

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 161

In a blink of an eye, half a month passed with Shi Nuan working at Shengyuan. During this time, Shi Nuan learned a lot from Lin Yu. Lin Yu was a very opinionated and insightful person. In the beginning, Shi Nuan had some difficulty communicating with him, and often found him too harsh. However, after interacting more with him, her views of him changed for the better. She found that he was a nice person; at least, he was good to her.

Today, Shi Nuan had just finished work when she received a call from Jiang Yu. This surprised her a little. Ever since Shi Nuan got married, the Shi family didn't reach out to her, making her think that they had long forgotten about her.

As soon as Shi Nuan answered the phone, Jiang Yu's frosty voice drifted over, "Come back to Yun Ling tonight."

Shi Nuan was slightly taken aback, "Is something wrong, mother?"

Based on Jiang Yu's attitude towards her, Shi Nuan expected that it wasn't good. Sure enough, Jiang Yu confirmed it when she said, "You and Mr. Su have known each other for at least half a month, right? How are the two of you getting along?"

Mr. Su? "Mother, are you talking about Su Bancheng?" Shi Nuan bit on her lip when she thought about the fact that she had never even met this Su Bancheng before, let alone get along with him. She then answered, "I've been busy lately!"

"What's there for you to be so busy with? I heard Wei say that you've already left Fucheng. You're unemployed now, so what are you so busy with?!" Jiang Yu sounded like she didn't believe a word Shi Nuan said, "I'm telling you, Su Bancheng is my best friend's son.

He is from a wealthy family, has a good character, and is well-educated, so you better know what's good for yourself. Do you think that I'd be able to find you such a good match if it wasn't for Wei's marriage?"

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes slightly as discontent flashed across them, "Then you should just introduce him to Wei, mother. After all, she's got nothing to lose!"

"You..." Jiang Yu was angered upon hearing Shi Nuan speak to her in such a discourteous way, "This is how you speak to me? Let me tell you this. You don't have any say in the matter regarding Su Bancheng. Tonight, be at Yun Ling by seven; otherwise, don't ever call me mother again!"

"Mother!" Shi Nuan pinched her nose bridge, "If you really insist on doing this, you're leaving me no choice!"

Shi Nuan hung up the call and felt a headache brewing behind her eyes. With all that Jiang Yu had said playing in her mind, she dialed Fu Chengyan's number, "Yan, I might not be able to have dinner with you tonight."

"Hm?" Fu Chengyan squinted a little in confusion, "Are you working overtime tonight?"

"No!" Shi Nuan recounted the conversation that she had with Jiang Yu earlier, "I guess she just wants to get into the Su family's good graces, but she doesn't know that it wasn't Su Bancheng who met me that day, but Su Shaoqing. I'm afraid that her wishful thinking is just exactly what it is!"

"I see." Fu Chengyan's brows raised slightly, those sharp eyes of his glinting with a hint of iciness, "Just go then!"

"You..." Shi Nuan never thought that Fu Chengyan would be so easily persuaded, "But I don't even know Su Bancheng."

Fu Chengyan's lips twitched, "Don't worry and just go. It'll be fine!"

Shi Nuan felt relieved with Fu Chengyan's comforting words.

Fu Chengyan ended the call and immediately called Su Shaoqing. Just as Su Shaoqing was about to enter the operating theater, his assistant came over with his phone, "Dr. Su, this is for you!"

Su Shaoqing raised his brows when he saw Fu Chengyan's number on the screen. He couldn't help but laugh when he answered the phone, "Well, what do you know, Fu Chengyan? I just sent Arnold back to you for a few days and you're already..."

"Go to Yun Ling at seven tonight." Fu Chengyan cut straight to the chase. Su Shaoqing had a smile on his lips, but when he heard what Fu Chengyan said, that smile was wiped indefinitely off his face, "Why do I need to go to Yun Ling? Are you treating me to dinner?"

"You could say that!" Fu Chengyan then hung up the call, leaving Su Shaoqing dumbfounded on the other end without even having the chance to turn him down. His phone rang again before he could come to his senses, but this time it was his cousin, Su Bancheng.

Su Shaoqing's almond-shaped eyes widened slightly, "What a coincidence, I just got a call from Fu Chengyan. C'mon, bro, you're not calling to ask me to go to Yun Ling, are you?"

"I am!" Su Bancheng was stingy with his words, only responding with a simple answer, "Seven tonight!"

"For real?! For you and Fu Chengyan to request this of me... Are you supposed to be meeting Shi Nuan?" Su Shaoqing smacked a hand onto his mouth, "C'mon bro, this is going overboard. Helping you once was enough, but now you're asking me to help you again? What's going on?"

"So you're not gonna go? I heard that Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan got married? If I don't show up, it means that I'll have to let everyone know about this..."

“Fine, I’ll go. You happy now?” Su Shaoqing gritted his teeth, “Sometimes I wonder if I’d owed you guys in my previous life or something.”

Su Shaoqing handed the phone back to his assistant, “Later on after my operation, make an appointment with Dr. Liang to take over my next one. I have to go out to settle some matters!”

After Shi Nuan got off work, she received another call from Jiang Yu, who reminded her about dinner and ordered her to dress up nicely, sounding like a broken recorder as she repeated it over and over again. Although Shi Nuan was extremely reluctant to go, Jiang Yu used her authority as her mother to pressure her, so there was no way for her to refuse.

However, Shi Nuan didn’t change her clothes and went there in her office attire. It was already six thirty when she reached Yun Ling. Jiang Yu had already arrived a long time ago. When she saw Shi Nuan, she quickly waved her over. However, upon noticing Shi Nuan’s attire, her face instantly clouded over. “Didn’t I tell you to dress nicely? Look at yourself. What are you wearing? You look so old-fashioned. No wonder men can’t even look up to you!”

Jiang Yu’s every word clearly expressed her dissatisfaction towards Shi Nuan. Her eyes were full of disapproval as she scrutinized every inch of Shi Nuan, deeming her unpresentable no matter where she looked.

Shi Nuan frowned and looked down at her clothes, not finding anything wrong with the way she was dressed. But then again, Shi Nuan had already long gotten used to the way Jiang Yu treated her. However, Jiang Yu’s words were harsh this time, and it made Shi Nuan’s frown deepen, “I’m sure you know very well why I wasn’t able to keep my boyfriend, mother!”

“You...” Jiang Yu didn’t expect Shi Nuan to be so much more brazen than before. If it were in the past, she would never dare to refute her, but right now, she was going against her every chance she had. Jiang Yu glared vehemently at Shi Nuan and gritted her teeth, “Look at you right now. You’re like a middle-aged woman. Since you’re jobless now, you need to think about your future. At least

find a decent man if you can't find a decent job. Don't you want to have money so that you'll be able to live like a queen?"

"Mother, just what exactly makes you think I'm jobless?" Shi Nuan was curious, "You're right. I'm no longer working at Fucheng, but Jiang City is so big and there are plenty of companies besides Fucheng!"

"You..."

Jiang Yu didn't care whether Shi Nuan had a job or not. She believed that someone like Shi Nuan didn't deserve a better life than Shi Wei. No matter what she had, it couldn't possibly be better than Shi Wei's. In Jiang Yu's opinion, Shi Nuan would never match up to Shi Wei. So when she found out about Shi Nuan being fired from Fucheng, she was in fact very delighted. This way, Shi Nuan wouldn't be able to get close to Fu Xicheng, and Shi Wei wouldn't need to worry about something happening between Fu Xicheng and Shi Nuan.

"What decent job could you possibly get? Back then, wasn't Xicheng the only reason you were able to enter Fucheng at all? That was because Xicheng was worried you wouldn't be able to find a job, so he offered you one. And look what happened. You couldn't even do anything right in Fucheng. Even if Xicheng was your brother-in-law now, he can't just help you!"

"Mother." Shi Nuan couldn't listen to her insults anymore. She honestly felt that this mother of hers was an unusual one, always treating her as if she was adopted instead of her flesh and blood. Every word in each sentence expressed her disdain towards Shi Nuan.

Was she really such an embarrassment to her? "I wasn't fired from Fucheng. I left of my own free will." Shi Nuan countered her. When she saw the change in Jiang Yu's expression, her heart was filled with mild satisfaction, "I left Fucheng because I found a better job. It's just like you always say that the only way is up, right?"

“You? What decent job could you possibly find?” Jiang Yu clearly didn’t believe her.

“I guess it’s considered a decent job! I’m working at the project management department in the Shengyuan Group now.” Shi Nuan calmly took her seat just as Jiang Yu’s expression took a 360 degree turn, “Shengyuan Group? The company that belongs to Fu Chengyan? Xicheng’s uncle?”

“Fu Xicheng’s uncle?” Shi Nuan couldn’t help but laugh out loud, “I’ve been in Shengyuan Group for so long and not once have I heard about Fu Chengyan having a nephew of sort. I heard that he has a niece, but she’s only five or six years old!”

“You...” Jiang Yu slammed her palm on the table in anger, “Is that what you think? You’re just an employee at Shengyuan Group, no? Your sister was signed with Shengyuan’s Xinhuang as an talent. If you’re so sure that Xicheng and Fu Chengyan aren’t related, then go ahead and explain why Fu Chengyan signed your sister!”

“This is all thanks to Wei’s own capabilities. After all, Mr. Fu is a businessman. When he saw the business opportunities Shi Wei could bring, of course he’d sign her on to make money, right?” Shi Nuan admitted that she was indeed rather spiteful now. She just didn’t understand. They were both Jiang Yu’s daughters, and the Shi family’s blood, but why was Shi Wei so highly regarded in everything she did, whereas she was criticized for every little thing?

She spent twenty-over years living in the Shi family as if she were walking on eggshells. However, they always took her for granted, taking a yard when she gave them an inch. She had nothing but a little bit of dignity left, and she didn’t want even this to be taken away from her.

“What do you mean by this? Did you come here today just to spite me? Shi Nuan, I’m the one who raised you and this is how you repay me? Has your conscience been flushed down the drain?” Jiang Yu was livid, and her whole face turned a bright red color.

She didn't expect that Shi Nuan to become so ruthless. There were more to her words and her voice held no trace of fear in it. "I'm warning you, you're just an employee at Shengyuan, not some kind of big boss. So what's there to be so proud of?"

Don't forget that I'm your mother. Aren't you afraid of being condemned by God if you keep treating me like this? To think that I was worried you wouldn't be able to find a boyfriend and introduced my best friend's son to you. It seems like it was all just a waste of my time."

"I'm so sorry. So incredibly sorry for wasting your precious time," Shi Nuan gave her a smile of contempt, "In that case, I'll leave before Mr. Su arrives."

"You stay right there!" Jiang Yu slammed the table with her hand again, causing the tea cups to clatter in place. Her chest heaved as thoughts flashed across her mind. Previously, she had only wanted to scare Shi Nuan.

After all, Su Bancheng was the Su family's heir, and since Shi Wei was already married, she could only let Shi Nuan marry Su Bancheng. This way, the Shi family would be able to reap the benefits borne by the Su family in the future. No matter how reluctant she was, she had no choice but to do this. "Sit down. When Mr. Su arrives later, you better behave yourself! Otherwise, don't blame me for disowning you!"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 162

Just as Shi Nuan reached the door, it slid open. It was Su Shaoqing. He glanced at the two ladies in the room before his eyes settled on Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan was not expecting Su Shaoqing to turn up. She then recalled that Fu Chengyan had assured her that it was safe to come to this meeting, so she assumed that he had informed Su Shaoqing beforehand.

With one hand in his pocket, Su Shaoqing broke into a subtle smile. "Where are you going Ms. Shi?" asked Su Shaoqing.

"Is that Mr. Su?" said Jiang Yu as she hurried to the door to welcome her guest. "Shi Nuan thought it would nice to welcome you at the door," she explained.

"Is that so?" said Su Shaoqing as he looked at Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan pursed her lips and remained silent. Worried that Shi Nuan might seem rude, Jiang Yu discreetly squeezed her arm and whispered, "Go on and greet him, do not mess this up."

"Please come in Mr. Su, do not stand on ceremony! Shi Nuan has come all this way just to meet you!" Jiang Yu said as she reached out to give Su Shaoqing a tug while prompting him to have a seat. Su Shaoqing dodged her outstretched hand and gestured at Shi Nuan, "Ladies first."

Shi Nuan smiled courteously. "After you, Mr. Su."

Seeing that Shi Nuan was being cooperative, Jiang Yu heaved a sigh of relief. Jiang Yu turned away from Su Shaoqing and glared at Shi Nuan, wordlessly telling her to behave herself before turning back to offer him some tea.

Su Shaoqing declined Jiang Yu's offer, so she swiftly passed the teacups to Shi Nuan and ordered her to prepare the tea instead. "I remember that you have lots to tell Mr. Su," Jiang Yu prompted.

Shi Nuan ignored her pressurizing mother and made tea for Su Shaoqing. "Please have some tea, Mr. Su"

"Thank you," Su Shaoqing replied with a wink. Shi Nuan shot him a warning look, afraid that Jiang Yu would catch on. They must not let Jiang Yu find out anything.

All Jiang Yu could think of was to matchmake Su Shaoqing and Shi Nuan, with the hopes a marriage in the near future. Once the two get married, the Shi family would finally have a relationship bonded by marriage with the Su family.

"Why are you being so quiet, Shi Nuan? You were talking about him nonstop!" exclaimed Jiang Yu. "Please do not mind my daughter, Mr. Su, she is a little more shy in person. Believe me, she has been asking so much about you in private."

"Is that so?" asked Su Shaoqing septicly, intrigued by the pair of mother and daughter. Though, he was more impressed by Jiang Yu's ability to lie through her teeth so naturally.

Su Shaoqing looked at Shi Nuan, who kept mum regardless of what Jiang Yu said. She was unaffected by everything that went on.

"It is my honor to be on her mind," said Su Shaoqing.

Shi Nuan looked at Su Shaoqing and could not help but cringe at what he had just said.

All Jiang Yu could think about was how she could marry Shi Nuan into a wealthy family and benefit from the marriage ties. She was completely oblivious to the sarcasm in Su Shaoqing's replies.

“Please do not say that, the honor is ours. Shi Nuan is lucky to be acquainted with you. Don’t you agree, Shi Nuan?” asked Jiang Yu, surreptitiously giving Shi Nuan a pinch. “Go on, tell him about your feelings.”

Shi Nuan was unable to conceal her unhappiness. She stood up with a frown, “Please excuse me while I go to the restroom.”

Jiang Yu called out for her repeatedly but Shi Nuan ignored her and continued to walk away.

“I am sorry about that,” Jiang Yu said apologetically. “I must have had spoiled her when she was young. Please do not take it personally. Young ladies tend to be a little more shy when it comes to romance, but she did mention that she really likes you and is in favor of this marriage.”

All of a sudden, Su Shaoqing spat out the tea.

Taken aback by Su Shaoqing’s actions, Jiang Yu handed her a piece of tissue while she collected herself. “Is everything alright? Was the tea too hot? Let me apologize on Shi Nuan’s behalf. She should not have served such a hot tea for you. I am so sorry!”

As Jiang Yu seemed rather unconcerned about Shi Nuan, Su Shaoqing could not help but wonder if she was genuinely matchmaking her daughter with ‘Su Bancheng’. However, judging from how desperate Jiang Yu was, it did seem like she was in favor of the marriage. Su Shaoqing was confused, yet amused by Jiang Yu.

Su Shaoqing could not help but sympathize with Shi Nuan’s plight as she could easily guess how she was being treated at home just from Jiang Yu’s attitude towards her.

“Do not worry about it, I drank it in a rush and choked. Thank you for your concern,” Su Shaoqing replied coldly. “Shall we place the order for the food first? Do you have any preferences, Mr. Su?” asked Jiang Yu.

The food had already been served when Shi Nuan got back. She glanced at Su Shaoqing and sat down. "Ms. Shi, please have a seat. I have ordered some dishes, though I am not sure if they suit your palate. Feel free to let the waiters know if you would like to change any dishes," said Su Shaoqing.

"No worries, I'm not picky," Shi Nuan responded quickly as she did not want to prolong this meeting.

Jiang Yu's eyes lit up, "Look, even your food preferences are the same! You two must be a match made in heaven! In my opinion, we should arrange for a meeting with both families to discuss about the wedding!"

Jiang Yu's words had taken both of them by surprise. Unable to conceal her feelings, Shi Nuan frowned, unintentionally revealing her displeasure.

"Hold on, did you say 'wedding'?" Su Shaoqing let out a bark of laughter. "Aunt Jiang, I think we have a misunderstanding here."

"Misunderstanding? There is no misunderstanding. Are you not marrying my daughter? Your mother is a good friend of mine, and she has agreed to this marriage," replied Jiang Yu. "I cannot be wrong about this. I could tell that you were interested in Shi Nuan the last time I saw you at my elder daughter's wedding", added Jiang Yu confidently.

Shi Nuan clenched the pair of chopsticks in her hands, feeling deep resentment for her biological mother.

Seated next to Shi Nuan, Su Shaoqing could sense her emotions. Even if he was not perceptive, he knew that anyone would be infuriated after listening to Jiang Yu's words.

At that moment, Su Shaoqing wiped off the smile on his face. "I have to admit I do admire Ms. Shi as she has accomplished so much at such a young age. And with her beauty, it was only natural for me to be drawn towards her. However, I am afraid that you may have to clarify this matter with my mother, because I have

not heard anything from her regarding this. Even If she had agreed to it, she has no rights to intervene my relationships. I seek your understanding,” Su Shaoqing responded politely but firmly.

“How dare you speak to me in this manner? I am your elder after all. You should be respectful!” gasped Jiang Yu in disbelief.

“I have been, Aunt Jiang. It is precisely because you are a friend of my mother as well as an elder, I have been really polite. I admire Ms. Shi, and I would love to be friends with her. However, since I stepped into the room, all you did was force Shi Nuan into a marriage with me regardless of her feelings. Why are you doing that when she is clearly uncomfortable with it?” replied Su Shaoqing.

Without a smile on his face, Su Shaoqing sounded assertive.

Shi Nuan was shocked hearing Su Shaoqing’s response.

She had never seen Su Shaoqing like this. Although he was a cunning man, he was always well-mannered and spoke confidently with composure. To have made Su Shaoqing respond like this, Jiang Yu must have really angered him.

“You...” Jiang Yu was rendered speechless.

“With Ms. Shi’s caliber, you will not have to worry about potential suitors or her marriage at all. I would love to join you for a casual meal another time, but this meal has been rather unpleasant, so please excuse me. I will explain to my mother personally in regards to my relationship with Ms. Shi. I seek your kind understanding, Aunt Jiang,” said Su Shaoqing.

It was rare for Shi Nuan to find Su Shaoqing admirable, and it was even more rare to see her mother speechless.

“Please excuse me as I have something else to attend to, Ms. Shi. Would you be leaving now too?” asked Su Shaoqing.

“Oh, yes! I would love to leave too as I have work tomorrow.” Shi Nuan nodded with a smile.

“Let me give you a lift, Ms. Shi,” Su Shaoqing offered, but Jiang Yu was quick to reject it on Shi Nuan’s behalf.

Su Shaoqing furrowed his brow, “Are you against us being friends now, Aunt Jiang?”

Upset with the turn of events, Jiang Yu replied, “I need to have a word with my daughter. Since you have something on, do make a move without us.”

Jiang Yu refused to let her daughter leave with him. “It is okay, Mr. Su. Thank you for the offer. We drove here,” Shi Nuan complied to Jiang Yu’s wish. “Alright then,” Su Shaoqing said with a curt nod.

The moment Su Shaoqing was out of sight, Jiang Yu vented her anger on Shi Nuan and pinched her. “Are you a mute? Did you not hear how Su Bancheng insulted me just now? Why did you not speak up for your mother? I thought you were good at arguing?” Jiang Yu exclaimed.

“What were you expecting, Mother? Would you have wanted me to go against Mr. Su? Was it not your wish for me to get married into their family? If I had offended him, you could stop dreaming about marrying me into their wealthy family!” cried Shi Nuan.

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“You...you little brat...” Jiang Yu had lifted her hand to smack Shi Nuan when someone pushed the door of the room open, “Yo! What’s happening here!”

Su Shaoqing was leaning against the door frame while staring at Jiang Yu. Jiang Yu stiffened and halted with her hand still raised in mid-air.

Shi Nuan sneered without sparing a glance at Jiang Yu; then, she turned around to face Su Shaoqing, “Mr. Su, why did you come back?”

“Oh! I suddenly remembered that I have something to discuss with Ms. Shi. Well, guess I arrive in time to see this farce!” Su Shaoqing made an innuendo.

Jiang Yu’s face turned pale and she quickly retrieved her hand, “Mr. Su, is there something urgent that you need to talk to Nuan? Actually, I was just...”

“Aunt Jiang, I’m not an idiot and I can see what happened just now!” Su Shaoqing interjected coldly, “I never know that the missy of the Shi family is being treated so badly.”

His remark was a slap in Jiang Yu’s face, “Oh! Mr. Su, what are you talking about? Nuan and I have a close relationship with each other. What happened just now was just...”

“Mr. Su, let’s go!” Shi Nuan was unwilling to squabble with Jiang Yu anymore, let alone listening to any more of her lies. Nuannuan knew clearly that the sole reason Jiang Yu treated her nicely was to take advantage of her.

Su Shaoqing curled his lips, "Great, I will drive you home! But Ms. Shi, are you living with the Shi family or..." Su Shaoqing took a glance at Jiang Yu as he spoke.

Shi Nuan showed a mocking smile, "I've rented a house. I'll have to trouble Mr. Su to drive me home then." Shi Nuan's words rubbed in Jiang Yu's face since Jiang Yu had always mentioned that Shi Nuan was still living with them and that she cared a lot about Su Bancheng.

Both Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing left Yun Ling and Su Shaoqing burst into a gale of laughter, "Sister-in-law, your mom is such a nincompoop!"

Shi Nuan raised her brow, "Mm!" She was not in the mood of entertaining to his jest.

She could never change the fact that Jiang Yu was her mother and neither could she refute anything Jiang Yu did.

Su Shaoqing realized he had said the wrong thing and smiled awkwardly, "I'm sorry sister-in-law, I didn't mean to..."

"I know." Shi Nuan felt a little helpless, "It's just that we can't choose our family nor our parents."

"Yes!" Su Shaoqing nodded, "Sis-in-law, get in. Fu Chengyan called just now and he asked me to drive you home safely!" Su Shaoqing gestured her into the car as he opened the car door.

Shi Nuan smiled faintly, "I drove here so there's no need to trouble you."

"Hey, you're not.. Why don't you leave your car at Yun Ling? You can ask Fu Chengyan to drive it back home when he's free." Su Shaoqing advised her because he just received a call saying that there was someone suspicious walking around.

Shi Nuan took his offer since Su Shaoqing insisted, "It is my pleasure then."

"Please don't say that. You're like family to me." Su Shaoqing got behind the wheels and the car drove into the stream of traffic soon. Fu Xicheng was standing not far away with his fists clenched and his eyes glowering.

He couldn't believe Shi Nuan and Su Bancheng were together.

Fu Chengyan was busy in his study when Su Shaoqing sent Shi Nuan home safely. His eyes flickered when he heard the sound of car engine and paused his work at hand.

Su Shaoqing and Shi Nuan met Fu Chengyan who was halfway down the stairs and she rushed to him, "Yan!"

"Mm!" Fu Chengyan cast a glance at Shi Nuan and was relieved seeing that she had returned safely. Then, he shifted his eyes to Su Shaoqing. Su Shaoqing raised his brow, "Mission accomplished! But Fu Chengyan, how do you know there's someone out there?"

"Who's out there?" Shi Nuan peered at them dubiously, "What are you guys talking about?"

"Nothing!" Fu Chengyan stroked Shi Nuan's hair gently and caressed her cheek, "You must be tired, go up and get some rest. I need to talk with Shaoqing!"

"Oh...alright!" Shi Nuan nodded, "Then I'll go up now!"

Fu Chengyan's gaze followed Shi Nuan as she walked upstairs before looking back at Su Shaoqing, "It's just a guess of mine."

Su Shaoqing winced the corner of his lips, "Do you think you were god and could guess it right?"

“So there was really someone out there?” Fu Chengyan motioned Su Shaoqing to take a seat. He put his hand in the pocket and his eyes were contemplative, “Is it Fu Xicheng?”

“You must have had an undercover spy alongside him!” Su Shaoqing’s lips once again winced, “You’re right, I saw him there. I noticed his car before I entered and it was still there when I left. I went back after you called me but guess what I saw?”

“What?”

Su Shaoqing seemed intrigued, “Fu Chengyan, your mother-in-law is really a weirdo and a two-faced hypocrite. She’s been so rude to sister-in-law but she fawned on me immediately when I entered the room. She even tried to set me up with...Erm...I mean my brother and sis-in-law. She said sister-in-law had fallen for my brother at first sight and she misses and talks a lot about him!” Su Shaoqing was smiling but he was clearly disgusted with Jiang Yu.

“When I went back, it seemed like sister-in-law had an argument with her the she almost hit her!”

Upon hearing him, Fu Chengyan furrowed his eyebrows and a grim expression appeared on his face.

Su Shaoqing raised his brow, “But you need not worry because I think sister-in-law is not a weakling. She will not let Jiang Yu lay hands on her even if I didn’t go back in time. But I was doubtful of the Shi family and Jiang Yu’s strange attitude toward sister-in-law.”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips, “Go on!”

He realized it as well. Except for Jiang Shizheng and Shi Yunsheng, everyone else in the Shi family and Jiang family were mean to Shi Nuan as if she shared no family ties with them.

“That’s all I want to say. I just feel that sister-in-law was an adopted child. But if she really was adopted, why are her grandfather from the Shi family and your teacher treating her so nicely?”

Fu Chengyan’s eyes flickered in response. Su Shaoqing was intrigued by Fu Chengyan’s reaction, “I mean...don’t you think there’s something fishy between the Shi family and sister-in-law?”

“Ask Li Heng to delve deeper into this!” Fu Chengyan finally gave the green light but he added, “When are you going to take Arnold back?”

Su Shaoqing’s face stiffened, “Erm...it’s not very convenient for me to bring Arnold back!”

“Inconvenient? Why? Are you hiding someone in your house?” Fu Chengyan looked at Su Shaoqing suspiciously, “I had only promised to take care of Arnold for a few days. I’d never said that I would allow Arnold to continue staying here!”

“Hey! What do you mean by hiding someone? I’m innocent! I’m just too busy and I can’t even take care of myself let alone Arnold. In fact, Arnold was initially your dog with Shen...” he continued, “You know what...I don’t care! Arnold is not going back with me!”

Su Shaoqing left in a scurry as soon as he finished his words.

It’s the perfect timing for him to leave now before Fu Chengyan got him!

But it was his fault as he shouldn’t have mentioned that woman in the first place. Everyone knew that woman was a taboo for Fu Chengyan.

Although Su Shaoqing had no idea what had happened in the past, no one dared to mention that woman in front of Fu Chengyan since the day she left. Fu Chengyan wouldn’t get angry at the mention of that woman but he will definitely be annoyed.

Fu Chengyan sat at the living room for a long time. Then, he looked at Arnold who was leaning next to his feet. Arnold behaved as if it understood his feelings; it whined and rubbed its chubby head against Fu Chengyan's calf.

When Fu Chengyan entered the room, Shi Nuan just came out of the washroom after her shower and she smiled, "Are you guys done talking?"

Fu Chengyan nodded and waved his hand at Shi Nuan, "Come here!"

Shi Nuan trotted toward Fu Chengyan and stood in front of him. Her bathrobe was tied loosely and water droplets were still dripping from her long hair. With a towel in hand, she lifted her head to look at Fu Chengyan and flashed a gleeful smile, "What's wrong?"

Fu Chengyan's eyes darkened as he took over the towel from Shi Nuan. Then, he led her to sit on the couch and helped her rub her hair dry from the back.

Shi Nuan squinted her eyes in relaxation and slouched against the couch, "Yan, you are acting like my servant now."

"Mm?" Fu Chengyan raised his brow but his lips curled into a smile, "Your servant?"

"Yes, you take care of everything!" Shi Nuan brightened up, "No one had ever been so kind to me before! Look, now you're even helping me dry my hair!"

Fu Chengyan stroked the tip of her nose, "You and your sweet words! Have you done anything naughty behind my back?"

Shi Nuan paused, "Nothing." Then she added, "But I ate with another man today...is that naughty?"

"You're so guileful!" Fu Chengyan prodded Shi Nuan's forehead and she smacked his hand off her, "Don't you poke my head." She added, "But actually I do have something to tell you."

“Mm?” Fu Chengyan massaged her head gently to loosen her up, “Spill it out!”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips, “It seems like my mother is determined to get me married. Not only is she worried that I pose as a threat to Shi Wei, but most importantly, she wants to exploit me. If I marry Su Bancheng, the Shi family will gain a higher social status because of the Su family and that would be more advantageous than siding with Fucheng.

I bet you knew my parents’ attitude toward me. From Fu Xicheng and now Su Bancheng, their sole purpose was to exploit me. Of course, my mom is unwilling to let me marry Su Bancheng if they have a second choice. To my mom, I am worth nothing compared to Shi Wei.”

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She felt a sudden pressure on her shoulder so she lifted her head and bore into his eyes.

Fu Chengyan consoled her as he patted her on the shoulder, "You still have me!" Shi Nuan grinned and placed her hand on Fu Chengyan's, "I know!" She couldn't imagine what would happen to her if it wasn't for Fu Chengyan.

Initially, Shi Nuan started going out with Fu Chengyan in order to break free from the Shi family and she never thought she would fall for him. Her encounter with Fu Chengyan was totally unexpected but she never regretted it.

"Don't worry, I'm not the old naive Shi Nuan anymore and I won't be deceived. But I'm worried that she would ask me to date Su Bancheng. You can't let Su Shaoqing back us up all the time! On top of that, I'm afraid Su Bancheng's parents would know about this!"

"Don't worry, Su Bancheng will take care of it!" Fu Chengyan held her hands as he sat on the sofa with Shi Nuan in his arms while drying her hair with carefully, "You don't have to worry about this."

"Oh...and today Su Shaoqing was harsh to my mom. Do you think my mom would go to Su Bancheng's mother?"

Fu Chengyan paused; the thought had never occurred to him. However, he said, "That wouldn't be much of a problem, Shaoqing and Su Bancheng will take care of it."

"Oh...alright!" Shi Nuan nodded, "That would be great."

On the other hand, Su Yunwan had ended the call but her brows creased in displeasure.

She had been in poor health since she gave birth to Su Bancheng. She had insisted on giving birth to Su Bancheng and her health had deteriorated since.

All these years, Su Yunwan had been living a solitary life in Jiang City ever since she came back from Sheen City. Jiang Yu had contacted her out of the blue and brought up the past. Su Yunwan had always remembered that she owed Jiang Yu a favor and that was the reason why she set up the blind date.

But it seemed like Jiang Yu had changed a lot after all these years.

“Cheng!” Su Yunwan was holding on a string of chanting beads and she shook her head slightly, “I heard that you quarreled with your Aunt Jiang today?”

Su Bancheng was brewing tea and he paused for a while. He furrowed his brows but smiled and casually poured Su Yunwan a cup of tea, “It’s no big deal.”

“Is it? But your Aunt Jiang said you turned her goodwill down. I heard that the missy of the Shi family is quite a nice lady. Cheng, you’re not young anymore. You should spend more time with her and maybe you would start having feelings for her.”

Su Bancheng nodded, “Mother, I understand what you mean. Ms. Shi may be a nice lady but I have no control over my feelings.” Su Bancheng raised his hand to hand Su Yunwan a cup of tea and his gaze bored straight into her eyes.

Su Yunwan’s hand paused in mid-air while holding her teacup. She was a little lost in Su Bancheng’s gaze but she managed to return to her senses. “Mother was not trying to pressure you but I owe her a favor and now she asked for...”

“That would be easy. If mother had owed her a favor, I shall return her the favor as your son. I can definitely show up on the blind date. But I suppose mother had mistaken Aunt Jiang’s intention.”

“What do you mean?”

“Aunt Jiang wants me to marry Shi Nuan right away.” Su Bancheng’s gaze was cold, “Mother, do you know what’s at stake?”

“Fine, I will leave it up to you. But how long are you planning to stay this time?” Su Yunwan said, “It’s not appropriate for you to stay in Jiang City for long since you’re a member of the Jiang family. Don’t forget you’re the heir of the Jiang family, your father...”

“Mother!” Su Bancheng intervened in Su Yunwan’s words. He narrowed his eyes was getting impatience, “I know what I’m doing. Everything is under control in Sheen City. Mother, I will claim everything that belongs to me, don’t you have faith in your son?”

“Fine!” Su Yunwan pursed her lips. She put down her teacup and picked up her prayer beads.

Su Bancheng understood that they would never come to a consensus on this topic, “Mother, you should rest earlier today. I’d better get going now!”

Su Bancheng called Su Shaoqing as soon as he left Su Yunwan’s room, “What have you done today?”

Su Shaoqing had just arrived home and was about to call it a day when he received Su Bancheng’s call. He raised his brow at Su Bancheng’s interrogative tone, “What else could I have done? I went to see Shi Nuan at your request, didn’t I?”

Su Bancheng squinted his eyes, “What did you say to Jiang Yu? She was furious that she gave my mother a call!”

“What? She even dared to call Aunt!” Su Shaoqing was perplexed, “Actually I didn’t say much. But you know what, that woman asked me to marry Shi Nuan

immediately! Erm...wait a sec! I mean Su Bancheng, you're the one who's supposed to marry Shi Nuan! I would never promise her that!"

Su Bancheng frowned; it turned out to be exactly as what he had assumed, "You need to ask Fu Chengyan to solve it. She's his woman and he must solve the problem himself!"

"Hey, Brother! This is an agreement between you and Fu Chengyan so I have nothing to do with it! Aunt asked you to go on the blind date, not me!" Su Shaoqing muttered, "I'm tired and I have a surgery scheduled tomorrow morning so I'm going to bed now!"

"Wait!" Su Bancheng's gaze turned cold, "You know I don't have a good temper. I'm from the Jiang family and you're the one from the Su family. You will eventually need to take responsibility for the future of the Su family."

"Hey hey hey, my bad! I'm wrong, ok? I will communicate with Fu Chengyan, alright?" Su Shaoqing conceded, "I guess it's karma. I owed you and Fu Chengyan in my past life and now you guys are here to torture me." Su Shaoqing gritted his teeth, "Anything else?"

With an aloof expression, Su Bancheng ended the call and went downstairs where he met Su Shaoqing's father, Su Huaibei. Su Huaibei sighed as soon as he saw Su Bancheng, "I wouldn't need to worry that much if Shaoqing is half as capable as you. Cheng, you won't be leaving so soon, right?"

"Yes, uncle." Su Bancheng replied as he led Su Huaibei into the study, "The Su family is such a big family but no one is willing to take over the enormous family business. You're grandfather and I, we're growing older and will eventually leave the Su family business to you and Shaoqing. But Shaoqing has no interest in it, so it's all on you."

Su Huaibei was displeased that the younger generation of the Su family was running away from their responsibility. Other families were fighting for inheritance but no one was willing to strive for the Su family.

Su Bancheng curled his lips, “Shaoqing is still young and I can help to take care of the Su family temporarily. We will eventually let Shaoqing take over the Su family business once he’s ready!”

Su Huaibei shook his head at Su Bancheng’s words, “I think you’re more reliable than Shaoqing. Oh, and about Sheen City...”

“They wouldn’t need me back too soon since my brother is there.” Su Bancheng smirked but added as he met with Su Huaibei’s worried face, “Don’t worry, uncle. Jiang Shengjing still has no final say over the Jiang family at the moment.”

“That’s a piece of good news! I’m just worried that you might not be able to cope with both sides. Oh, I heard from your mother that she had arranged your marriage, you...”

“I will consider. She’s a nice lady but the Shi family is not a good choice for marriage.”

Su Huaibei nodded in agreement, “As long as you know what you’re doing. Your mother...she cares about you.”

“I know!”

Jiang Yu was still smoldering in resentment after she ended the call. She had never expected Shi Nuan’s disobedience and Su Bancheng’s unruliness. She thought Su Bancheng would compromise for the sake of her relationship with Su Yunwan but he was intractable.

Jiang Yu was used to having the whip hand in the Shi family. She was infuriated because this was the first time her had ever been humiliated.

When Shi Wei came back, Fu Xicheng was having a conversation with his father, Shi Jingzheng, in the study. Shi Wei entered Jiang Yu’s room and found Jiang Yu in a bad mood, “Mom? What’s wrong?”

“It’s all because of Shi Nuan, that little brat!” Jiang Yu couldn’t blame Su Bancheng so she placed the blame on Shi Nuan since she was her daughter.

Shi Wei recalled that Shi Nuan had met with Su Bancheng today, “Did Shi Nuan turn down the marriage proposal? Who does she think she is? Su Bancheng was such an exemplary man. How could she refuse to marry him?”

“This little brat won’t listen to me and Su Bancheng won’t compromise either. They gave me a slap in the face as soon as I mention their marriage. His mother, Su Yunwan has always treated me with respect but he was so disrespectful toward me.”

“Mom, you mean Su Bancheng refuses to marry Shi Nuan?” Shi Wei’s brows creased, “Then what should we do now? Actually, Xicheng was disheartened the whole day when he learned that you are setting Shi Nuan up with Su Bancheng and he even...”

Shi Wei was angry. Initially, Fu Xicheng promised that he would come back with her in the afternoon but he only fetched her at eight o’clock at night.

Jiang Yu clenched her fists at Shi Wei’s words, “You’re right, we can’t wait any longer! We must work it out as soon as possible.” Jiang Yu and Shi Wei would only feel relieved after Shi Nuan got married. “If Su Bancheng refuses, then we will look for someone else. I am sure we can find someone.”

“Mom, I think I have a better idea!” Shi Wei looked devious, “Do you still remember Yun Shen?”

“Yun Shen? Why do you mention him suddenly?” It irked Jiang Yu to think of Yun Shen. Yun Shen was a tough nut to crack.

“You know how unscrupulous Yun Shen’s reputation is in Jiang City. If we let...” Shi Wei whispered in Jiang Yu’s ears, “Mom, I don’t care! Xicheng will not give up as long as Shi Nuan doesn’t have a boyfriend or hasn’t gotten married. I can’t afford to let her ruin my hard-earned happiness!”

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Chapter 165

“Don’t worry, I will not let her ruin your happiness!” Jiang Yu said as she flashed a cruel expression. She won’t let Shi Nuan ruin Shi Wei’s happiness, just like how her mother had ruined hers.

Shi Wei was relieved once she had Jiang Yu’s reassurance. She knew better than anyone that not only did her mother didn’t love Shi Nuan but she hated her to the bone. Shi Wei had known this since a young age when she still had a close relationship with Shi Nuan.

Shi Wei was playful then. Once, she hid in the closet in Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu’s bedroom while playing hide-and-seek and overheard the secret — that Shi Nuan was not her biological sister. Instead, Shi Nuan’s biological mother was someone whom her mother hated. This had caused Shi Wei to change her attitude toward Shi Nuan.

Shi Wei never told anyone about that incident. However, she clearly knew that her mother, Jiang Yu was not truly genuine in helping her too. Jiang Yu did it mostly out of revenge because she would think of that woman whenever she saw Shi Nuan since they looked very much alike.

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes and displayed a frosty look. Since Shi Wei was little, her mother had taught her to seize everything Shi Nuan owned. She loved Fu Xicheng and she wouldn’t let Shi Nuan take Fu Xicheng away from her. Shi Nuan was a jinx — just like her biological mother.

“Remember don’t tell Xicheng about this. Both of you are newly-weds so talk to him nicely and don’t fight with him. Do you understand me?” Jiang Yu was worried that Fu Xicheng might still have feeling for Shi Nuan. Hence, it would

only bring more damage if Shi Wei were to fight with him. “You should show filial affection toward his parents so that they know you’re the perfect match for Fu Xicheng!”

“I know, mom!” Shi Wei had calmed herself down in order for her not to make any rash decisions. She couldn’t let it slide knowing that Fu Xicheng still had feelings for Shi Nuan but what else could she do? Fu Xicheng will never divorce her as long as Fu Yuqing and Liu Minjun acknowledge her as their daughter-in-law.

“That’s great. As long as you know what to do. I think Xicheng and your father are done with their conversation. Let’s go!”

Shi Jingzheng and Fu Xicheng were talking about business. Shi Jingzheng was very pleased with Fu Xicheng as his son-in-law because he was smart and diligent. Both of them met Jiang Yu and Shi Wei who just came out of the room.

Shi Wei clutched Fu Xicheng’s arm and her face lit up with glee, “Xicheng, you’re done talking with dad?”

“Mm!” Fu Xicheng’s brows creased as he suddenly recalled what happened at Yun Ling today. Shi Nuan had gone on a blind date with someone else and it was time for him to let go since there was nothing he can do. A pang of guilt hit him when he saw Shi Wei’s smiling face. He patted Shi Wei’s hand gently, “We’re just talking about business. What did you and mom chat about just now?”

“That’s a secret!” Shi Wei smiled, “Xicheng, let’s go home!”

“Alright!”

Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei left the Shi family but the atmosphere in the car was gloomy. Shi Wei was unhappy because Fu Xicheng had gone to Yun Ling today to meet Shi Nuan. However, she could only hide her anger as her mother had reminded her to not argue with Fu Xicheng.

Fu Xicheng had sensed Shi Wei's low spirits and he felt guilty as he recalled what happened today, "What's wrong?"

Shi Wei shook her head while looking distressed, "Erm...nothing. It's just that my mom had told me something."

"Mm? What is it?" Fu Xicheng decelerated when he saw Shi Wei was downhearted, "Tell me about it! You can always share your problems with me."

Shi Wei pursed her lips and pressed her hands together, "It's nothing actually." She stole a glance at Fu Xicheng. "My mom is worried that you would dump me because I am busy with my acting career and I can't take good care of you. She asked me to quit my career so I can spend more time with you and have a baby."

Fu Xicheng's expression suddenly changed but he managed to compose himself and said, "Mom cares about you but it's your decision though." Fu Xicheng reached for her hand and patted it gently, "Are you feeling insecure with me recently? It's all my fault, but Wei you know I love you."

"I know." Shi Wei bit her lips, "I know you love me, or else you won't...I know I'm wrong when I hurt Nuan previously. Xicheng, you know that my mom and I are constantly trying to make it up for Nuan."

"Mm!" Fu Xicheng nodded. He felt remorseful because he knew it. He felt sorry for Shi Wei as he looked at her. He knew Shi Wei loved him. After all, he had hurt Shi Nuan and he didn't want to hurt Shi Wei.

"Wei, I promise you that I won't do anything to displease you. You decide when we shall have a baby. I will never divorce you no matter what." He had married Shi Wei so he could only let Shi Nuan down.

"Mm! Thank you Xicheng, you are always so nice to me!" With her teary eyes, Shi Wei gripped Fu Xicheng's hands tightly. Unbeknownst to anyone, she was devilishly rejoicing in her heart.

Shi Nuan, you're a loser! Fu Xicheng belongs to me, Shi Wei!

Recently, Lin Yu had brought Shi Nuan along as they were working outdoors. She wore sports attire and sports shoes so it would be more convenient at work. Although it was wintertime, the sun was still blistering outside. Shi Nuan's weight had dropped drastically and her skin tone had darkened.

Song Rongrong couldn't stop laughing at Shi Nuan when she saw her appearance. Although Shi Nuan was working for Shengyuan Group, it looked like she was doing a mining job elsewhere. Shi Nuan was disgruntled because of his teasing.

It was rush hour when Shi Nuan and Lin Yu came back. Both of them discussed the issues in the West City development project while they were stuck in the traffic congestion.

Since Shi Nuan was inexperienced, she jotted down every detail of their discussion. Lin Yu raised his brow when he noticed her diligence, "I thought you are one of the spoiled missies born with a silver spoon in their mouth."

Shi Nuan never thought Lin Yu would initiate a discussion on this matter; she paused and then smiled, "Director Lin, then what kind of a person do you think I am?"

Lin Yu smiled, "You can call me by my name after working hour."

Shi Nuan curled her lips. "It feels weird to call you Lin Yu, I think I better call you Mr. Lin!"

Lin Yu shrugged his shoulder without making any remark.

He had discrimination against Shi Nuan but his impression on Shi Nuan had changed after getting to know her better. He knew Shi Nuan's background but he was surprised by her self-effacing demeanor.

The traffic gradually turned into a slow-moving stretch. Lin Yu had dropped the topic but Shi Nuan paused before she asked, "Mr. Lin, did you allow me to participate in this project because of Fu Chengyan?"

Lin Yu paused too before he replied, "Yes." He put it bluntly since Shi Nuan was frank to him, "Mr. Fu had asked me to guide you along in this project. Although I disapprove of the backdoor approach, you might be a competent person since Mr. Fu has high regard for you."

Shi Nuan was sheepish at his comments, "I don't think he thought that highly of me but he just offered me a short cut." Lin Yu shrugged off her statement and Shi Nuan was about to continue when her phone rang. It was a call from Fu Chengyan and she glanced at Lin Yu before answering the call, "Yan!"

"Did you go out today?" Fu Chengyan asked.

Nuannuan nodded, "Yes, I was out with Mr. Lin to conduct a survey." Shi Nuan took a look at her watch, "Are you off work? Did you get off work on time today?"

"Mm!" Fu Chengyan sighed as he cast an eye over the vacant project management department, "Where are you now?"

"I'm in the city center near Huaian Road." Shi Nuan said, "Why don't you go back first? I'll need to go to the office before I..."

Lin Yu asked, "Mr. Fu?"

Shi Nuan nodded and Lin Yu said, "Are you going to meet Mr. Fu? Tell him that I will send you there."

Shi Nuan smiled, "Will it be too troublesome?" Lin Yu shook his head, "It's not a trouble at all. Where are you heading?"

Fu Chengyan had heard their conversation from the other end of the line so he raised his brow and said, "We don't have any fresh vegetables in the fridge at

home. You can ask Lin Yu to drive you to JingNing Building and I'll wait for you there!"

Shi Nuan ended the call, "Mr. Lin, please send me to JingNing Building!"

Lin Yu's eyes flickered and then he nodded, "Alright!"

Both Lin Yu and Shi Nuan saw Fu Chengyan waiting at the entrance of the mall when they arrived. Lin Yu cast a glance at Shi Nuan, "Goodbye!"

"Goodbye, Mr. Lin!" Shi Nuan got off the car and scuttled towards Fu Chengyan.. Fu Chengyan waved at Shi Nuan with a bright smile as soon as he saw her. Fu Chengyan held her hand and both of them entered the mall together.

Lin Yu who was observing them from the car couldn't help but smile.

This was the first time he saw Fu Chengyan treating a girl with such loving tender care. It seemed like Fu Chengyan was genuine to Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan followed Fu Chengyan with one of her hands inside his coat. She leaned closer toward him, "Yan, what are we going to eat today?"

Fu Chengyan tilted his head to look at Shi Nuan and stroked her nose tip, "What do you want to eat?" His eyes darkened, "It seems like you have lost quite a bit of weight lately!"

"Have I lost weight?" Shi Nuan pinched her cheek, "But I thought I have gained a few kilos when I weighed myself a few days ago!"