

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 411

“Nuan’s pregnant?” Shen Shixiu froze. He had heard Shi Yunsheng’s entire conversation with Shi Nuan earlier. A complicated look appeared on his face for a brief moment, but he immediately broke into a smile after that. “That’s great. Has the pregnancy been confirmed?”

“Nuan says Yan will take her to the hospital for a checkup tomorrow. This girl... She’s had it rough all her life, so as her grandfather, I’m happy that she’s found herself a man who loves her.” A gentle smile formed on Shi Yunsheng’s face at the mention of his beloved granddaughter. Then, he beckoned Shen Shixiu over. “Are you sure you don’t want Nuan to find out who you are? After all—”

“I’d prefer if she didn’t. I’m just relieved that she’s doing well now. Besides, I’ll be returning to the capital soon, and we may not even see each other ever again. So what’s the point in her knowing?”

Hearing that, Shi Yunsheng shook his head. “Alright then. That’s your choice. But if Nuan ever finds out...” He could already imagine the consequences if Shi Nuan were to ever find out the truth.

“Why worry about the future, Granddad? At least Nuan’s doing great now. That’s what matters the most!”

“You’re right. By the way, does Nuan’s grandpa know you’re back?”

Shen Shixiu nodded. “I’ve met him.”

“And?” Shi Yunsheng knew how much Jiang Shizheng disliked the Shen family. The man would choose not to meet Shen Shixiu if he could. Jiang Shizheng and

Shi Yunsheng had gotten into a huge argument back when Shen Shixiu became Shi Yu. Jiang Shizheng had only let the matter go after knowing that Shen Shixiu didn't harbor any ill intentions against Shi Nuan.

"Honestly, it has nothing to do with you. It's my fault for dragging you into this, to begin with." Shi Yunsheng still felt guilty thinking about it. After all, this whole incident really had nothing to do with Shen Shixiu from the start.

Yet, Shen Shixiu's eyes twinkled slightly. "I willingly agreed to it back then, Granddad."

"Then what do you intend to do about Shen Qianan?"

"I'll take her back. She's part of the Shen family, after all. It's just that..." Shen Shixiu paused for a moment. "Qianan has no idea, so..."

"I know. In fact, Shen Qianan is a victim too." Shi Yunsheng couldn't help but let out a sigh again. "In that case, take her with you. Remember not to let anything happen between her and Nuan."

Shen Shixiu nodded. "Don't worry, Granddad."

Jiang Zhan waited for Shen Shixiu outside Shi Yunsheng's place. Upon seeing the man come out, the former hurriedly opened the door for him.

Shen Shixiu tossed his coat into the backseat and rubbed his temples upon entering the vehicle. "Fu Chengyan is currently looking into you, Sir," he heard Jiang Zhan saying.

A cold glint flashed in Shen Shixiu's eyes, but it disappeared almost instantly. "Let him do whatever he wants," he responded with a smirk.

Jiang Zhan glanced at Shen Shixiu, who was seated behind. *He looks especially tired today.* "Ms. Lin came back from France a few days ago. She..."

Shen Shixiu opened his eyes and gave Jiang Zhan a profound glance, causing the latter to swallow whatever words he had thought of saying.

“How has Qianan been?”

“Ms. Qianan hasn’t left the house for a few days ever since she found out. What do you think, Sir?” Jiang Zhan looked at Shen Shixiu with concern. Yet, Shen Shixiu calmly switched on his tablet and asked, “How’s it going with the investigations in C Country?”

“According to the information provided by Yu Lin, Ms. Qianan rarely interacts with anyone else, but some things seem rather suspicious. For example, she had a stranger by her side back when she gave birth.” Jiang Zhan carefully observed Shen Shixiu while speaking.

Shen Shixiu raised his head slightly. “A stranger?”

“Yes. There’s also a number in her call history, but the other party seems to be extremely apt at counter-reconnaissance. Furthermore, the number’s been encrypted, so we’re currently unable to solve this. I’m sorry, Sir.”

Shen Qianan’s eyes narrowed. “No matter. Keep looking into it.” *The more measures they take, the more suspicious they seem.* “Are there no leads at all on what happened to Shen Qianan in Jiang City three years ago?”

“No, Sir. After the kidnapping incident, Fu Chengyan did look into it for a while. But then, it seems like Ms. Qianan eventually didn’t want the investigations to continue. She even had Fu Chengyan destroy all the necessary evidence. That’s why we’re having a hard time figuring things out now.”

“We’ll have to find out what happened no matter how difficult things get. Keep focusing on C Country, and look into anyone whom Shen Qianan has ever come into contact with.”

“Yes, Sir.”

...

The next day, Fu Chengyan brought Shi Nuan to Su Shaoqing's hospital for her checkup. Su Shaoqing had long made all the arrangements for them. Fu Chengyan waited outside while Shi Nuan took a blood test.

This was the first time Fu Chengyan felt time seem to pass incredibly slowly. He stood outside, constantly paying attention to what was happening inside the room and waiting anxiously like a complete newbie. It was also Su Shaoqing's first time seeing Fu Chengyan pace up and down like that.

"I didn't think I'd ever see this day, Chengyan!"

Fu Chengyan glanced at Su Shaoqing and scoffed upon seeing that playful demeanor of his. "You wouldn't understand. It's not like you have a wife," he remarked in a tone so haughty that he didn't sound nervous at all.

Hearing that, Su Shaoqing couldn't help but get worked up. "Hey, hey, hey. How could you say such a thing? Besides, you're in *my* hospital now. I could mess things up for you, you know?" he threatened with an innocent smile.

Fu Chengyan snorted. "You wouldn't dare! Honestly, Ling would've been better off asking me for help directly instead of going through you."

"You..." Su Shaoqing raised a fist and waved it in front of Fu Chengyan. "You must feel so great about being married, huh? Just wait till I get married too!"

"You?" Fu Chengyan eyed Su Shaoqing from head to toe. "Who's your woman?"

Upon being roasted by Fu Chengyan, Su Shaoqing's face turned grim. "Isn't it Ling?"

Fu Chengyan continued to smirk coldly. The sneer in his eyes made Su Shaoqing extremely agitated. "What's with that look?"

Fu Chengyan retracted his gaze and put a hand inside his pocket. Despite looking nonchalant, his sweaty palms reflected how frantic he truly was. However, Su Shaoqing didn't seem to notice that at all. All he felt now was chagrin after being provoked by Fu Chengyan.

"Nothing." Fu Chengyan shook his head and paused. "Are you sure you'll be able to take care of Ling?"

"You don't need to bother with my affairs. I think you should be worrying about yourself! You haven't even settled matters with Shen Qianan. Are you sure the Fu clan will accept Shi Nuan?"

Su Shaoqing's concerns weren't unreasonable. Fu Zhengyun alone was already a tough opponent to deal with; what more to say for a woman like Song Zhenyan?

Fu Chengyan glanced at Su Shaoqing indifferently. "You don't have to worry about that." Truthfully, he didn't really care about how the Fu clan felt. It was just a matter of whether they were satisfied or not. Even if they weren't, it didn't matter to Fu Chengyan.

Shi Nuan exited the room in the middle of their conversation. Fu Chengyan immediately ditched Su Shaoqing, walked toward Shi Nuan, and held onto her. "How did it go? Are you feeling tired?"

"Not at all." Shi Nuan smiled hopelessly. "Stop worrying! It's just a checkup."

"We still have to be careful. Do you want some water?" While speaking, Fu Chengyan picked up a huge bag from the seat next to him, opened it up, and handed Shi Nuan a thermos flask. "Here. Have some warm water. It's not very hot."

With a faint smile, Shi Nuan took the flask and drank a few sips. "The checkup's all done, right?" Shi Nuan asked Su Shaoqing.

Yet, the whole time, Su Shaoqing's eyes remained on the huge bag Fu Chengyan was holding. He then gazed at Fu Chengyan before turning to the bag once again, his lips twitching. "What's with that, Chengyan? Why did you prepare all that stuff? You don't even know if she's pregnant yet!" Yet, Fu Chengyan stared at Su Shaoqing as though he was an idiot, infuriating the latter. "Even if Shi Nuan really is pregnant, it's still way too early! You won't need all that stuff!"

"What do you know? It's not like you've ever been a father. You have no right to tell me any of this." Fu Chengyan dealt another blow to Su Shaoqing, causing the latter's face to darken. "No, wait," Fu Chengyan added. "First of all, you'd have to be married."

Su Shaoqing was rendered speechless.

So was Shi Nuan.

The woman looked up at Fu Chengyan. For the first time, she realized that her husband was a little too sharp-tongued.

Fu Chengyan gazed at her softly. "What's wrong?"

Shi Nuan shook her head and handed the thermos flask back to him. "Since the checkup's all done, when will the results be out?"

"Honestly, a pregnancy checkup is but a simple process. Chengyan here is just being a drama king, insisting on having you go through every single test." Su Shaoqing glanced at Fu Chengyan with disdain. The man was all smiles the moment he turned to Shi Nuan. "Don't you worry, Shi Nuan. I'll pester them for you. You should be able to get your pregnancy test results ASAP, but I can't say the same for the other tests."

As he spoke, Su Shaoqing saw the attending doctor of the obstetrics and gynecology department exit the room. "Dr. Yu!"

Yu Qing stopped in her tracks. A look of surprise flashed in her eyes upon seeing Su Shaoqing, but she walked over to his side anyway. “Is something the matter, Dr. Su?” She observed Shi Nuan and the man next to her. Fu Chengyan, who was standing beside Shi Nuan, had a formidable presence, looking especially protective of his wife. Yu Qing’s instincts told her that this man was extremely dangerous.

However, the way he cared for Shi Nuan was the complete opposite of the powerful aura he exuded.

Su Shaoqing nodded. “When will Shi Nuan’s test results be out?”

“It’ll be ready right away.” While speaking, Yu Qing’s gaze fell on Shi Nuan.

While inside the examination room, she had already felt that Shi Nuan was especially good-looking. But now, the woman appeared even more beautiful than before.

“Well, according to my experience, I can confirm that Ms. Shi is expecting.”

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The report arrived quickly and showed that Shi Nuan was around five weeks pregnant. They couldn't discern the gender yet, but results showed that they were expecting two babies.

Fu Chengyan couldn't stop staring at the report and scans. Nothing was recognizable at that point, but the way he looked at them seemed as though he had discovered the most precious item in the world.

Shi Nuan gazed at him all the while, unsure whether to laugh or cry. She felt extremely moved.

Fu Chengyan seemed rather fond of children. If he's already so nice to Cheng An and Bao, I'm sure he'll treat his own children even better. Thinking about this, Shi Nuan's heart felt incredibly warm. She used to worry that Fu Chengyan didn't like children, but from the way he was behaving now, she could finally be at ease.

"Chengyan's lost it, hasn't he?" Su Shaoqing couldn't bear looking at how Fu Chengyan looked right now, so he walked toward Shi Nuan and nudged her arm. "Look at him. I've known him for so many years, but this is the first time I've seen him with an expression like this!"

Shi Nuan also found her husband rather hilarious, but she felt even more touched.

Just as Su Shaoqing finished speaking, he felt a murderous aura. The next second, Fu Chengyan pulled Shi Nuan behind him and glared at Su Shaoqing warily. "Stay away from May from now onward. You're not allowed to touch her. Also... What does she need to look out for now that she's pregnant?"

Being extremely meticulous over Shi Nuan's pregnancy, Fu Chengyan proceeded to ask all sorts of questions on what they needed to take note of.

Yu Qing didn't know who Fu Chengyan was, but she was well-acquainted with Su Shaoqing. The fact that he's talking to Dr. Su so casually must mean he's a big shot too. Upon seeing how concerned Fu Chengyan was for Shi Nuan, Yu Qing couldn't help but feel pleased with the man. Hence, she took the extra time to guide Fu Chengyan.

"Basically, you'll have to be by your wife's side from now on, all the way until she gives birth, as well as during post-natal care. Some tasks are best handled together. Your missus is expecting twins, Mr. Fu, so you'll have to be extra careful. I'll be sure to list down everything regarding her dietary restrictions and other activities. I hope you'll take good care of her as you both enter parenthood for the first time."

Yu Qing jotted down everything Fu Chengyan needed to know while Shi Nuan rested nearby.

Su Shaoqing was the kind of person who always wanted to be part of anything interesting. He certainly couldn't miss this scene, considering how rare it was for Fu Chengyan to be behaving this way.

When Su Shaoqing found out that someone like Fu Chengyan had actually made a WeChat account, he quickly obtained the latter's handle from Shi Nuan and added him. Then, he dragged Li Heng and Pei Jingxiu into creating their own accounts too.

As Fu Chengyan discussed Shi Nuan's pregnancy care with Yu Qing, Su Shaoqing recorded the scene live.

Over in C Country and Sheen City, Li Heng and Pei Jingxiu observed this side of Fu Chengyan.

Seeing Su Shaoqing on his phone the whole time, Shi Nuan couldn't help but ask, "What are you doing, Shaoqing?"

Su Shaoqing raised his eyebrows, leaned over, and handed her his phone. "Take a look!"

Shi Nuan took the phone and glanced at it before quickly looking up in surprise. Seeing Su Shaoqing signal her to remain hush, Shi Nuan smiled and proceeded to scroll up the conversation.

Li Heng: THAT'S Chengyan? Has he been possessed?

Pei Jingxiu: I think you've got the wrong person!

Su Shaoqing: This is a live recording! Where's my money?

Seeing Su Shaoqing's message, Shi Nuan's lips couldn't help but twitch. She soon broke into a smile. It was clear that she was in a great mood.

Su Shaoqing grinned too. "Wanna join the chat group, Shi Nuan?"

"Can I?"

"Of course!" He flashed her his phone screen.

Shi Nuan scanned the QR code and instantly became part of the chat group.

Su Shaoqing: Let's welcome Shi Nuan, everyone!

Soon, Pei Huan was also dragged into the group, and she sent out a surprised emoji before asking: Why are you all using WeChat?

Then, she quickly noticed Shi Nuan and added: Congrats, Shi Nuan!

Shi Nuan's lips curled. She replied: Thanks! Congrats to you and Li Heng too!

Pei Jingxiu: Chengyan really has changed.

Shi Nuan watched as everyone chatted away. It wasn't as lively as her conversations with Song Rongrong and Su Yian, but the fact that all these prominent figures were on WeChat made them seem so much more down-to-earth.

Right after he was done speaking with Yu Qing, Fu Chengyan turned and noticed Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing sitting close together with their heads lowered, using their phones without any reservation. With a slight frown, he snatched Shi Nuan's phone away.

"You shouldn't use your phone so often now that you're pregnant," he chided, putting her phone in his shirt pocket before grabbing her hand. "Let's go."

"Hey!" Su Shaoqing called out to them both. "How heartless can you two be? I spent all day keeping you guys company and drowning myself in work, but you're leaving without even a word of thanks?"

Su Shaoqing made himself look extremely hurt.

Shi Nuan was tickled by Su Shaoqing's expression. "How about we treat Shaoqing to a meal?" she asked while tugging at Fu Chengyan's sleeve.

Fu Chengyan squinted, his eyes turning cold. "What do you mean by 'drowning yourself in work'? All you did was stand around and watch. Don't think I don't know what you were just up to!" he warned. "You'd better not bother us for the next few months. Of course, I won't bother you either."

Su Shaoqing's lips twitched. "Why are you making such a fuss, Chengyan?" You're acting like your wife's the only woman who's pregnant!

He couldn't stand how Fu Chengyan was taking the whole situation out of proportion. "Shi Nuan's just pregnant. It's not like she's terminally ill! Do you really have to be this careful?"

Su Shaoqing felt a chill run down his spine the moment he finished speaking. Fu Chengyan's gaze was so icy that it could kill.

"Okay, okay! I shouldn't have said that!" Su Shaoqing shrugged helplessly. "Okay, do what you want. Don't make it sound as if I can't stop clinging to you. I get along with Shi Nuan, but that doesn't mean I want to see you."

With a huff, Fu Chengyan left the hospital while holding Shi Nuan's hand.

Just as they exited, a breeze came by, causing Shi Nuan to shudder involuntarily. Fu Chengyan immediately took off his coat and draped it over Shi Nuan's shoulders. "Are you still feeling cold?"

His tone sounded extraordinarily gentle. Shi Nuan smiled. "Nope."

"You should wear more layers when you go out from now on. Your hands are freezing! What if you catch a cold?" Fu Chengyan held her hands in his, and the warmth made Shi Nuan's heart flutter as she blushed.

Fu Chengyan normally treated her well enough, but Shi Nuan could feel that he was being extra attentive today. Moreover, the way he was so careful about everything amused her.

"Honestly, Yan, you don't have to be so nervous. I've only just gotten pregnant. Besides, the doctor said I'm in great health and everything's normal, so our babies will be the healthiest children ever."

While speaking, Shi Nuan subconsciously caressed her flat tummy. Even now, she still couldn't believe that such a thing was happening.

There was now life inside this flat tummy of hers. Even though Shi Nuan couldn't feel the babies' presence yet, she knew it wasn't her mind playing tricks on her. The woman could somehow feel that the babies were happily moving about inside her.

Her smile widened as she stroked her own belly gently. Seeing her smile made Fu Chengyan smile too. His gentle gaze was fixed on Shi Nuan.

Fu Ling caught sight of this just as she showed up—Fu Chengyan gazing at Shi Nuan as though she was everything and nothing else existed. Meanwhile, Shi Nuan smiled gently while lowering her head, looking just like a first-time mother.

Fu Ling subconsciously clenched her fists and looked down, touching her own flat belly before gazing at the happy couple once again. Her gaze darkened as she smiled wryly.

At this time, Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan spotted Fu Ling too. Choosing not to hide, Fu Ling took a deep breath and headed over. "Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Fu!"

Shi Nuan looked astonished to hear her greeting, while Fu Chengyan's expression remained calm. Gazing at Fu Ling's slightly pale face, he nodded and grunted in response.

Fu Ling curled her lips. "I heard you're pregnant, Mrs. Fu. Congratulations!"

"Thank you!" Truthfully, Shi Nuan didn't know much about Fu Ling, aside from the woman's relationship with Fu Chengyan, the Fu clan, as well as Su Shaoqing. In addition to what Fu Chengyan had told her previously, she wasn't aware of anything else.

However, Shi Nuan could tell that Fu Ling was apprehensive about Fu Chengyan.

Something tells me that she's not a bad person. She probably just doesn't know how to deal with Yan. Besides, Yan isn't one to express his feelings.

Despite Fu Chengyan looking emotionless, those who understood him well would have realized the way he froze—albeit for a brief moment—when Fu Ling referred to him as Mr. Fu. It happened for just a split second, but Shi Nuan had felt it.

Shi Nuan's grip on Fu Chengyan's hand tightened slightly, and she gave his palm a squeeze. "Yan and I are going to grab a bite soon, Ling. Would you like to join us?" she asked, smiling at Fu Ling.

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Upon seeing how sincere Shi Nuan looked, Fu Ling turned to Fu Chengyan before shaking her head. "That's okay. I have to visit my kid at the hospital." Just as she was about to walk away, Shi Nuan hurriedly held onto her hand. "Bai, right? Yan mentioned him once, and he said that he's really cute. Can... Can I see him?"

Shi Nuan looked completely earnest. She didn't have a trace of pretense in her eyes, so Fu Ling couldn't bring herself to say no. Especially not after she met Fu Chengyan's gaze. She had never seen the man look guilty, but seeing such an expression on his face now really took her by surprise.

Fu Ling pursed her lips, unable to turn Shi Nuan down. Noticing that Fu Ling wasn't exactly a ruthless woman, Shi Nuan let go of Fu Chengyan's hand and held onto hers instead. "Let's go! I'd really like to see him."

Looking at Shi Nuan, Fu Ling finally nodded. "Okay. But Bai's a little timid, so he may not want to talk."

"That's fine!" Shi Nuan smiled sweetly and headed back into the hospital while holding Fu Ling's hand.

Then, with her free hand, she signaled Fu Chengyan to come along.

Fu Chengyan's eyes gleamed slightly. He couldn't help but curl his lips as he quickly caught up to them.

Shi Nuan smiled with relief upon hearing Fu Chengyan's footsteps. She turned slightly to observe Fu Ling, noticing that the woman looked more defensive ever

since she saw Fu Chengyan. Yan must have caused her a lot of trauma back then.

Still, before Fu Ling came back, Yan said she was one of the more capable members of the Fu clan. I thought they were pretty close, but I didn't think things would turn out this way.

Fu Ling felt uncomfortable being stared at by Shi Nuan, so she pursed her lips. "Is there something you want to tell me, Mrs. Fu?"

Shi Nuan's heart sank a little upon hearing the way Fu Ling addressed her. "Honestly, Ling, you and Huan are both Yan's sisters, so you can just call me Shi Nuan or Nuan." Shi Nuan continued to hold her hand, refusing to let the woman escape. "You may not know this, but Yan mentioned you when I had just gotten married to him."

"What?" Fu Ling was visibly taken aback. She didn't expect Shi Nuan to tell her this, nor did she expect Fu Chengyan to ever talk about her.

Shi Nuan smiled, seemingly satisfied with Fu Ling's expression. "Yan used to talk about you a lot."

"Is that so?" Fu Ling's lips curled slightly. It was clear that she was skeptical.

"Yeah! Yan's never been good at expressing himself. He doesn't even tell me how he feels about me. I had to force him to tell me when he started liking me!" Shi Nuan replied cheerily. "He actually had a crush on me ever since he was a teenager; can you believe that?"

Teenager?

Fu Ling arched her brow. "You mean my brother... Fu Chengyan's been into you since a long time ago?" She was astounded. In fact, she couldn't quite believe it.

Shi Nuan nodded. "That's right. That's why you shouldn't judge a book by its cover. Yan often does things that he refuses to tell me about, but he helps me whenever I need him the most. Sometimes, actions speak louder than words."

Then, Shi Nuan patted Fu Ling's hand. "I don't know what happened between the two of you, but from what Yan's told me before, aside from Uncle Heng, Aunt Ning, and Pei Huan, you're the person he's the closest to in the Fu clan."

Fu Ling began to tremble, and her eyes obviously showed that she was in disbelief.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but sigh internally. "There's no reason for me to lie to you. I know I've only met you twice, Ling, but Yan really treats you as his own little sister. It has nothing to do with anyone else's status or background."

Fu Ling's eyes softened a little, but she remained silent.

Just as the three arrived at the children's ward on the third floor, Fu Ling's footsteps became especially light. She also became even more hushed upon reaching Bai's ward. Shi Nuan glanced at Fu Chengyan, who was behind, and the latter nodded.

With that, she followed Fu Ling into the ward, where Bai had just woken up. The nurses had taken good care of him, but his nose was red from crying because he hadn't seen Fu Ling all day. The boy immediately smiled the moment he caught sight of her. "Mommy!"

"Bai!" Fu Ling walked over and sat him up on the bed. "The nurse said you cried your butt off," she teased while pinching his nose.

"No, I didn't!" Bai shook his head and turned away to wipe his tears. "I'm a tough man, Mommy. I never cry! But why are you only here now, Mommy? I missed you so much."

“Mommy was at work, Darling. Mommy has to earn work hard so you can eat lots of good food!” Fu Ling’s eyes were filled with warmth as she gently stroked the boy’s cheek. “Did you eat your food today, Bai?”

“I did, Mommy. You can ask the nurse if you don’t believe me. I’ve been a good boy!”

“Yes, you are indeed a good boy! Let Mommy reward you.” Fu Ling kissed him on the forehead.

Beaming with delight, Bai reached out to pull Fu Ling by the hand. Seeing this, the woman leaned over so the boy could kiss her cheek. “I love you, Mommy!”

“I love you too, Bai.” Fu Ling never stopped smiling the entire time.

Shi Nuan felt rather moved by the scene. Perhaps she could relate to how Fu Ling felt because she was pregnant too. On top of that, Bai really was an adorable child.

Fu Ling held Bai by the hand. “Come here, Bai. Say hello to Aunt Nuan.”

“Hello, Aunt Nuan!” Bai was a timid boy, but it was Fu Ling who had brought Shi Nuan over. Furthermore, this unfamiliar woman looked extremely kind, so he instinctively greeted her.

Shi Nuan shot Fu Chengyan a glance and nodded with relief. “You’re such a good boy, Bai!” she exclaimed, caressing Bai’s tiny head. “You’re so handsome!”

The three-year-old turned red upon hearing Shi Nuan compliment him like this. “Mommy, am I handsome?” he asked, tugging at Fu Ling’s sleeve bashfully.

Fu Ling stilled for a moment before breaking out into a grin. “Of course, Bai. You’re the most handsome boy in the world.”

“Have a seat,” she said to Shi Nuan while pointing to a chair. “You’re pregnant, so it’s not good for you to keep standing up.”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Okay!”

Shi Nuan dragged the chair over to Bai’s side and began talking to him.

She noticed that Bai was exceptionally obedient and considerate. He’s not as restless as other children are. Maybe it’s because he’s been sick all this while and also because Fu Ling raised him so well.

Seeing Bai readily interact with Shi Nuan, Fu Ling breathed a sigh of relief. She was pleased to see Bai able to accept and accustom himself to new people.

However, the boy was young and had spent most of his life in a hospital, especially since his illness had become more unpredictable in recent years. As a result, he barely had time to make friends.

At the sight of Shi Nuan entertaining Bai and the two laughing together, Fu Ling curled her lips and shot Fu Chengyan a glance.

Fu Chengyan’s eyes remained on Shi Nuan and Bai all this while. Fu Ling couldn’t be entirely sure, but she felt that the current Fu Chengyan gave off a very fatherly vibe.

Her eyes darkening, Fu Ling walked over to him. “Shall we take a walk?”

Fu Chengyan nodded and followed his sister out of the ward. The two siblings headed down to the garden and walked together in silence for a long time until Fu Ling finally spoke up, “Bai is my life.”

Fu Chengyan glanced sideways and saw the determined look in Fu Ling’s eyes. “I’ve already lost a child three years ago, so I’ll do whatever it takes to save Bai.”

Her hands inside her pockets balled into fists as she stared at him in resolve. Fu Ling knew it was rather low of her to emotionally blackmail him with whatever had happened three years ago.

Even if the woman knew that he had nothing to do with the incident, she still couldn't forgive herself or Su Shaoqing, and she certainly refused to let Fu Chengyan off.

Especially after finding out that Fu Chengyan had been feeling remorseful about this all these years.

A dim light flashed in Fu Chengyan's dark eyes. "Okay," he replied after a long pause.

Fu Ling smirked. "There are some things Su Shaoqing can't do."

Fu Chengyan smiled faintly. "You understand him like the back of your hand."

Fu Ling's face fell. "I don't want to talk about him. Can you give me an answer as soon as possible?"

"What's your relationship with Qin Yanzhi?" Fu Chengyan didn't mind Fu Ling blackmailing him at all. He leaned against the wall as he spoke. Despite looking particularly nonchalant, the question he asked was a direct shot to Fu Ling's chest.

Fu Ling couldn't help but shudder. Pursing her lips and clenching her fists, she answered, "He's Bai's real father. Don't you already know that? I wouldn't have gone to look for him if he isn't the father. This is the second time I'm asking for your help, Chengyan. You didn't help me the first time, so this time, I'm begging you in exchange for that child's life. Can you do it?"

Fu Chengyan's lips twitched slightly. "Okay."

Fu Ling pursed her lips. She knew she had achieved her goal, but that didn't seem to make her feel any more relieved. "The child isn't Su Shaoqing's. If it is, I wouldn't have gone rushing over to someone else. Bai is more important than my own life."

Fu Chengyan nodded. "I know." He had seen her proceed with the abortion with his own eyes back then, so he knew that there was no way that child could have been born. But still... "Bai looks older than that child. How did you get pregnant with him?"

Fu Ling once again clenched her fists that she had already loosened. She looked up at Fu Chengyan with an ashen face.

Those all-seeing eyes—she could never hide anything from them. They belonged to Fu Chengyan, after all. I'm sure he's found a clue. Either that or he already knows something. Fu Ling smiled lightly. "Knowing you, I'm sure you'd be able to find out, so I won't hide it from you. Indeed, I didn't give birth to Bai. He's adopted."

She walked to the window and stared out into the scenery, continuing calmly, "I lost my will to live after losing my child. Then, I met a pregnant woman after I left Jiang City. She was also cast out by her family, and she lost a lot of blood while giving birth to Bai. They saved her eventually, but she didn't have much longer to live. She left the child in my care before passing on. I didn't want to come back, but because of Bai's leukemia, I had no other choice but to come back and look for his real father."

"How did you know Qin Yanzhi is Bai's real father?"

Fu Ling lowered her gaze. "Qin Xiaoxiao."

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Qin Xiaoxiao?

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes as he stared at Fu Ling.

His sister gazed back into those frosty eyes of his and pursed her lips. “She is the adopted daughter of the Qin family and Qin Yanzhi’s younger sister.”

So something happened between Qin Yanzhi and Qin Xiaoxiao, and Qin Xiaoxiao came to Jiang City just to bear this child? And that was where she happened to meet Fu Ling by chance?

Seeing realization dawn on Fu Chengyan’s face, Fu Ling knew that he had guessed what happened. “Before she died, she told me not to let Qin Yanzhi know about the child. She said that Qin Yanzhi would hate her and that he’d take all his anger out on the child.”

Fu Ling’s eyes gleamed as she spoke, but they darkened the moment she subconsciously touched her own belly. “Honestly, I have my own selfish desires too. Bai has helped make up for my previous loss, and he’s given me the courage to live on. That’s why I never wanted to bring him back here to meet Qin Yanzhi. I’d never have come back if his illness hadn’t worsened, nor would I have ever let Qin Yanzhi find out about this child’s existence. No mother would ever allow her own child to suffer. Since Qin Xiaoxiao had chosen to give birth to him, I’m sure she wanted Bai to live a happy life. That’s why I don’t want him to return to the Qin family.”

“But Bai is a member of the Qin family. Now that you’re here, do you think they’ll let him roam around outside if they find out about him?” Fu Chengyan was a

more logical person. The facts he had just spoken were what Fu Ling had constantly been trying to avoid.

A hint of sadness flashed in Fu Ling's eyes as she stared at Fu Chengyan. "Isn't there any other way? I don't want to delay Bai's treatment, but I don't want him to leave me either!"

I know I'm selfish. I've never denied this.

Fu Chengyan gazed at her deeply. "You should know that I don't have the right to do this."

Fu Ling smiled wryly. "I understand."

She turned around, only to see Su Shaoqing standing not far off, staring at her with a complicated look on his face.

Fu Ling froze completely. She gripped her fists before immediately loosening them. Meanwhile, Su Shaoqing's eyes never left her. He continued to stare at her, thinking about what he had just heard.

Then, he took a step forward, attempting to walk over to Fu Ling. Yet, the woman stilled for a moment before walking past Su Shaoqing. Just as Su Shaoqing was about to grab onto her, she shot him a cold glare, causing his hand to freeze in mid-air.

With a twitch of his lips, Su Shaoqing watched as Fu Ling walked further away. He did not go after her.

"Let's go." Fu Chengyan stood next to Su Shaoqing and gave him a quick glance. "Feeling miserable?"

Su Shaoqing smirked. "You're happy about that, aren't you?"

Fu Chengyan huffed. "Instead of wasting time standing here, why don't you think of a way to help her? I'm sure you heard everything she just said."

Su Shaoqing furrowed his brows. It was rare for him to be so deep in thought. "Qin Xiaoxiao, huh?"

The Qin family wasn't a particularly powerful household, but they were still considered nobles. Qin Yanzhi was a difficult child to raise. That was why the Qin family had adopted a daughter in hopes of improving the situation. If I recall correctly, her name was indeed Qin Xiaoxiao.

According to what I've heard, a little girl would constantly follow Qin Yanzhi everywhere. He treated her really well. Everyone used to say she was Qin Yanzhi's future wife, but Qin Yanzhi thought of her as his little sister all along.

Then, the girl suddenly vanished one day. So, she left home to give birth to the child?

Su Shaoqing lowered his gaze as his hands balled into fists. "I'll grant all her wishes." He owed her so much that he could never repay her for his entire lifetime.

Fu Ling arrived outside the ward and heard Shi Nuan telling Bai a story. The little boy's eyes twinkled in excitement the whole time, and he never stopped tugging on Shi Nuan. Fu Ling's gaze softened. Bai is practically my life. I would have never been able to live if I lost him. That's the only reason I come back to Jiang City. But if... If the Qin family takes him away...

Fu Ling's eyes turned bleak. I'll do anything to make sure Bai is happy and well.

Taking in a deep breath, she opened the door. "Hey, Shi Nuan!"

Shi Nuan froze for a moment. She didn't know what had happened outside, but from the way Fu Ling was addressing her now, it was clear that things had gotten much better.

Hence, she beamed. “Bai is adorable and really smart.”

“Aunt Nuan tells me such nice stories, Mommy! I’ve never heard any of them before.”

Hearing that, a look of remorse surfaced in Fu Ling’s eyes. “It’s my fault, Bai. Mommy will tell you more stories from now on, okay?” Before this, she used to only care about making money for Bai’s treatment. I forgot that Bai is just a child. He needs a wholesome childhood.

Yet, Bai was spending most of his life in the hospital. Even if he were at home, Fu Ling had to get a nanny to look after him because she had to work.

The thought of this suddenly made Fu Ling feel unworthy of being called a mother. I’ve been so inconsiderate.

Seeing the look on Fu Ling’s face, Shi Nuan got up and walked toward her. “Honestly, Ling, you can always move here. If you don’t like staying at the Fu Residence, you can come and live with Yan and I. The Wutong Residence is huge, and it’s normally just Yan and I living there. I’d have more company if you move in, and I’ll be able to help you look after Bai too.”

With her hand being held by Shi Nuan, Fu Ling gazed at her in shock. “What do you think?” Shi Nuan asked, smiling.

“That won’t be necessary.” Fu Ling shook her head. “Actually, I’m doing pretty okay now. Besides...” She glanced at Bai. “He’s spending more time in the hospital these days.”

“I’m talking about after Bai’s surgery.” Shi Nuan patted Fu Ling’s shoulder lightly. “You have to trust Yan and Shaoqing. I may not know what happened between the three of you back then, but ever since you’ve come back, Yan and Shaoqing have constantly been trying to make things up to you.”

“Whatever happened has already happened – that’s a fact no one can change. To be honest, so many years have passed. I’m no longer as hung up about it as I once was. All I want now is a way to get Qin Yanzhi to donate some of his bone marrow. I don’t have anything else in mind.”

Outside the ward, Su Shaoqing’s gaze darkened as he pursed his lips. He had wanted to push the door open, but he turned to leave in the end.

Fu Chengyan squinted and shook his head helplessly as he watched Su Shaoqing walk away.

Then, he entered the ward. “How’s Bai doing?”

“He’s okay. The doctor just dropped by and said Bai’s been doing pretty well, but you’ll have to be quick. Bai is really young, after all. Chemotherapy is going to take a huge toll on him.”

Fu Ling turned to Fu Chengyan in anguish at the mention of chemotherapy.

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. “Shaoqing’s already on the hunt for the best bone marrow match. Meanwhile... I’ll get Qin Yanzhi to come over as quickly as possible. Don’t worry.”

“Alright, stop worrying too much,” Shi Nuan consoled while patting Fu Ling’s hand. “Bai is such an adorable child, so I’m sure the heavens are always watching over him. Come live with us at the Wutong Residence after he gets better!”

Bai was so tired that he had fallen asleep while they were talking.

Fu Ling softened her tone and called the nurse over to look after Bai after realizing that he was already in a slumber.

Shi Nuan headed outside while holding Fu Ling's hand. "You've had a long day, so you must be starving! I've just had Yan book a place. Let's have dinner together."

Fu Ling wanted to decline the offer, but for some reason, Shi Nuan had the ability to prevent that.

Fu Ling gazed at Shi Nuan. She's really kind and mild-tempered, but there's just something about her that's so charming. I can never say no to her.

Hence, Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan took Fu Ling out for a meal. Night fell by the time they were done, so Shi Nuan suggested that Fu Chengyan give Fu Ling a ride home. Once again, Fu Ling wanted to turn down the offer, but Shi Nuan insisted on sending her home, so she relented.

Yet, Shi Nuan was slightly taken aback when Fu Ling told them where she lived. Even Fu Chengyan couldn't help but glance at her in surprise.

Feeling anxious under Fu Chengyan's heated gaze, Fu Ling hurriedly turned to look out the window. Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes but remained silent.

When they arrived in front of Su Shaoqing's villa, Fu Chengyan turned off the car's engine and fixed his gaze on Fu Ling. "Shaoqing hasn't had it easy these years either, Ling. He messed up back then, but I think he's done enough to pay for his mistakes. Now that you've moved in with him, I suppose you want to be on good terms again, so—"

"I'm afraid you've misunderstood the situation," Fu Ling cut him off. "I moved in only because he agreed to treat Bai. I'll do anything to make sure Bai gets better. Besides, I'll only be here for a few days."

Fu Ling spoke so casually that the change in her emotions remained hidden. "Su Shaoqing and I were never meant to be. If I couldn't be with him back then, what makes you think I'd be with him now?" It wasn't just time holding them back. There was also the child that she had lost.

Fu Chengyan frowned. He wanted to say more, but Fu Ling quickly opened the car door and alighted, not giving him a chance to do so.

The creases between his brows deepened as he watched Fu Ling enter Su Shaoqing's villa. He looked as though there was now a huge obstacle to take care of.

Seeing how he looked, Shi Nuan held him by the hand. "Don't rush anything. We have all the time. Ling is obviously really sentimental, and she hasn't gotten over Shaoqing. Otherwise, she wouldn't have explained herself so confidently."

Fu Chengyan nodded. "She's still brooding over the past."

"So, what happened back then? Did Ling really get an abortion because of Shaoqing? Why did she do so?"

Fu Chengyan sighed. "All you see right now is how Shaoqing constantly chases after her, so of course, you wouldn't know how Ling was like before."

Shi Nuan gazed at Fu Chengyan in puzzlement.

"Ling, Huan, and Shaoqing were classmates back in university. If even Huan had no idea that Ling was secretly in love with Shaoqing for more than ten years, how would Shaoqing himself ever know it?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 415

Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan with a shocked expression on her face. Seeing this, the latter shook his head and stroked her hair before driving away.

“Ling lived with the Fu family for a while, but her status in the Fu family isn’t high because she’s not recognized by them!” As Fu Chengyan explained, he suddenly thought of something and shook his head slightly. “When Shaoqing came to me, Ling was being pranked. She had been left on a tree by someone. It was Shaoqing who rescued her. Maybe it was from then on that Ling started to feel something for Shaoqing!”

Shaoqing nodded her head. “So she has had a secret crush for Shaoqing for many years after that? But she—”

“She was sent away and returned to her birth mother when she was a teenager. Since then, I hadn’t seen her again for a long time.” Fu Chengyan paused and went on, “I went abroad back then, so I didn’t know what happened between her and Shaoqing. When I saw her again, it was already when she was in university. Because of Li Heng and Huan, only then did I know that she had a crush on Shaoqing!”

“What about Shaoqing? What does he feel for her?”

Fu Chengyan had one hand on the steering wheel and the other hand by the car window. He lapsed into silence for a long while before he replied, “He doesn’t love her, perhaps.”

“If so, how can he and Ling...” Shi Nuan furrowed her brows, feeling torn.

She wasn't a gossip nor nosy person, but seeing Fu Ling in such a state still made Shi Nuan feel a little sorry for her. Although she was closer to Su Shaoqing, she was actually biased toward Fu Ling, probably because she empathized with her as a woman.

"It was an accident!" Fu Chengyan then added, "Ling is not a good fit in the Su family." This was the reason why Fu Chengyan had stood his ground back then.

Fu Ling could not understand it, but Fu Chengyan believed it to be the best for her. But now, it seemed that none of the choices back then were the best choice for Fu Ling.

Fu Ling had been the one making sacrifices for Su Shaoqing back then, even though the latter didn't have any feelings for the woman. Even if Su Shaoqing accepted her, it would have probably ended in tragedy.

"Whether it's suitable or not, only the people who experienced it would know. Yan, in fact, you should understand this very well. She's just like me. I'm not a good fit for the Fu family, but I'm working hard to change it, aren't I?"

Hearing this, Fu Chengyan gave her a faint smile. "Okay, I know what you mean. You think I shouldn't have done such a thing back then, don't you? In fact, I have also been reflecting on this issue in the past few years. What will happen if the same thing happened again?"

"Such things are unknowable. Since time can't be reversed, we can only make the present more fulfilling. Since Shaoqing wants to make it up to her, why not give him a chance?"

"But have you asked for Ling's opinion? What if she doesn't want to? Will it be like you're forcing her, just like how you forced her back then?"

Fu Chengyan suddenly froze and turned his head to look at Shi Nuan. "Do you think we will hurt her?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. “You definitely won’t mean to hurt her, but she’ll inevitably be hurt to a certain degree. For example, what she wanted back then was Shaoqing’s love, but what kind of feelings does Shaoqing have for her now? Is it guilt or love? If it isn’t love, what’s the point of him doing so much?”

Fu Chengyan lowered his head and fell into deep thought while Shi Nuan forced a smile. “It’s not that I don’t want to help Shaoqing, but I just hope he can understand that feelings of sympathy and guilt are not love. Women are very sensitive, and they sometimes can’t tolerate even a minor imperfection. You should ask Shaoqing to think about this carefully!”

A fraught silence descended on the car once again. Shi Nuan took out her phone. When she saw Song Rongrong online, she chatted with her for a while. Then, she received a notification from a group chat and clicked to view it. She found that a new member had been added to the group chat set up by Su Shaoqing – it was Fu Ling!

Shi Nuan was a little surprised. Seeing that the person who added her was Pei Huan, she couldn’t help but raise her brows. “Does Huan also know Ling is back?”

“Yeah!” Fu Chengyan nodded his head. “They’re close friends from university.”

“In that case, you can ask Huan to help persuade Ling. I guess Ling is someone who values her relationships with people, so she’ll probably listen to Huan’s advice!”

“You’re one smart girl!” Smiling, Fu Chengyan could not help but shake his head after seeing Shi Nuan’s reaction.

While the two of them were busy chatting, Shi Nuan’s phone rang. It was a call from Jiang Shizheng, so she answered it immediately, “Hello, Grandpa!”

“So you still remember that I’m your grandpa, huh?” Jiang Shizheng sounded a little displeased, so Shi Nuan raised her brows slightly and asked, “What’s the matter, Grandpa? Who made you angry?”

“Who else could it be if not you?” Jiang Shizheng went on, pretending to be angry, “The old man from the Shi family called this morning, and he actually bragged that he’s going to be a great-grandfather because you’re pregnant. What’s going on? How could you not tell me you’re pregnant? How could you tell that old man and actually let him show off? Humph. He shouldn’t forget that I’m your grandpa – the real one!”

Shi Nuan was stunned and said nothing for a while.

Jiang Shizheng froze as well; he probably realized that he had said something wrong, so he hurriedly changed the subject, “That old man keeps competing with me! He deserves no respect!”

Shi Nuan was in a daze for a while before she replied with a chuckle, “Don’t be angry, Grandpa. I wanted to tell you, too, at first, but Yan said that it wasn’t confirmed yet. He didn’t want to get your hopes up, so I didn’t tell you. I planned to tell you after I got the test results!”

“Oh? So are the test results out now?”

“Yes!” Shi Nuan could not help but grin. She found it fun every time her grandpa and granddad got jealous of each other.

In fact, there was no grudge between her grandpa and her granddad. Her granddad was simply dissatisfied with Jiang Yu, while her grandpa was also dissatisfied with Shi Jingzheng. In short, the two old men were a quarrelsome pair who would fight whenever they met. Shi Nuan had gotten already used to it.

“Are you really pregnant?”

“Yes, Grandpa.” Shi Nuan went on with a smile, “I just got my test results today confirming my pregnancy.” Shi Nuan was all smiles, whereas Jiang Shizheng laughed in delight. “That’s great! I will be a great-grandfather too. Haha!”

Shi Nuan couldn’t help but raise the corners of her lips. “Grandpa, let me tell you another piece of news that even Granddad doesn’t know yet!”

“Oh, what’s it?” As long as he knew something Shi Yunsheng didn’t know, Jiang Shizheng felt that he was better – he felt that he was still the most important person to his granddaughter.

When Shi Nuan heard her grandfather’s tone, she could tell that he was really happy. She couldn’t help but shake her head at the fact that the old man acted like a child. “Grandpa, Yan’s friend, Shaoqing, did the test for me. He told me I’m pregnant with twins!”

“Really? Twins?” Jiang Shizheng let out another hearty laugh. “Come to my place for dinner tonight, Nuan. Come here now. I’ll ask Aunt Fei to go and buy some groceries. Tell me what you wanna eat. I’ll get Aunt Fei to make it for you!”

“Um... Grandpa, there’s no need to trouble yourselves with it. A simple meal will do. I’m not picky!” Why is everyone being so dramatic? I’m just pregnant; I’m not suffering from any illness!

Not only is Fu Chengyan acting so unusual, but also Granddad and Grandpa. Why is that?

“No trouble, no trouble. Being pregnant is hard work. During this time, you should take a good rest at home. If you can take some time off work, please do so. You still have Yan for anything that you can’t handle!” Jiang Shizheng didn’t care about anything else as soon as he knew Shi Nuan was pregnant. “Aunt Fei has a lot of experience. Let her go to Wutong Residence to take care of you. She will definitely do a good job!”

“Grandpa, there’s no need for that, really!” Shi Nuan was speechless, but Jiang Shizheng made the decision without allowing any objection before he hung up the phone.

Shi Nuan stared at the dimmed screen, then looked at Fu Chengyan, feeling rather helpless. “It was Grandpa!”

Fu Chengyan nodded, indicating that he had heard her. “So, do we go to Grandpa’s house tonight?”

“I suppose so!” Shi Nuan knew her grandpa very well; she knew that he had always cared deeply for her. Thus, he must be overjoyed to learn about her pregnancy. If she refused to go to his place, he would inevitably be sad.

Fu Chengyan nodded in understanding and smiled. “Grandpa has been getting more and more childish recently!”

Shi Nuan couldn’t help but smile. “Yan, you knew me when you were still a student of Grandpa back then, right?”

Fu Chengyan squinted at Shi Nuan. “Take a guess.”

Shi Nuan pouted. “I don’t want to. It’s not fair at all. How can I remember it when I was so young at that time?” Shi Nuan then gave it some serious thought, but her memory of that time was not very clear.

Shaking her head, she frowned slightly. “That’s weird. Why can’t I recall the events of those years?”

Fu Chengyan’s eyes flickered, but Shi Nuan continued to say, “My memory isn’t usually this bad. Why don’t I have any memory of that period?”

“Are you saying that you don’t remember anymore?” Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. “Really?”

“I don’t know. I really can’t recall the things that happened during that period.” Shi Nuan was talking about the time when Fu Chengyan was a student of Jiang Shizheng. “My grandpa is a person who appreciates various talents very much. I’ve heard him talk about many excellent students, but I’ve never heard him talking about you.” When Jiang Shizheng introduced Fu Chengyan to her at that time, he had obviously been full of pride.

“Don’t think about it anymore if you can’t remember!” Fu Chengyan reached out and touched Shi Nuan’s head. He was not a person who dwelled on the past. He was happy that Shi Nuan belonged with him now.

“Tell me then, why do you only date me now when you’ve already fallen in love with me that time? You—”

“You were with Fu Xicheng back then!” Fu Chengyan interrupted Shi Nuan. “Besides, you didn’t seem to remember me anymore. Actually, it was not the first time we met after our reunion.” As Fu Chengyan spoke, he slowly turned to look at Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan’s heart skipped a beat. “It wasn’t?” She thought that the first time she met Fu Chengyan was at Prosperous Dynasty, where she was drunk and drugged. It was Fu Chengyan who had saved her.

“So you’re saying that you already knew who I was. You also know about our subsequent encounter and the things that happened afterward!”