# I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 81

13/05/2021 by Novel Heart

Su Shaoqing arrived at the Wutong Residence once more, not expecting it to be about Shi Nuan again.

Seeing the woman lying on the bed with the man carefully watching over her, Su Shaoqing's eyes lit up and he couldn't help but click his tongue. "Seriously, Chengyan, stop calling me over for such things."

Su Shaoqing threw his hands up, looking incredibly frustrated. "You always have the worst timing too! I'd just finished a surgery and was about to rest."

"Isn't that perfect then? I can give you some things to do. Hurry up and take a look at May." It was rare for Fu Chengyan to not bicker with Su Shaoqing. Instead, he just looked at him sternly.

Su Shaoqing glanced at Fu Chengyan solemnly and shook his head. "I'll take a look then! But honestly, getting any other doctor would be better than me. I'm..."

"Enough nonsense!" Fu Chengyan said impatiently. "Treat your patient!"

Su Shaoqing pouted his lips and flipped a corner of the blanket. He was slightly shocked to see the wound on Shi Nuan's hand. "Who did this?"

Fu Chengyan's eyes merely darkened as he remained silent. Su Shaoqing understood what he meant. "This guy is pretty smart. He knows how to alleviate her symptoms through bloodletting, and the drug she's under isn't too strong!" Su Shaoqing said as he put Shi Nuan hand down. "There isn't much of a problem anymore." "But she's been unconscious all this while!" Fu Chengyan was agitated. "Take a look and see if there's anything else wrong with her!"

"Seriously, Chengyan... I'm a doctor, not a god. She could be unconscious because she's tired." Su Shaoqing looked at Fu Chengyan as though he was looking at an idiot. "Don't worry. The lady was rendered unconscious, so she's sleeping now." Su Shaoqing noted that Shi Nuan was just under the influence of a sleeping drug. It wasn't a particularly serious illness.

"Is there no need for medication?" Fu Chengyan still felt uneasy.

"Every medicine has its side effects. Besides, there's nothing wrong with the lady, so she just needs some rest," Su Shaoqing said and paused for a moment. "But this is the first time I've seen you look this nervous, Chengyan!"

"Do you want to die?" Fu Chengyan glared at Su Shaoqing with narrowed eyes and pursed lips. But Su Shaoqing merely laughed. He wasn't afraid of Fu Chengyan's behavior. "I'll still prescribe her some anti-anxiety pills. Be sure to let her rest more. If she wakes up tomorrow and you're still worried, you should take her to the hospital for a check-up, find out the contents of the sleeping drug and ask about its side effects."

"Mr. Fu!" Zhou Zheng knocked on the door and stood at the entrance. "The person who kidnapped the madam has been captured."

Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing exchanged glances before they both walked out of the room.

"To the study room!" Fu Chengyan said after carefully closing the door behind them.

Zhou Zheng followed Fu Chengyan into the study room. "Mr. Li's men have captured the one responsible for kidnapping the madam. They're not just regular thugs and we still don't know who the person in charge is. Liang Lin is currently interrogating him."

"You've even involved Li Heng?" Su Shaoqing asked as he leaned against the door, looking at Fu Chengyan with interest.

Fu Chengyan frowned. "Why haven't you left?"

Su Shaoqing twitched his lips. "It's not like I can get any rest at this point anyway, so naturally I'd want to join in the fun." His charming eyes were filled with amusement. The man smiled at Zhou Zheng, causing the latter to look nervous.

"These guys sure have some guts to do such things to your woman!" Su Shaoqing clicked his tongue. "What do you plan to do?"

Fu Chengyan rolled his eyes at Su Shaoqing before turning to Zhou Zheng. "Have Liang Lin find out who exactly is behind this. Use special methods if necessary."

"Yes sir," Zhou Zheng nodded. He could tell that Fu Chengyan was truly furious this time.

Su Shaoqing raised his brow. "Where is Liang Lin? I want to have some fun with him!"

Fu Chengyan looked at Zhou Zheng. The latter felt resigned, but it was Su Shaoqing, so he had no choice but to respond. "The usual place!"

The 'usual place' Zhou Zheng spoke of was the largest trade market in Jiang City: the underground. There were many rumors about the place. It wasn't just for those who sought fun and pleasure. It was also a place for those who couldn't tell between right or wrong. This place practically hell on earth.

Su Shaoqing's gaze subconsciously fell on Fu Chengyan, but he didn't expect the second master to be so serious this time. Staring meaningfully at Fu Chengyan, he said, "I'll go take a look. You'll get results within a day." Fu Chengyan knocked on his desk after Su Shaoqing left. "Have Liang Lin work with Shaoqing!" He ordered.

"Yes sir!" Zhou Zheng's mouth twitched involuntarily. Seeing the smug look on his boss' face, Zhou Zheng understood that Fu Chengyan was playing along with Su Shaoqing and letting him voluntarily investigate this matter. "Sir, regarding Shi Wei..."

Zhou Zheng handed over as much information as possible to Fu Chengyan. "These are the things Shi Wei had done all these years in the entertainment industry. There's no denying that this woman really has lots of tricks up her sleeves; otherwise, with her qualifications and abilities, she couldn't have made it this far," he said and paused for a brief moment. "All these years, apart from being unkind to the madam, she's also secretly done many things in the entertainment sector."

Fu Chengyan raised a hand to stop Zhou Zheng. "For the moment, don't release everything yet. Expose them one by one. It's more fun this way!" He said as he took out two pieces of paper from the huge pile of information and gave them a quick once-over. "We'll go with this!"

Zhou Zheng took the papers over and his eyes gleamed. "I'll get it done right away!"

"Wait," Fu Chengyan called out. "Send it to the tabloids."

"Yes, Mr. Fu!"

After Zhou Zheng left, Fu Chengyan kept himself busy in the study room and only returned to the bedroom after midnight.

Shi Nuan was sleeping soundly by this time, with her guard completely down. The incident earlier had been unfortunate, but Fu Chengyan was secretly grateful that he could see such a pure side of her. Fu Chengyan walked into the bathroom to take a shower, then came back out in nothing but a white bathrobe. His squinted his alluring eyes as he stood by the bedside to observe Shi Nuan's face.

He dimmed the lights. Shi Nuan breathed steadily in the darkened room and looked especially innocent.

Fu Chengyan walked over and sat by the window while stroking Shi Nuan's cheeks. Meanwhile, in her dreams, Shi Nuan felt a warm pair of hands holding her. She smacked her lips in satisfaction and reached out to grab Fu Chengyan's hand.

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. Seeing Shi Nuan's unconscious movement, a rare look of warmth appeared on his face. He took off his bedroom slippers and leaned towards, causing the bed to sink slightly. It was as though Shi Nuan knew Fu Chengyan was near. She moved slightly to make room for him.

Fu Chengyan was elated when he noticed her actions. He smiled and let his slender fingers rest on Shi Nuan's chin. Tilting her chin, he leaned over and planted a light kiss on her lips.

Shi Nuan felt like she was walking on clouds. It felt like a dream. Inside the dream, a man held her hand as they strolled aimlessly. Eventually, they became tired, so they lay on the grass to rest. As she closed her eyes, the man leaned over to kiss her on the lips.

Shi Nuan smiled from the sweet dream. She wanted more, so she stretched her hands out. Just as Fu Chengyan was about to let go of her, she wrapped her arms around Fu Chengyan's neck, practically hanging onto him.

Fu Chengyan's gaze darkened. He placed a hand on the bed to support himself and hovered over Shi Nuan to get a closer look. It was as though Shi Nuan had encountered something that brought her unbridled joy. She smiled and clung him. "Fu Chengyan!" Her voice was soft, but he still heard her.

Fu Chengyan's eyes sparkled in the dark. The next moment, he lowered his head to kiss her once more. But this time, it wasn't just a light peck.

For his entire life, he would do anything to get whatever he wanted, even if he had to resort to extreme measures. The only exception was Shi Nuan. He was always patient when it came to her.

It wasn't that he had never felt agitated because of her. Shi Nuan was hesitant and cautious when it came to love, especially after she had been betrayed. He could understand her wariness but at the same time, he hoped that she could accept him.

Thankfully, all the wait was worth it. Even if there was no love between them, he was still happy.

Fu Chengyan deepened the kiss on Shi Nuan's inviting lips. His tongue traced the outline of the woman's lips.

Shi Nuan could feel the man's passion even in her dreams. She couldn't quite contain the boiling enthusiasm inside her chest. With her hands on Fu Chengyan's shoulders, she tried her best to open her eyes but couldn't.

Shi Nuan had a constant smile on her face, as though she was in a very sweet dream.

After a long time, a satisfied Fu Chengyan finally let go of the woman in slumber. He watched Shi Nuan's breath deepen and then turned to look at his lower body in frustration. "That vixen!" He muttered under his breath as shut his eyes.

Fu Chengyan lifted the blanket to get out of bed, but it was as though Shi Nuan knew what he was about to do. She clung to his hand and mumbled, "Don't go!"

Fu Chengyan's heart softened at once. "OK, I won't go!" He reached out to pat the back of Shi Nuan's hand and held it gently. "I won't go. I'll stay right here with you!"

Hearing Fu Chengyan's promise, a soft smile blossomed on Shi Nuan's face and she fell asleep once more.

Shi Nuan was contented, but Fu Chengyan was being tormented by his own lustful thoughts. No man could endure such torture. The woman in front of him was legally his wife, yet he could do nothing but suppress his desires. He told himself repeatedly that now was not the time. He couldn't do such things to Shi Nuan yet.

What Fu Chengyan had always wanted was her consent. Even if they were husband and wife, he didn't want her to do anything out of obligation. He wanted everything to happen naturally between them, guided by the primal instincts that bring together a man and a woman.

"Sleep. I'll remain by your side!"

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Shi Nuan felt like she was in a long dream. She dreamt that Fu Chengyan held her hand as they walked. She didn't know where they were walking to, but she continued to follow him happily.

Fu Chengyan held onto her hand without letting go. No matter what happened, he was always beside her and never left.

Shi Nuan felt that the dream had lasted too long. Finally, she opened her bleary eyes and stared at the ceiling. Fragments of the dream lingered in her mind and overlapped with reality, as though she still hadn't fully woken up. The warmth on Shi Nuan's hand surprised her for a moment, and a vague memory surfaced in her mind. She turned her head in shock, only to meet a sleeping face.

That familiar face was right in front of her. The man's skin was so smooth that it could make women jealous, and his long eyelashes cast a shadow on his high cheekbones.

Shi Nuan froze for a moment as her memories played back to when she was in the bathroom. She recalled being rendered unconscious by a man, but didn't know what had happened next. Her lips felt rather numb. She reached out to touch them and realized that they were swollen.

Shi Nuan became even more frantic. She removed the blanket and prepared to get out of bed, but a pair of large hands held onto her wrist. Shi Nuan turned over to see that Fu Chengyan had already opened his eyes. He looked like he had just woken up, and he didn't have the cold look he usually had in his eyes.

Fu Chengyan's relaxed gaze fell on her. He simply looked at her for a long while before finally getting up and frowning slightly. "You're up?"

He had just woken up, so his low voice was rather husky. It was as deep as a cello, but it sounded extremely pleasant. Shi Nuan's chest tightened as her heart began to race. She pursed her lips and avoided Fu Chengyan's eyes.

Fu Chengyan squinted his eyes as he scrutinized every movement Shi Nuan made. "Why aren't you saying anything?" He teased.

Shi Nuan bit her lip and her eyes flitted around frantically. "You... I... Yesterday..."

"Nothing happened to you!" Fu Chengyan smiled as he squeezed Shi Nuan's soft hand. "You're perfectly fine!"

"Really?" Shi Nuan suddenly looked up at him, her eyes twinkling with pure joy. She clasped Fu Chengyan's hand in return. "You're not lying?"

"Why would I lie to you?" Fu Chengyan smiled faintly. He lifted the blanket to get down, still holding onto Shi Nuan's hand.

Being held by him like that, Shi Nuan had no choice but to follow suit. Fu Chengyan handed Shi Nuan a pair of bedroom slippers. "The floor is cold."

Shi Nuan lowered her gaze as warmth filled her heart. She put on the slippers and hesitated for a moment before saying, "I had an argument with Shi Wei last night, then someone made me faint when I came out of the restroom. What in the world happened?"

Back then, she was so afraid and didn't know what to do. Right before passing out, she thought that she was done for. Yet, Fu Chengyan was now telling her that nothing had happened last night.

"Someone kidnapped you, but my men had been following you all along and saved you just in time," Fu Chengyan briefly explained, omitting some of the details.

Shi Nuan knew things couldn't be that simple, but since Fu Chengyan refused to tell her, she didn't want to pursue the matter any further. All she knew was that Fu Chengyan had saved her again. "I'm so useless, aren't I? There's nothing I can do right!"

"That's not true!" Fu Chengyan squeezed Shi Nuan's fingers. "You did very well. You and Song Rongrong made use of the voice recorder and pinhole camera. Those will help a lot." He had never expected May to use those tools.

Shi Nuan scratched her head in embarrassment when he praised her. "Actually, it was Song Rongrong who taught me how to use those gadgets. I remember telling you that Rongrong is a journalist!"

"Yeah. This friend of yours treats you really well!" Fu Chengyan nodded. "Alright, since you're awake now, go wash up. Don't forget to give your good friend a call. She was really worried about you yesterday."

"Right, I almost forgot. Rongrong must be so worried!" Shi Nuan exclaimed and quickly searched for her phone. "Where's my phone, Fu Chengyan?"

"On the bedside drawer!" It was rare for Fu Chengyan to see Shi Nuan looking so dazed. He couldn't help but shake his head. "Don't rush. She may not even be awake yet!"

Despite his words, Fu Chengyan didn't try to stop Shi Nuan. He took a quick shower and changed into a simple set of clothes before heading downstairs.

Then, a thought struck Shi Nuan. Did I share the same bed with Fu Chengyan last night?

As Shi Nuan subconsciously bit her lip, she felt a stinging pain. She looked into the mirror and jumped in shock. Her lips were red and swollen.

Just as she touched her lips, Song Rongrong's muffled voice reached her ear. "W-Who's calling me this early in the morning? Don't you know you'd get struck by lightning for disrupting someone's beauty sleep!?"

Song Rongrong sounded so unhappy that Shi Nuan was instantly brought back to reality. "Struck by lightning? It's already late morning, Rongrong."

"Nuan?" Song Rongrong immediately came to her senses and sat up in bed with her eyes wide open. "You finally called me, you little brat! Do you know how scared I was when you suddenly disappeared last night!?"

Song Rongrong was beyond frightened. Even though Fu Chengyan had repeatedly promised her that Shi Nuan would be alright, she was still worried. "How are you feeling now?"

"I'm fine!" Shi Nuan's nose tingled slightly upon hearing Song Rongrong's worried voice. "Sorry for worrying you, Rongrong!"

"Ah, it's fine, as long as you're OK!" Song Rongrong finally felt relieved. "But why did you only call me now? I was so afraid all night that I only went to bed after five!"

"Then you should get more sleep!" Shi Nuan said, feeling guilty. "I just woke up too. Fu Chengyan said you were worried about me, so I…"

"It's fine, it's fine. I'm awake now anyway. But how did Fu Chengyan rescue you? You know, I wanted to look for you with them, but Fu Chengyan told me there was no need."

"I don't know how he got me out either, but it doesn't matter, I'm fine now," Shi Nuan said with a smile. "Alright, why don't we meet up after breakfast?" "Sure!"

Shi Nuan's conversation with Song Rongrong took a while. By the time she was done washing up and headed downstairs, Fu Chengyan had long prepared breakfast.

Shi Nuan caught a whiff of the aroma the moment she arrived downstairs. "It smells good!"

"You must be hungry. Come and eat!" Fu Chengyan beckoned. Shi Nuan hesitated briefly, feeling slightly awkward when she remembered that they had gotten up from the same bed, not to mention the slight pain on her lips.

Shi Nuan subconsciously glanced at Fu Chengyan and noticed that his lips also looked slightly injured. She lowered her head and pouted.

"What's wrong?" As Fu Chengyan carried the clay pot to the table, he saw Shi Nuan looking downcast. "Did the phone call not go well?"

Shi Nuan shook her head, not knowing what to say. She looked up at Fu Chengyan, noticing that he looked more dashing than usual and was smiling all the time. "You're that happy?"

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. "Should I be unhappy instead?"

Shi Nuan was stunned by Fu Chengyan's question. She pointed to Fu Chengyan's lips before pointing to her own. "Did something happen last night? Something I wasn't aware of?"

The corners of Fu Chengyan's lips curled upwards. Even his dark eyes were full of smiles; like a spring breeze in March, they were warm and clear.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but tremble. That smile of his stirred up her darkest desires. "What are you smiling about?"

"Do you not remember what you did last night, my dear wife?" Fu Chengyan asked in amusement as he placed a hand on the table and tapped on it with his slender fingers. The way he looked at her made her feel so vulnerable.

Shi Nuan was panicking internally, she didn't like losing control of her own feelings. She had regretted it the moment she asked him what happened. How could I have asked such a stupid question?

She began to make a fuss. "How can I remember what happened? I was unconscious! I don't remember anything! You must have done something bad!"

Fu Chengyan merely smiled faintly, causing Shi Nuan to feel irritated. "Am I wrong? I was completely unconscious! Are you saying I'm the one who did it?"

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow. Seeing Shi Nuan behave like a stubborn but endearing child, he shook his head helplessly. "You're exactly right, darling!"

"You..." The words got stuck in her throat as embarrassment washed over her. "Whatever you say then! I was unconscious the whole time, so I don't know anything!" She gave up and pulled out a chair to sit down.

Fu Chengyan shook his head as he chuckled softly and handed a bowl to Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan filled her own bowl with porridge and pretended to not see Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan remained silent, but he was beyond amused to see Shi Nuan behaving this way.

Shi Nuan bowed her head to hide her blushing face, but her head began to drop lower and lower, practically burying her face in her bowl. Suddenly, Fu Chengyan's phone rang. Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and glanced at Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan also raised her head to look at him.

"What's wrong?" Fu Chengyan's voice turned cold instantly.

Zhou Zheng froze for a moment and felt a chill travel down his spine. "Am I bothering you, Mr. Fu?" he gulped.

"Speak!" Fu Chengyan demanded with authority as he served Shi Nuan another bowl of porridge. "Eat up," he said gently.

At this moment, both Shi Nuan and Zhou Zheng were surprised at Fu Chengyan's ability to switch moods so quickly. Fu Chengyan's icy voice appeared once again. "Is something wrong?"

"No, sir. Mr. Su had already given him the heaviest sentencing. The crook is really tight-lipped about everything and insisted that it was all Shi Wei's doing. But we checked his transaction history and found two separate deposits. One of them was indeed from Shi Wei, but the other was from a foreign account. There's no way to trace its sender!" Zhou Zheng reported. "You're aware of how Mr. Su is like too, sir. He's the type who's open to persuasion, but he hates it when they go against him head-on. So..."

"Hmm?" Fu Chengyan's eyes narrowed.

"He broke the man's kneecaps." Zhou Zheng coughed out the words, just the thought of that scene horrified Zhou Zheng. "Mr. Su says it's been a while since the sharks were fed."

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Fu Chengyan frowned slightly, his entire being exuding an air of hostility. Shi Nuan suddenly stopped eating her porridge and reflexively looked at Fu Chengyan. "Is something wrong?"

Fu Chengyan immediately collected himself and shook his head gently at Shi Nuan. "Everything's fine!" He voice was soft, yet emotionless. "Let it happen then, as long as we get what we need!"

"They haven't thrown him overboard yet, Mr. Fu. It's just that... They're about to." Zhou Zheng was on the verge of a breakdown. How could the two masters be so nonchalant?

Fu Chengyan frowned slightly and said, "Tell Shaoqing to wait. I'll drop by in a while. Leave the other matters to him!"

Zhou Zheng shuddered. He could imagine a bloodbath soon. Compared to Mr. Su, Mr. Fu was much more extreme.

"OK. I'll get Liang Lin to continue investigating the foreign account. We found out that the sleeping gas from last night didn't seem like the usual ones being sold in the market. According to our results, Shi Wei isn't too big of a threat." It was clear what Zhou Zheng meant; Shi Wei could pull a few tricks, but such an elaborate plan and the use of an unusual sleeping drug indicated that Shi Wei couldn't have been the main culprit.

"OK. Keep looking!" Fu Chengyan hung up and looked at Shi Nuan. "Are you full?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yeah. You haven't had much, so eat up!" She served Fu Chengyan a bowl of porridge, but felt a stinging pain when her finger touched the edge of the bowl. She looked down and was slightly astounded.

"What's wrong?" Fu Chengyan creased his eyebrows.

Shi Nuan shook her head. "It's nothing. I just don't know when I got this cut on my hand." Since it wasn't bleeding anymore, Shi Nuan didn't pay much attention to it. However, Fu Chengyan's gazed darkened slightly. "Does it still hurt?"

"Not anymore. Do you think I'm that fragile?" Shi Nuan replied and paused for a moment. "Fu Chengyan."

"Hmm?" Fu Chengyan looked up. "What is it?"

"Thank you for yesterday," Shi Nuan said earnestly, remembering how well he treated her. "I'll introduce you to my friends when we're both free!"

Fu Chengyan raised a brow and smiled. "So are you saying that I've passed the test, darling?"

Shi Nuan blushed, feeling nervous and giddy. "I guess so! I don't have many friends. I only have Song Rongrong and Su Yian. Rongrong is a journalist, whereas Yian and I opened a tea house together. It's called Ruyi Tea House."

"Mm!" Fu Chengyan nodded. It was where he once fetched Shi Nuan. She had met Old Master Shi at the tea house.

"I'll leave the arrangements to you!" Fu Chengyan was always available, he just didn't want Shi Nuan to feel uncomfortable.

Shi Nuan's eyes lit up as she heard him. "OK. I'll meet with Rongrong and Yian today, then!" She said excitedly. "It's been a while since the three of us last gathered."

"OK!" Fu Chengyan nodded. Thinking about what happened yesterday, he figured it would be nice to let Shi Nuan have some fun outside. "Drive safely!"

After Shi Nuan had left, Fu Chengyan gave Zhou Zheng a call. "Send two men to follow the madam, but make sure not to bother them."

"Yes, Mr. Fu!" Zhou Zheng immediately arranged for two of their best bodyguards to follow Shi Nuan. As per Fu Chengyan's instructions, they kept their distance and did not approach Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan met up with Song Rongrong and Su Yian. Due to the fact that they hadn't gathered like this in a long time, they ate, drank and shopped together merrily.

Su Yian was a rather quiet girl, which was why she opened a tea house with Shi Nuan. Apart from running the place, she would just read in her free time. Song Rongrong was the polar opposite. She was outgoing and lively, and was the bubbliest among the three. That was why she chose to be a journalist. Travelling all over the country was a common occurrence to her.

It was so rare for them to meet nowadays, so they had as much fun as they could, shopping at several stores and buying a bunch of clothes. Of course, Song Rongrong had insisted on buying most of the clothes, but they weren't for herself. They were for Shi Nuan.

Song Rongrong's reason was simple: since Shi Nuan was now married to Fu Chengyan, she had to dress better. However, Shi Nuan didn't think there was anything wrong with how she used to dress.

But Su Yian was shocked. "You're married, Nuan?"

Su Yian had every right to be shocked. After all, she had been brought up to speed on what happened between Shi Nuan and Fu Xicheng. Back then, Shi Nuan was still on her business trip, and Su Yian didn't know that Shi Wei had ended up getting engaged to Fu Xicheng. It was only when Shi Nuan and Shi Yunsheng dropped by the tea house that Su Yian found out about Fu Xicheng's betrayal.

She didn't think that Shi Nuan would get married this quickly. "When did this happen? How could I have not known anything about it!?"

Shi Nuan smiled sheepishly. "It happened not too long ago, but there was no ceremony. We just got our certificates." She paused for a moment before continuing, "I wasn't ready to tell you and Rongrong, but something came up and Rongrong eventually found out about it."

Shi Nuan was worried that Su Yian would think that she had been put aside, so she tugged on Su Yian's sleeve. "My relationship with him is a little bizarre, so I've been hesitant about introducing him to you two."

Su Yian didn't feel bad at all. Instead, she was more concerned about how quickly Shi Nuan had married someone else after breaking up with Fu Xicheng. "Does he treat you well?"

"Yes! He's so nice to her," Song Rongrong giggled while she pulled on Su Yian's arm. "I've met him. He's incredibly handsome. But most importantly, he's incredibly good to her. You just haven't seen him yet!"

"Alright, alright. I know you've met him," Su Yian said petulantly while staring at Song Rongrong. "Only you've met him."

"So, when do you intend to introduce him to us? We'll help you evaluate him," she continued. "Nuan, you used to be so in love with Fu Xicheng, but now you're suddenly married. I..."

"I know what you're thinking. Don't worry about it. It wasn't an impulsive decision. You'll know when you meet him," Shi Nuan said confidently. Then, she paused for a moment before scrutinizing Song Rongrong. "When did you meet him? Why am I not aware of this?" Song Rongrong frowned. "You brat! Did you forget about what happened last night? I told you I couldn't find you, so Fu Chengyan took over told me to head back first. Damn, you should've seen how nervous he was over you! Everyone says he's just a cold guy and that no woman can ever go near him, but you melted his cold exterior, Nuan!"

"Fu Chengyan?" Su Yian was shocked again. "You're married to Fu Chengyan?"

"Shh! Be quiet!" Shi Nuan quickly covered Su Yian's mouth, looking around and sighing in relief when nothing unusual happened. "Aren't you supposed to be the calm one? Why are you behaving like Rongrong today?"

Su Yian composed herself and glared at Shi Nuan. "My calmness depends on the situation too. What situation are you in? You're married to Fu Chengyan! How could I not be surprised? Just ask Rongrong."

"Yup, Yian is totally right," Song Rongrong said while nodding fervently. "I had the exact same reaction when I first heard that she was married to Fu Chengyan." Then, she placed an around Shi Nuan's shoulder. "By the way, since you said you wanted to introduce us to Fu Chengyan, why not today? We're all free now and it's the weekend anyway. If it were a normal day, who knows when that busy man of yours will have the time."

"Now?" Shi Nuan thought for a moment. "OK. I'll call him and ask if he's free."

The three women found a comfortable spot to sit down, and Shi Nuan began to search for Fu Chengyan's number. Song Rongrong peeked at her screen. Seeing his contact name, she laughed hysterically. "Yian, guess what Shi Nuan saved Fu Chengyan's contact name as."

"Hubby'?"

"That's so old-fashioned. Guess again!"

"Baby'?"

"That One From Home'. Hahah! Tell me Shi Nuan isn't a weirdo. How could she use such a name? Fu Chengyan will probably be so mad if he were to see this."

Shi Nuan rolled her eyes at Song Rongrong. "What's so weird about this? I think it's a pretty good name!" She huffed while dialing Fu Chengyan's number.

On Fu Chengyan's side, screams could be heard coming from a dark building, a stark contrast to the bustling and lively view from the outside. This was the biggest trade market in Jiang City. All kinds of people came over, and Fu Chengyan was king of the night here.

Jiang Hu opened the iron door and walked out. The clean, white shirt he wore did not fit in with all the darkness and blood.

The man held a cigarette between his fingers. Clouds of smoke rose in the dark aisle.

"Mr. Fu!" Even a large, burly man like Jiang Hu spoke to Fu Chengyan so politely and respectfully.

Fu Chengyan turned around with a hand in his pocket and took a quick glance inside. "How's it going?"

"The little punk is really tight-lipped. He just won't say anything," Jiang Hu said while gritting his teeth. "But Mr. Su's methods are pretty effective. We can continue to use them!" Thinking about what just happened inside the building gave him delight.

Fu Chengyan's eyes narrowed slightly but remained dark. "OK," he said. As long as he could get results, it didn't matter what the process was. But Su Shaoqing really did have his ways. The man who usually held a scalpel in his hand could do such horrendous things to make others suffer. "Since he's not talking, there's no point in keeping him anymore. Let Shaoqing take care of him." "Yes, Mr. Fu!" Jiang Hu accepted his order as he wrapped his fist with his other hand. "I failed to perform my duties. I will accept your punishment."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and was just about to speak when he received a phone call right at this moment. That ringtone was exclusive to one person. Fu Chengyan reined in all his hostility and took out his phone. "What's the matter?"

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"You told me to make arrangements so you can meet my friends. Can we do it today?"

Shi Nuan treaded carefully, but Song Rongrong just had to yell from the side, "When are you going to treat us to a meal, brother-in-law?"

Fu Chengyan's narrow eyes lit up upon hearing Song Rongrong's words. As his lips curved into a smile that reached his eyes, his mood instantly brightened. He waved at Jiang Hu, indicating that he would take his leave.

Meanwhile, Jiang Hu's eyes widened in shock. He stared at Fu Chengyan in disbelief.

To Jiang Hu, the second master was always a man who stood above others. No one could ever go near him. But now, he was seeing a gentle side to Fu Chengyan that he had never seen before. Even as Fu Chengyan walked further away, he exuded an air of warmth and gentleness.

"What's up?" A hand slapped him on the back. Jiang Hu instinctively grabbed the person's arm and a scuffle ensued. After a few rounds, Jiang Hu finally stopped. "Don't slap my back as you please."

Jiang Hu was a brawny guy, but he wasn't simple-minded. "By the way, did something good happen to Mr. Fu recently?"

Zhou Zheng worked as Fu Chengyan's assistant, so he was always by Fu Chengyan's side. Jiang Hu envied how Zhou Zheng was much closer to Fu Chengyan than he was.

Zhou Zheng raised an eyebrow and tried to imitate Liang Lin who was a wolf in sheep's clothing. Zhou Zheng raised his hand to adjust his glasses. The problem was, he didn't even wear glasses. Zhou Zheng smiled. "So you've also noticed something different about Mr. Fu?"

"Of course! He was being all gloomy, then he suddenly turned into a gentleman from just one phone call. I've followed Mr. Fu like a dog all these years, but I've never seen him treat anyone like that!"

"Not even the one from before?" The corners of Zhou Zheng's lips tilted upwards. Jiang Hu shook his head. "No. Mr. Fu acted strange around her. Either way, I can't describe it. It's definitely not the same!"

"Come on, it's not like you and I can interfere with Mr. Fu's affairs. But since you asked, I'll tell you the truth. The person who just called was most likely the madam. Remember when I borrowed two men from your side? It was to protect the madam. Get your men to be more alert. If anything were to happen to the madam, I can't guarantee you'll live!"

"Madam? Mr. Fu is married?"

Fu Chengyan was on cloud nine after hearing Song Rongrong call him her 'brother-in-law'. "Are you free now?" He asked.

Shi Nuan blushed and gave Song Rongrong a whack before nodding. "Yeah, we just finished shopping. Rongrong and Yian want to officially meet you. I figured that today happens to be a non-working day, so..."

"Sure!" Fu Chengyan didn't hesitate at all. "So which one of us will choose the venue?"

"Hmm, I'll leave it to you!" Shi Nuan replied. "It's still early, so there's no need for you to come over so soon."

"OK!" Fu Chengyan smiled faintly as he drove out of the parking lot and returned to the Wutong Residence. "Are your friends picky?"

"They're alright!" Shi Nuan laughed. "They're about the same as me. Actually, they're not picky at all." Shi Nuan gave it some thought and figured that a simple meal would do.

"She's right, brother-in-law! As long as you're with us, we're OK with eating anything!" Song Rongrong yelled into the phone. "We're just scrounging for free food anyway."

"OK, Ms. Song. Then would you like to eat outside or...?"

"Can we drop by your place?" Song Rongrong snatched the phone from Shi Nuan. "Honestly, Yian and I can eat just about anything. It's such a rare opportunity to be treated to a meal. Or maybe you could let us visit your home?"

Shi Nuan thought that Fu Chengyan would be displeased and wanted to reject her suggestion when she heard Fu Chengyan agree breezily. "That's fine. Have Nuan take you both here then!"

With that, Fu Chengyan turned the car around and headed towards the largest shopping mall.

Song Rongrong hung up the phone and looked at Su Yian slyly. "Tsk tsk, look at how nice our brother-in-law is!"

Meanwhile, Su Yian shook her head, disagreeing with Song Rongrong's actions. "We're meeting him for the first time, so you should give him a good first impression. He's Nuan's husband, after all."

"It's fine. We get to take a look at Nuan's and Fu Chengyan's home and find out whether he really treats her well!" This was Song Rongrong's main intention. She couldn't care less about a meal. Thanks to Fu Xicheng, Song Rongrong now regarded everyone with caution. Even if Fu Chengyan seemed to do well last night, she still wanted to personally observe how Shi Nuan living conditions were.

Truthfully, even if Shi Nuan never admitted it, Song Rongrong could tell that Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan didn't have a very close relationship – at least not as close as Shi Nuan made it seem.

Shi Nuan couldn't do anything about Song Rongrong. "Alright, shall we get going then?"

"What's the rush? Let's shop more," Song Rongrong said casually. "Don't tell me Chengyan can't cook! Let me tell you: if a man can't cook, it's the woman who will suffer. You'd better be careful, Nuan. Don't end up becoming an old housewife!"

Shi Nuan was a jumble of emotions. "What's with that twisted logic?"

"I don't think it's twisted at all. Rongrong has a point," Su Yian said. "Let's continue shopping."

Fu Chengyan was always efficient in everything, even when it came to buying groceries and cooking. He would accommodate Shi Nuan's pace when shopping with her, but when he shopped on his own, it only took him over twenty minutes. He then drove back to the Wutong Residence.

The Wutong Residence was a real estate he had bought several years ago. He owned several similar residences, but Fu Chengyan decided to stay here out of convenience. He would occasionally drop by the other places when he felt like it.

This house was also further from the Fu family home, so Fu Chengyan felt more at peace. Aside from a few close friends and subordinates, Shi Nuan was the only person who had been to the Wutong Residence.

Earlier, Shi Nuan wanted to turn down Song Rongrong's request because she knew how much Fu Chengyan enjoyed his peace. Strangers were seldom

allowed into his home. In truth, Fu Chengyan felt that Shi Nuan had placed a small barrier between them, which was why he agreed to Song Rongong's request without any hesitation.

He wanted her to know that she was different from everyone else.

Fu Chengyan's cooking skills were commendable. He had gone through a lot in his younger days. Having left the country on his own at a young age, he had to do many things on his own. As time passed, he eventually formed the habit of looking after himself.

It didn't take Fu Chengyan long to prepare the all the ingredients. Seeing that it was still early, he took his time cooking.

Shi Nuan was on the way with Song Rongrong and Su Yian. Her two friends exclaimed that the place was too remote, but approved of the tranquil environment as well as the fresh air. "Wow! It looks like Chengyan has some high living standards. I heard this area is selling like crazy in Jiang City, and it's not because there are lots of buyers – it's because the prices are crazy!"

Song Rongrong was a fan of gossiping, so she was more knowledgeable about these things. "Your man sure is rich!"

"Of course he is. Just his name alone could frighten someone to death," Su Yian said while shaking her head. "By the way, Nuan, how did you meet him?"

Shi Nuan bit her lip, not knowing what to say. "It's a coincidence, I guess. When I was drugged twice, he was the one who saved me. I then found out that he was actually my maternal grandfather's student. Do you remember my grandpa talking about his star pupil? The prodigy who finished college at a young age and left the country?"

"Damn, that was Fu Chengyan?" Song Rongrong glanced at Shi Nuan in surprise. "Fate really brought you together! So you married Fu Chengyan because he was once your grandpa's student?" Shi Nuan shook her head. "You know the situation I'm in. You're also aware of how everyone in the Shi family treats me aside from the old man." Shi Nuan began to tell Song Rongrong and Su Yian about the previous incident.

Song Rongrong's eyes widened. "So that's why you married Fu Chengyan?" Damn, this is like a dream! That being said, those folks from the Shi family don't have an ounce of humanity. You're from the same family too, but they treated you horribly."

"That's not the point! The point is, is this really what you want, Nuan?" Su Yian was more concerned about how Shi Nuan felt. "I know you chose Fu Chengyan because the Shi family is oppressing you, but do you really love..."

"I know what you're worried about, Yian. Feelings don't come from nowhere. He treats me so well – isn't it just a matter of time before I fall in love with such a brilliant man?" Shi Nuan took a deep breath, unsure if she was trying to convince Su Yian or herself. Even so, Shi Nuan's heart began to beat erratically at the mention of Fu Chengyan.

"As long as you know what you're doing." Su Yian knew that Shi Nuan was actually a very tough person despite her gentle exterior. "If anything happens, don't carry the burden on your own. You still have Rongrong and I."

"Yup, you still have us," Song Rongrong said while patting her own chest. "But you're actually pretty cunning, Nuan."

Hearing Song Rongrong say that, Shi Nuan shot her a glance while driving. "What do you mean?"

"Didn't you say that Fu Xicheng's family is just a small branch from Fu Chengyan's huge family? And if we were to go by seniority, wouldn't Fu Xicheng have to call you his aunt?" Song Rongrong began to laugh as she went on. "Hahah! Imagine how pissed Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei would be if they find out that you're married to Fu Chengyan." Song Rongrong was in absolute glee. "When Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei get married, the whole family will be fawning over you and Fu Chengyan instead. Sh\*t, just the thought of this makes me so happy!"

Shi Nuan froze. She had never thought about this. But now that she did, her lips curled into a smile. "Perhaps so!"

"What do you mean 'perhaps'? It will definitely happen! Just imagine how pissed off Shi Wei would be, right, Yian?" Song Rongrong turned to look at Su Yian, who was quietly sitting at the back.

Su Yian couldn't help but laugh too. "I never realized how funny it'd be until you mentioned it. But Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei really need to be taught a lesson. What goes around comes around. They used to bully Nuan so much, so it should be Fu Chengyan's turn to get back at them!"

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Shi Nuan's eyes darted towards the rear-view mirror so she could see Su Yian. "I've noticed Rongrong is a bad influence on you!"

"What do you mean? I'm a great influence!" Song Rongrong said unhappily. "Yian and I just can't bear to watch anyone pick on you. They treat you like this because you still see them as family and refuse to retaliate. If I were you, I would have hung them up and beat them with a stick!"

"Oh, come on!" Shi Nuan laughed. "I know what kind of person you are anyway. You're sharp-tongued but always mean well!"

The three women chatted in the car. Shi Nuan drove steadily and very slowly. Suddenly, a speeding car overtook them and its driver even rolled down the window to beckon at them provocatively.

"Sh\*t, who the hell was that!?" Song Rongrong was a person who got aggravated easily, so she naturally couldn't let this go. "Overtake him, Nuan."

Shi Nuan pursed her lips and shook her head. "I'm not that skillful! Why should I compete with someone I don't know? We're almost there, anyway." Shi Nuan's nonchalant behavior caused Song Rongrong to explode. "Didn't you see the guy taunting us?"

Shi Nuan shook her head with a smile. "Maybe I blocked his path?"

"You seriously make me so mad." Song Rongrong could only swallow her anger when she saw how mild-tempered Shi Nuan was. As the three arrived at the Wutong Residence, they saw that same car parked outside. Song Rongrong was dumbfounded. "Don't tell me that's Chengyan's car!"

"It's not!" Shi Nuan shook her head. Fu Chengyan had many cars, but he never owned one so ostentatious.

"It's probably his friend's," Shi Nuan said doubtfully.

They got out as Shi Nuan arrived at the parking lot. Then, she brought Song Rongrong and Su Yian in. On the way in, Song Rongrong behaved like someone who had just landed in a new world. She looked hilarious. "Tsk tsk, Nuan, I know your man's rich, but I didn't think it was to this extent. Does this whole place belong to him?"

Song Rongrong scanned the entire exterior of the Wutong Residence. It was at least a few hundred square meters here, and there were no other houses round. "Doesn't it feel kind of empty living here?"

"It is pretty big," Shi Nuan said with a smile and opened the door to look for some indoor slippers. "Here, put these on." Just then, they heard a voice coming from inside. "Seriously, Chengyan? I haven't seen you cook for so long. Did you know that I was coming over and prepared all this for me?"

Shi Nuan raised a brow and exchanged glances with Song Rongrong and Su Yian. Then, they heard Fu Chengyan's cold and unamused voice. "Why are you here?"

"How could you treat me like this, Fu Chengyan? Who else would you prepare so much food for, if not for me– Huh?" Su Shaoqing was leaning against the kitchen door when he saw the three women in the living room. His charming eyes were full of smiles. "You're back, sister-in-law?"

Shi Nuan's lips twitched and she nodded slightly. "Yeah. Hello!"

"Do you still remember me?" Su Shaoqing stood there with his arms folded and legs crossed. He looked very relaxed.

Fu Chengyan walked out of the kitchen and glared at Su Shaoqing. "Get out of here, and go back to where you came from!" He said without a hint of warmth before turning to Shi Nuan. "You're back?" That gentle tone of his could give someone goose bumps.

It wasn't just Su Shaoqing; even Song Rongrong and Su Yian could see how differently Fu Chengyan treated Shi Nuan.

"Yeah," Shi Nuan said with a smile.

"Hello, brother-in-law! Do you still remember me?" We met last night," Song Rongrong said with a wave. "I'm Nuan's friend, Song Rongrong. This one here is called Su Yian."

"Nice to meet you!" Fu Chengyan was full of smiles and treated them especially well because of how they addressed him.

"Hey, hey, hey! What kind of friend are you, Chengyan?" Su Shaoqing was miffed when he realized he was the only one that was receiving the cold shoulder.

"Is there a problem?" Fu Chengyan challenged while glancing at Su Shaoqing. "What are you here for this time?"

"I have not seen you in a while. What's wrong with me dropping by?" Su Shaoqing had never met someone this ungrateful. A smile appeared in his gorgeous eyes, but there was something lurking underneath his innocuous façade. His expression unsettled everyone present.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes, not wanting to bother himself with Su Shaoqing. Instead, he walked over to Shi Nuan and took the shopping bags from her. "You must be tired. Go take a rest with your friends and watch some TV. Dinner will be ready soon." Then, he turned to Song Rongrong and Su Yian with a light nod. "It's my first time having you here. Please excuse any shortcomings!"

"No, no, no! We're the ones troubling you." Song Rongrong was a talkative woman, but she was still sophisticated when it came to the ways of the world.

Moreover, she and Su Yian understood that if it weren't for Shi Nuan, they would not even have the chance to meet someone like Fu Chengyan, let alone be his guest. "You're too kind, brother-in-law. Please carry on with what you were doing and don't mind us! We'll take care of ourselves, right, Nuan?" Song Rongrong winked at Shi Nuan. The latter could only smile in resignation. "Go on ahead. I'll keep them company."

"OK!" Fu Chengyan nodded then headed upstairs to put everything down.

As the three women sat in the living room and began to chat, Su Shaoqing felt that things would be rather interesting today. He followed Fu Chengyan upstairs and leaned against the bedroom door. "Looks like you're serious about this!"

Fu Chengyan looked up and paused for a moment. Then, he looked at the new clothes Shi Nuan bought and shook his head, asking, "Since when have I not been serious?"

Su Shaoqing's expression instantly became stern and he stared at Fu Chengyan solemnly. "I know I don't have the right to say this, but we're practically brothers, so I have to remind you this: once you start, you can't disappoint her."

Fu Chengyan frowned. "I know what I'm doing!" He didn't need anyone's reminder.

Hearing that, Su Shaoqing curled a corner of his lips. "You're also aware that it's not easy for people like us to obtain love."

"I'm not the same as you, Shaoqing!" Fu Chengyan said with a cold look on his face and one hand in his pocket. "I've never been the same as you. You should know that!"

Su Shaoqing wanted to say more, but eventually just raised his brows and let out a begrudging smile. "Yeah, we're not the same. Forget it. Since she's willing to bring her best friends over, I guess she's accepted you."

A broad smile formed on Fu Chengyan's face. "You came over for...?"

"Oh, right! For this!" Su Shaoqing took out a piece of paper and handed it to Fu Chengyan. "It's about the sleeping drug your wife inhaled last night. Its ingredients have been revealed. It comes from K Nation, so you'll have to be careful. This woman, Shi Wei, is probably just a smokescreen. We still don't know who the real person behind the scenes is."

Fu Chengyan took the paper and glanced at it before frowning. "Are you sure?"

"You still don't believe me? I personally analyzed it," Su Shaoqing replied. "So you'd better be more careful. Same goes for your wife!"

"OK, I got it." Fu Chengyan nodded and put the lab report away safely. "Since you're here, you should stay for dinner."

"Of course."

The two men headed down together and saw the women chatting away. The living room was filled with cheerful laughter. Fu Chengyan's lips curved into a smile and he had a warm expression on his face.

Su Shaoqing looked over at Fu Chengyan and clicked his tongue. "You've really fallen under her spell."

Fu Chengyan glared at him. "Do you want to leave without dinner?"

"I'm just kidding. You don't have to take it so seriously!" Su Shaoqing shrugged.

Shi Nuan and her friends were just talking about the embarrassing incidents they had experienced during their college years. Having been classmates and dorm mates, they stuck together every day, so they knew each other all too well.

"What are you three beauties chitchatting about?" Su Shaoqing walked over with an innocent smile.

Shi Nuan's smile faded away instantly. "Mr. Su."

"There's no need to be so courteous, Shi Nuan. You can just call me Qing or Shaoqing," Su Shaoqing responded affably. "And these two lovely ladies are..."

"Oh, let me introduce you to each other. This is Su Shaoqing, Yan's good friend. Shaoqing, these are my two best friends. This is Song Rongrong, and this is Su Yian."

"Hello!" Su Shaoqing nodded virtuously.

"Hi!" Su Yian smiled.

But Song Rongrong suddenly asked, "Does that car at the entrance belong to you?"

Su Shaoqing quirked an eyebrow and nodded. "Yes. Is something the matter, Ms. Song?"

Song Rongrong clenched her jaw. "So you were the one who provoked us on the road earlier?"

With her gritted her teeth and fierce expression that looked like she could devour him whole, Su Shaoqing remembered that he had indeed provoked someone on the road. But the car Shi Nuan drove once belonged to him – he had given it to Fu Chengyan after losing a bet.

That was why Su Shaoqing went to challenge Shi Nuan and her friends when he saw the car moving so slowly. He had thought Fu Chengyan was the one inside the car, and was wondering when his friend had become this bad at driving.

Yet, after sending out a challenge, they didn't chase after him, so Su Shaoqing thought he had mistaken a random car for the one he gave to Fu Chengyan.

As Su Shaoqing looked at Song Rongrong, then Shi Nuan, he immediately got it. "Did Chengyan let you drive that car?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "My workplace is kind of far from here, so..."

"I get it now," Su Shaoyong said with a smile. "I gave this car to Chengyan after losing a bet. But you know he's not a fan of flashy cars, so he's never once driven it. I think it's fitting that he gave it to you."

Su Shaoqing then proceeded to explain the misunderstanding: he had challenged them because he thought Fu Chengyan was the one driving.

"So it's all a misunderstanding," Shi Nuan chuckled. "I'll go check up on Yan to see how he's doing. Make yourselves at home!"