entire time; she looked increasingly grim.

“Pei Huan?” Shi Nuan noticed something off about her facial expression and saw her eyeing Li Heng. “Relax, he won’t do anything to Bao. I may not have known him for long, but I know that he...he still likes you!”

“Stop. It’s impossible for us to be together, and I don’t want to talk about it.” Pei Huan looked away and clenched her fist. “I don’t plan on staying long. Once I’ve donated my bone marrow to Mom, I’ll go back to C Country with Bao. My husband is still waiting for me, you see.”

“You... You’re really married?”

Shi Nuan still found it hard to believe that Pei Huan was married, but Pei Huan didn't seem to be lying.

Su Shaoqing was just coming out of the ward when they arrived. He freaked out when he saw Pei Huan standing there. "P-Pei Huan? You're back?"

"Long time no see, Mr. Su." Pei Huan gave him a friendly smile.

Su Shaoqing slowly regained his composure, but then freaked out again when he saw Li Heng with a child in his arms. "Li Heng, that child... Did you kidnap him?"

Li Heng shot him a fierce glare in response, warning him to shut up.

Su Shaoqing had an awkward smile on his face. "So, uh... That's..."

"My child, Bao." Pei Huan explained. "Your child? You and Li Heng have a child?" Su Shaoqing was shocked.

"No, that child belongs to me and my husband."

"Your husband? But isn't Li Heng your husband? So, this child..."

"We have divorced long ago." Pei Huan cut him off. "Mr. Su, I'm here to see my parents, and you're in my way."

"Uh..." Su Shaoqing was about to say something but held his tongue when he saw the scary look on Li Heng's face.

"Right, they're both inside! Go on in!" Su Shaoqing opened the door to let Pei Huan and Shi Nuan in but stopped Li Heng from entering. "Pei Huan got married? And this child isn't yours?"

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Su Shaoqing gave him a sympathetic look and clicked his tongue as he made his remark.

Li Heng narrowed his eyes. “Shaoqing, are you itching for a beating?”

Su Shaoqing tensed up and quickly backed away. “Hehe... Why are you looking at me like that? I’m not the one who did this to you... But, this child...” Su Shaoqing couldn’t shake the feeling that something was odd.

Li Heng was growing impatient. “Don’t you have anything else to do?”

“Of course I do! In fact, I’ve got tons of stuff to do! Take care, buddy!” Su Shaoqing gave him a pat on the shoulder and sighed.

If Pei Huan really is married to someone else and that child belongs to her current husband, then... Li Heng won't stand a chance at winning her back at all! Sure, Li Heng has always gotten what he wanted, but Pei Huan isn't your average girl! She's Fu Chengyan's sister, and that alone means even Li Heng can't do anything to her! Besides, even if he were to tear apart their relationship, there's no guarantee that Pei Huan would go back to him!

Li Heng glared at Su Shaoqing as he disappeared into the distance. *For the first time in my life, I actually feel like strangling that guy!*

Fu Heng was cutting up some fruits while chatting with Ning Xin. They thought Su Shaoqing had returned when they heard the footsteps belonging to Shi Nuan and Pei Huan coming through the door. Fu Heng called out, “Don’t worry, Shaoqing. We’ve got everything taken care of here, so you... Huan?”

Shi Nuan had to quickly grab hold of Fu Heng's knife to stop him from accidentally cutting his finger due to the shock. "Uncle Heng, Aunt Ning. Look who's here!"

"Is it really you, Huan?" Fu Heng got up immediately and turned towards Ning Xin. "Ning, look! Huan's back! She's really back!"

"Oh, Huan! My baby!" Ning Xin sat up straight as well. "Mom, Dad, I'm sorry for being such an unfilial daughter. I should've come back sooner!" Pei Huan said with her face full of tears.

She walked up to them and knelt on the floor. "It's all my fault! It's because of my selfishness that you two..."

"Hey, get up!" Fu Heng was tearing up as well when he helped her to her feet.

It's been three years... She was full of scars when she left, and now she's finally back...

"I'm sorry, Dad!" Pei Huan threw herself into Fu Heng's arms. "It's all my fault!"

"Silly girl, I'm just glad you're back!" Fu Heng gave her a gentle pat on the shoulder and turned towards Shi Nuan. "We're sorry to have troubled you like this, Nuan!"

"Not at all, Uncle Heng!" Shi Nuan chuckled and pulled a chair over. "Don't just stand around, guys! Come on, take a seat!" She then walked towards the door and called out, "Li Heng!"

Li Heng shot her an awkward glance but Shi Nuan simply smiled at him and said, "If you trust me, let me carry Bao. Pei Huan and her parents are catching up on old times right now, so your showing up might ruin the mood."

Li Heng pursed his lips. The woman whom he had been waiting three years for was right before his eyes, and yet he felt as if they were on the opposite ends of Earth.

“Say, do you believe that Pei Huan has gotten married?”

Li Heng frowned. “What do you mean?”

“She’s going to be staying here in Jiang City for quite a while, so I’m sure you’ll be able to find out if she really has a husband in C Country as well as the identity of this child’s father. All you have to do right now is give Pei Huan some space and let her spend time with her parents.”

Li Heng clenched his fists.

“I think Bao looks...kinda like you.” Shi Nuan smiled and took Bao over when Li Heng appeared stunned. Noticing that Bao was about to wake up, she hummed softly in his ears to help him go back to sleep.

Li Heng’s expression eased up, too, when he saw how adorable Bao looked.

Shi Nuan giggled when she saw Li Heng’s rare display of gentleness. “They say blood is thicker than water. I bet you’d be really angry if Bao were someone else’s child, huh?”

Li Heng paused for a moment and smiled as if he had thought of something. “Oh my, this is embarrassing.”

“Nah, you were just too worried, that’s all!” Shi Nuan continued patting Bao on the shoulder while peeking into the ward. “Now, how about you go do what you have to do instead of standing around here like this?”

Li Heng nodded and glanced at the ward as he walked past the door, his eyes filled with affection and longingness.

Shi Nuan waited till Li Heng had left before going inside. “Uncle Heng, Aunt Ning, look who it is!”

“What...” Fu Heng got up and took a good long look at Bao. He couldn’t help but feel that Bao seemed somewhat familiar. “Nuan, this child...”

“Dad, this is my son, Bao!” Pei Huan stood up and took Bao over from Shi Nuan. “Here, I’ll hold him!”

“Good idea! He may be little but he’s quite heavy! I’ve only been holding him for a short while and my arms are aching already!” Shi Nuan laughed. “Look, Aunt Ning! Isn’t he just adorable?”

“Bring him closer, I want to get a closer look!” Ning Xin seemed to be feeling a lot better when she saw the child.

Bao woke up from all the noise around him as Pei Huan brought him towards Ning Xin. He was a little frightened by the sight of so many people around him and shouted, “Mommy!”

“Oh, you’re awake?” Pei Huan quickly held him close until he was fully awake. She then sat him on the bed. “Bao, this is mommy’s mommy. She’s your grandma.”

Bao stared at Ning Xin for quite a while before mumbling timidly, “Grandma...”

“Good boy!” Ning Xin was very excited to see Bao. Pei Huan then pointed at Fu Heng and said, “Bao, this is Grandpa.”

“Grandpa!”

“There’s a good boy!” Fu Heng smiled happily and looked at Pei Huan with teary eyes. “I’m so glad you’re back!”

“Go give your grandpa and grandma a hug, Bao!” Pei Huan said before turning to look at her parents. “Mom, Dad, I’ll come by the hospital tomorrow for an examination. And then, I’ll...”

“Let’s not talk about this now!” Ning Xin interrupted her. “I’m really glad you’re back. As for this child... He’s very cute and all, but... Is Li Heng the...”

“No, Mom. I got married in C Country, and this child belongs to me and my husband, He Beiting. His name is He Yun, and we nicknamed him Bao.” As Pei Huan explained, the entire ward went silent.

Both Fu Heng and Ning Xin didn’t seem too happy about what they had heard. Nevertheless, they tried their best to hide their feelings and asked, “So... Where is he?”

“I was worried about your health so I brought Bao over to see you. Beiting was out on a business trip a few days ago, so he didn’t know about your condition. He did call me after I got off the plane, though. Beiting is really nice to me, so don’t you worry, Mom!”

Fu Heng and Ning Xin saw how Pei Huan defended He Beiting and decided not to say anything further, especially with Bao around.

Regardless of who the father was, the two of them liked Bao very much nonetheless.

They continued to chat for a little while longer, and Ning Xin urged Shi Nuan to take Pei Huan home as she didn’t want her daughter to become too tired.

Shi Nuan gave Fu Chengyan a call on the drive home; he told her he was about to head back after finishing his work. He then asked Shi Nuan if she would like anything to eat. Shi Nuan gave it some thought and turned towards Pei Huan. “Pei Huan, do you have any dietary restrictions?”

“Nope!” Pei Huan shook her head. “Is that my brother on the phone?”

“Yeah, Yan is getting off work soon. He says he’ll make us dinner and told us to wait for him at home.”

“My brother is going to cook?” Pei Huan had a surprised look on her face. “Oh, right, you two are married... Does the Fu family...”

Shi Nuan tightened her grip on the steering wheel but tried her best to force a smile anyway. “Yeah, they already know.”

“Alright, then!” However, Shi Nuan didn’t tell her if they agreed to it.

Pei Huan thought her parents liked Shi Nuan. “Thanks for keeping my parents company throughout the past few months.”

“Don’t mention it! They’re really nice people, after all!” Shi Nuan remembered that Fu Chengyan was still on the phone and quickly said, “Yan, Pei Huan says she doesn’t have any dietary restrictions, so you can buy whatever you like! Oh, maybe you can buy some snacks for Bao... I mean, Pei Huan’s son.”

Shi Nuan stole a glance at Pei Huan after getting off the phone.

Although Pei Huan and Ning Xin really do look alike, their personalities seem to be complete opposites... Ning Xin is very kind and gentle, whereas Pei Huan is a bit more aggressive, especially towards Li Heng. I can feel this strong tension between them...

“Nuan, you can call me Huan, too.” Pei Huan chuckled and eyed Shi Nuan from head to toe. “You seem younger than I. My brother sure has...” *Quite the taste in women...*

Shi Nuan blushed a little but didn’t say anything in response.

They soon arrived at Wutong Residence. Having taken such a long nap, Bao was full of energy when Shi Nuan opened the door for them. “Mommy, Mommy! Is this Uncle’s house? It’s so beautiful!”

“Do you like it, Bao?” Shi Nuan patted him on the head after locking the car.

“Yes, I do, Aunt Nuan!”

“There’s a good boy!” Shi Nuan gave him a gentle tap on the nose. “Come on, let’s go inside!”

Shi Nuan opened the door and handed Pei Huan a pair of slippers. “Here, put this on, Huan. Aunt Ning used to wear these when she was here.”

“My mom was here?” Pei Huan was surprised.

From what I heard, Fu Chengyan doesn’t allow anyone in here, especially women! Even those from the Fu family are only allowed to stay in the Fu Residence, and I was no exception.

“Yeah, is it that strange to have Aunt Ning over here?” Shi Nuan said while changing into a pair of slippers. “As for Bao... Uh... I’ll buy him a pair of slippers tomorrow!” She picked Bao up. “You’re so cute, Bao!”

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When Fu Chengyan returned, Shi Nuan, Pei Huan, and Bao were playing in the living room. Pei Huan seemed to be on the phone with He Beiting, while Shi Nuan was running around in the living room carrying Bao. The sight that met Fu Chengyan's eyes when he opened the door was one of perfect harmony. His gaze turned all the more gentle upon spotting that eye-catching smile on Shi Nuan's face as she held Bao.

Shi Nuan was the first to hear the sound of the door opening. Turning around with Bao in her arms, she saw Fu Chengyan taking off his shoes at the door with bags of stuff in his hand. "Yan!" Shi Nuan put Bao down and walked over holding the little one's hand. "Bao, this is your uncle."

Bao peeked at Fu Chengyan timidly and tilted his head, looking so cute that Shi Nuan's heart melted in an instant. "Yan, this is Huan's son, Bao!"

"Ah." Fu Chengyan looked at Bao tenderly. "Hi, Bao, I'm your uncle!" Fu Chengyan put his things down on the floor and reached out to hold Bao. "Where's Huan?"

"She's on the phone!" Shi Nuan pointed at Pei Huan in the corner of the living room. Then, she patted Fu Chengyan on the shoulder. "Keep Bao company. I'll start cooking."

"Alright!" Fu Chengyan walked to the living room holding Bao as Pei Huan had just hung up the phone. Seeing Fu Chengyan holding Bao, she was briefly stunned before flashing him a smile. "Hi, Chengyan."

“Hey.” Fu Chengyan nodded in acknowledgment as he placed Bao on his lap and played with him. However, he then stared at Pei Huan so intensely that it made her feel he could see right through her. “This kid...” He rephrased, “May said that you are married.”

“May?” Pei Huan was baffled.

“I mean Shi Nuan, my wife.” As Fu Chengyan spoke, his eyes were locked on Pei Huan. “To whom are you married?”

“Why are you suddenly taking an interest in my life?” Pei Huan smiled and added, “Bao, have you called your uncle?”

“Uncle!”

Bao did not reject Shi Nuan, and it was obvious that he liked Fu Chengyan very much as well because the boy did not mind being held by him.

It came as a surprise to Pei Huan because Bao was a little autistic, which was why she had been keeping Bao by her side. But she realized that Bao didn't seem to reject either of them after spending time with them today.

“What's the matter?” Fu Chengyan noticed something unusual about Pei Huan. “Are you hiding something from me?”

“I...”

“Have you seen Li Heng?” When Fu Chengyan mentioned Li Heng, he noticed that Pei Huan froze a little before her expression turned gloomy. She replied, “Can you not talk about him? I know you guys are buddies, but my relationship with him ended three years ago. Back then, you—”

“Huan, I didn't want to interfere in your relationship with Li Heng at first, but I didn't even hear a word from you for three years. Do you know we're very

worried about you?” Being the elder brother, Fu Chengyan reproached Pei Huan, who turned slightly pale because of his words. “I... Chengyan, I...”

“In order to hide from Li Heng, you have kept your whereabouts from us for the past three years. If Aunt Ning hadn’t fallen sick, do you plan to never come back?”

“Chengyan...” Fu Chengyan’s words were like a knife that plunged into Pei Huan’s heart. *How could I not miss my own parents for the past three years? It’s just that...* “I emailed my parents, but they didn’t reply!”

“Email? They didn’t receive anything. In the past three years, Aunt Ning has fallen sick several times. I’ve also searched for you for three years but had no news of you at all. Can you tell me where exactly have you been all this time? Who were you with? Or rather, who is so capable of hiding you that even I failed to locate you?”

“I... How’s this possible?” Pei Huan’s face was drained of color. “It’s impossible!”

“Impossible?” Fu Chengyan chuckled and then put Bao down on the floor. “Bao, can you go to Aunt Nuan?”

“Okay!” Bao seemed to be in a very good mood. After getting off Fu Chengyan’s lap, he ran to the kitchen. Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan got up and said, “Come to the study with me!”

Pei Huan felt a little nervous because what Fu Chengyan said was the same as what Shi Nuan had said during the day.

Pei Huan also knew that it was easy for Fu Chengyan to find a person’s whereabouts, but somehow he claimed that he could not find her at all.

“Look at this!” Fu Chengyan took out a yellow leather bag from the drawer and handed it to Pei Huan. “These are some clues I have found while searching for you in the past three years. They show that you have been to countless

countries, and my men went looking for you in all these countries. Who do you think could be so powerful to trick me and Li Heng for three years?”

“I...”

“If I hadn’t resorted to certain means this time, I’m afraid that you wouldn’t have known if something happened to Aunt Ning.”

“Chengyan, umm...” Pei Huan couldn’t believe her ears. “This is impossible. I didn’t go anywhere. After I left Jiang City three years ago, I went to C Country directly, and—”

“And you got married and had a kid?” Fu Chengyan’s stare turned slightly cold. “Who are you married to? He Beiting?” Fu Chengyan sneered, “Is he also from Jiang City?”

“I...” Pei Huan hesitated for a moment. “He’s very good to me and he helped me during my darkest hour.”

“What does he do for a living?” Fu Chengyan interrupted Pei Huan, “Are you really married to him?”

As Pei Huan fell silent, Fu Chengyan went up and patted her on the shoulder. “Since you’ve come back, you should just think about what you have been doing in the past three years.” He paused momentarily and added, “Your foster father...”

“He’s passed away.” At the mention of her adoptive father, Pei Huan teared up. “He hasn’t been in good health. I failed as a daughter as I couldn’t be with my biological parents, and now even my foster father is... He still wanted to return to Jiang City the moment before he died!”

“What about his body?”

“It’s been cremated. I brought it back with me and planned to bury it in his hometown after my mom’s surgery.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Meanwhile, you can live at Wutong Residence and get Shi Nuan to help take care of Bao.” Seeing Pei Huan in this state, a glint flashed across Fu Chengyan’s eyes. “Think about it carefully, and then tell me who the hell He Beiting is!”

After dinner, Shi Nuan cleaned up the guest room and arranged some things for Pei Huan before she heading to the study.

Fu Chengyan seemed to be still working. When he saw Shi Nuan coming over with a cup of tea, he waved at her, asking, “Where is Pei Huan?”

“She’s tucking Bao in.” Shi Nuan smiled as the mere mention of Bao softened her expression. “Bao is so cute! And did you notice that he and Li Heng—”

Fu Chengyan nodded his head. “Yeah!”

“So you think they look alike, too?” Shi Nuan grinned happily. “Huan said that he’s not Li Heng’s son, but I think he really looks like Li Heng when he’s not smiling! He’s so cute that it melts my heart!”

“Do you like Bao so much?” Fu Chengyan noticed the gleam in Shi Nuan’s eyes when she talked about Bao.

Shi Nuan nodded. “Yes, I like him very much. Don’t you like him? His face is so soft and bouncy. By the way, I pinched his cheeks a few times when I was in the kitchen just now. It’s so addictive!”

“Look at you!” Fu Chengyan pinched Shi Nuan’s nose affectionately. “You will scare Bao.”

“No. He’s adorable, and he likes me very much!” Shi Nuan said. Putting the cup on the desk, she looked at the documents lying around and knitted her brows slightly. “Do you still have so much work to do?”

“Yes!”

“Umm... Regarding what I told you during the day, you’d better check it out. I have a hunch that what Huan said isn’t true. You have no idea how excited she was when she saw Li Heng. When Li Heng and I were at the airport, Pei Huan looked so hostile the moment she saw me.”

“Huh?” Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow. “Are you telling on her?”

“I’m serious!” Shi Nuan gave Fu Chengyan a dirty look. “She seems to have misunderstood me and Li Heng. You have no idea how angry she was when she talked to Li Heng; she even gave me an attitude. I think she must still have feelings for Li Heng. As for her claim that she is married... well, you should look into it!” Shi Nuan patted Fu Chengyan on the shoulder as if she were entrusting him with a challenging task.

Fu Chengyan found Shi Nuan’s precocious behavior amusing and slapped her lightly on the arm. “I have already asked Zhou Zheng to get on it. By the way, does Li Heng also know about Bao?”

Shi Nuan gave a slight nod. “Yes. When Li Heng first saw Bao, I thought that he could no longer hold back his emotions.” Shi Nuan recalled the look on Li Heng’s face when Pei Huan asked Bao to call him “uncle” at the airport.

“But then Li Heng actually held Bao... Uh, this is something that I’ve never expected. I thought he would be very angry, as Pei Huan said that Bao isn’t his son after all. So I thought he would at least take out his anger on the kid...”

“Li Heng isn’t that kind of person.” Fu Chengyan shook his head; he was very sure of this.

“But what if Bao is really not his son? Then, he—”

“As long as it is Pei Huan’s child, he will be okay with it.” Fu Chengyan took Shi Nuan into his arms. “You still don’t understand him. He loves Pei Huan very much!”

Shi Nuan nodded her head. “So what should we do now? Although Pei Huan is back, she rejects Li Heng. Even when her son looks like Li Heng, it seems like there’s nothing we could do if Pei Huan denies it.”

“Well, leave this to me.” *Li Heng certainly wouldn’t do these things himself.*

He and Li Heng understood Pei Huan very well. Once she was driven into a corner, she would probably leave again as she did three years ago.

“Okay. I also think that Pei Huan is quite a character. She’s not someone who could be handled by ordinary people.” Although Shi Nuan had only been in contact with Pei Huan for one day, some of Pei Huan’s actions felt domineering to her.

Fu Chengyan chuckled. “You realized that in just one day?”

“Oh, you should’ve seen the way she glared at Li Heng...”

“Yeah.” Fu Chengyan carried Shi Nuan and brought her to sit on the sofa. “Don’t go to the office for the time being. You should keep Huan and Bao company.”

“Alright!” Shi Nuan nodded her head. “What about that He Beiting?”

“I’ve already asked someone to look into this man.” Fu Chengyan frowned slightly. For some reason, he thought that the name sounded very familiar, but he couldn’t recall anything. Considering that He Beiting could take Pei Huan away under their noses and leave no clue to him and Li Heng, Fu Chengyan believed that the man must be someone powerful.

If this man is doing everything purely for the sake of Pei Huan, there is nothing to worry about. But if he has ulterior motives, then this He Beiting is definitely a tough character.

“Don’t worry about this. By the way, don’t let Aunt Ning and Uncle Heng know!”