

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 176

Silence ensued after Anna stated her request. It was so quiet in the room that one could have heard a pin drop. Anna clenched her fists nervously as she fixed her eyes on Fu Chengyan. Even though she was fearful of him, she had to give it a shot to help Su Su out.

Anna was not the only one who was highly strung, An Chenyu was feeling nervous too. After all, the man whom they were talking to was the legendary Fu Chengyan of the Jiang City. Even if An Chenyu had only heard of the man's prowess in the past, he had witnessed what happened to Anna. As such, he knew very well that Fu Chengyan was much more formidable than what he had shown so far.

Fu Chengyan twitched his lips and looked at Anna as he let out a soft laugh. Then, he picked up a card and twirled it between his slender fingers. "Has Ms. Anna thought it through? It's not often that I owe people favors. Since I promised to return you one, I will definitely keep to my word. But are you sure that you want to use your chance on an unrelated person?"

Anna took a deep breath and replied resolutely, "Perhaps to Mr. Fu, Su Su is an insignificant person but she's my friend. I know that Su Su and I used to assist Shi Wei in her plots against Shi Nuan and I deserved to be punished for that. But Mr. Fu, on the account that Su Su and I have already received our punishments. Can you please forgive us? After all, Shi Nuan... is fine!"

"Shi Nuan is fine because she was lucky. It doesn't mean that you people don't need to be punished!" Fu Chengyan's voice hardened. "If she wasn't lucky, she would have already gone through what you and your friend experienced, isn't it?"

Anna was lost for words because she knew that Fu Chengyan was right. Anna was fearful of the man because whatever he stated were facts. That was also the reason she chose to use up the huge favor in exchange for Su Su's safety. "Mr. Fu, I'm begging you. I know that it's just a lift of a finger for you to help us but for Su Su and I, it would be a new lease of life. We have already learnt from our mistakes. Su Su has even told me that she hates Shi Wei. She has already repented."

A half-concealed glint appeared in Fu Chengyan's elongated eyes. "Did she say that herself?" He asked.

Anna nodded and replied, "She knows that Shi Wei was only making use of us to get even with Shi Nuan. After her ordeal, Su Su hates Shi Wei to the bones. We never expected that she would expose those photos! We... Mr. Fu, please, if you could help us this time, we will definitely look out for Mrs. Fu if Shi Wei intends to harm her again. We will do anything you ask us to!"

Fu Chengyan put his hand up as an indication for Anna to stop talking. "The two of you may go now!"

"Mr. Fu!" Anna was not willing to resign.

Fu Chengyan did not respond but took a glance at An Chenyu instead. At once, the other man understood what he meant. He pulled Anna up from the chair and said, "Mr. Fu has agreed. Let's go!"

"Really?" Anna still couldn't believe her luck. However, she knew that An Chenyu wouldn't lie to her. With that in mind, she finally felt relieved and said, "Thanks, Mr. Fu. My brother and I shall excuse ourselves then."

Anna and An Chenyu had already reached the door when she stopped and turned around. She looked at Fu Chengyan and said, "Mr. Fu, is it ok for me to ask you something?"

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows and replied, "Shoot!"

“Were you the one behind Su Su’s incident?”

Anna’s heart was thumping so hard when she asked the question. After all, she did not have a good grasp of Fu Chengyan’s personality, not to mention knowing where his limits were.

Upon hearing the woman’s question, Fu Chengyan threw the card onto the table. Rubbing his fingers against the back of his hand, he threw the question back to her. “What do you think?”

Anna shook her head. “I don’t know!”

She held her breath as she waited for Fu Chengyan’s reply. In fact, An Chenyu was curious to know the answer too. After a long pause, Fu Chengyan finally spoke. He said in a clear and nonchalant voice with a tone of menace, “If I were the one, her current state would be ten times worse!”

Color drained from Anna’s face as she staggered two steps back. Fortunately, she did not fall as An Chenyu caught her just in time.

An Chenyu supported Anna, who was out of sorts as they walked out of the room. Zhou Zheng left after them, shutting the door behind him.

Su Shaoqing brushed his fingers against his chin as he said, “Chengyan, it seems like you have already mastered the art of scaring others.”

Fu Chengyan raised his eyes and cast a sideways glance at Su Shaoqing. “Do you wish to experience it too?”

Su Shaoqing’s expression changed at once. Arching his brow, he said, “No thanks. I can’t afford this special treatment. But things are getting interesting. I didn’t expect that someone would take action before you.”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes as he replied, “I’m not surprised that he did that.”

“Tsk-tsk!” Su Shaoqing shook his head and let out a sigh. “Yun Shen seems to be much more decisive than his brother.”

Fu Chengyan glanced at Su Shaoqing indifferently and replied, “He can’t keep his cool.”

Su Shaoqing nodded his head in agreement. Yun Shen was definitely more ruthless than Yun Jing. Because of that, the Yun family was wary of him and had been trying to diminish the sphere of Yun Shen’s influence. Even though Su Shaoqing was not interested in business matters, he knew a little about the happenings of the rich and powerful families.

Yun Shen was a rare talent indeed. He often gave people the impression that he was unrestrained and frivolous but those were just defenses which he had put up on the surface.

In fact, Su Su’s incident was Yun Shen’s deliberate act. It was to affirm other’s impression of him and also throw a warning to both the Yun and the Shi families. He was definitely not a simple man.

The extent of his ruthlessness was comparable to Fu Chengyan’s. He had even gotten two men to humiliate Su Su and that shocked Shi Wei.

“I’m actually curious to know why he didn’t deal with Shi Wei directly.” Su Shaoqing tut-tutted and continued, “You’re no different. You could have destroyed that bi**h with one finger but chose to let her get away with it for so long!”

“There’s no rush!” Fu Chengyan cocked his eye, before continuing, “Have you watched the cartoon Tom and Jerry? Having Jerry as his meal was never Tom’s goal.” The man’s plan was to torture Shi Wei to death. She would be tormented slowly until she took her last breath.

“Tsk-tsk, if you were born in the old era, what’s waiting for Shi Wei would definitely be the torture chambers!” Su Shaoqing shook his head. “OK, it’s getting late!”

“It’s indeed getting late. I should go home now!” Fu Chengyan agreed and stood up. He slung his jacket across one arm and put his other hand casually in his pocket. “Follow me to my place and take Arnold back with you!”

“No, I’m not free now!” Su Shaoqing panicked when he heard that and tried to escape. However, Fu Chengyan stood in front of him swiftly, blocking his way and stared at him with a pair of stern-looking eyes. “Take it away!” He insisted. It was really inconvenient with Arnold staying at Wutong Residence. He felt that it was an invasion of May and his privacy.

Naturally, Su Shaoqing was not willing to budge. “You think I don’t know? You are sending Arnold away because you are irritated that he is affecting your privacy! C’mon! He’s just a dog. Besides, he’s YOUR dog!”

“Since you knew that he has come in the way between May and I, you should just adopt it then”

The two men started getting physical with each other as the argument progressed. It was not clear who started the fight but they were already throwing kicks and punches at each other when they finally realized what they were doing.

Fu Chengyan’s blows were powerful but Su Shaoqing was not any weaker. He managed to dodged every blow and had even made some impressive moves himself.

After some time, none of them got the upper hand but sustained some injuries. However, it seemed like Su Shaoqing had more bruises on his body not including the parts that were covered by his clothes.

Su Shaoqing had always told Li Heng that Fu Chengyan was a sinister and crafty man, who would never allow himself to be taken advantage of.

Apart from the few punches to Su Shaoqing’s face, Fu Chengyan had also attacked him at various areas that were covered such as his stomach, waist and calves. Those were solid punches.

Even though Fu Chengyan was also hit by Su Shaoqing, he had managed to dodge most of the blows. As such, even though he was also injured, it was not serious.

Su Shaoqing panted heavily as he raised up his arms to surrender. "I lost! You win, OK? I'll take Arnold away immediately!" Su Shaoqing said grumpily. "Why are you fighting with your best friend over a dog! Does that even make sense?"

Zhou Zheng, who had witnessed the comical scene of the two grown man fighting each other was trying to suppress his laughter. He had been standing at the doorway for some time. Even if he wanted to help, there was nothing he could do.

Everyone knew that these two men were skilled fighters. They would not showed their prowess easily but every blow they let out could be lethal if they did so.

As Su Shaoqing swept his gaze towards Zhou Zheng, who seemed to be enjoying himself, Zhou Zheng straightened his back immediately and said, "Mr. Fu, Mr. An and Ms. Anna have left. Mr. An wanted me to convey his gratitude to you."

Fu Chengyan frowned and nodded his head. Su Shaoqing was bemused. "Why did he thank you after you have threatened him? Maybe he's cursing you behind your back!"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and cracked his knuckles. "It seems like you are itching for another round?"

"No, thank you!" Su Shaoqing shook his head at once. "I have admitted defeat. Chengyan, I still have a surgery to perform in the afternoon. Do you know how precious my hands are? I have even insured them for one billion! You can hit my face but have mercy on my hands yeah?"

Zhou Zheng finally let out a laugh as he heard Su Shaoqing's words. He had been trying really hard to keep it in. However, as the man was trained by Fu

Chengyan after all, he possessed superior mental qualities. Zhou Zheng swiftly returned to his serious mode and said, “Mr. Su, Mr. Fu had referred Ms. Anna to a top cosmetic surgeon in the world.”

Su Shaoqing was suddenly enlightened. “Ms. Anna’s face did look a little... horrifying!” Su Shaoqing could still see her scars clearly although she had applied makeup, Physical appearance was everything to a woman.

Although Fu Chengyan suffered some bruises on his face, it was still the envy of both men and women. It had not diminished his imposing aura in the slightest bit. The man had walked off after he smoothed out his shirt.

“Hey, wait up!” Su Shaoqing ended up following Fu Chengyan back to the Wutong Residence and took Arnold with him.

As Arnold was being led away by Su Shaoqing, he barked continuously. When they reached the gate, he scratched on it frantically and looked at Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan with pitiful eyes. It tugged at the woman’s heartstrings. “Can we not send him away?” She asked.

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Both the man and the dog looked in Shi Nuan's direction with gratitude. Shi Nuan was stunned to see both Su Shaoqing and Arnold together. She found it so amusing that she didn't know whether to laugh or to cry. She could still accept Arnold groveling for her attention. But when she saw a similar expression on Su Shaoqing's face, Shi Nuan couldn't help but laugh. "Yan?"

Fu Chengyan wasn't affected at all. He shot a glance at Shi Nuan. "You choose between me and Arnold!"

F***!

Su Shaoqing cursed and swore in his heart at that very moment. He never expected Fu Chengyan to be so brazen to even compete with a dog. There wasn't going to be any glory even in victory.

"Fu Chengyan, you're a savage!"

Before Shi Nuan could make a choice, Su Shaoqing pulled Arnold away. He just couldn't stand their public displays of affection.

Shi Nuan was left dumbfounded as she watched Su Shaoqing leave angrily. She turned and glared at Fu Chengyan. "How can you act like that? One is your good friend while the other is your dog."

"Nothing is more important than you!" Fu Chengyan was really adept at saying sweet nothings to her.

No matter how upset Shi Nuan was, Fu Chengyan's sweet nothings were always enough to dissipate her anger. She shook her head and frowned. "Why did I ever fall for you?" After a while, she examined Fu Chengyan's face and used her hand to check on his wounds. "Does it hurt?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head and held Shi Nuan's hand. "No, it doesn't!"

"How can it not hurt? You said so yourself that both of you are no longer children, so why are you still getting into a fight with each other?" Shi Nuan said as she was still worried for him.

Apparently, this was how it started. When Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing returned, Shi Nuan was playing with Arnold. Shi Nuan was bored as it was the weekend but Fu Chengyan had gone out to run some errands.

Shi Nuan was shocked to see his face was bruised when he returned so she asked him what happened. Only then did she know that they hit each other while they were fooling around. "How did you get hit so badly when you said that both of you were just fooling around?"

"I'll go get some medication to apply on you." As Shi Nuan went to look for the first aid kit, Fu Chengyan stopped her and shook his head. "There's no need, it isn't serious."

"No, you sit still while I get the first aid kit." Shi Nuan motioned for Fu Chengyan to sit as she ran upstairs to look for the first aid kit. When she came back downstairs, she heard Fu Chengyan talking on the phone as if he was giving instructions. It was then that she heard Su Su's name.

Shi Nuan bent down and helped Fu Chengyan to apply the medication. "Su Su? Why did you bring her up?"

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow and said, "We're indebted to Anna because she saved you. Now, we are returning the favor!" Although Fu Chengyan was talking about it casually, Shi Nuan knew that if not for Anna informing her of the plan in

advance; she wouldn't have been able to escape safely no matter how well prepared she was.

After all, Shi Wei hated Shi Nuan's guts. To make things worse, there was Yun Shen who couldn't be trusted. Hence, Shi Nuan knew how much Anna had helped her that day. No matter what Anna's motive was for helping her, she did save her in the end. Or else, she would face the same consequences as Su Su..

"What do you plan to do?"

With regards to Su Su, Shi Nuan had seen what happened to her with her own eyes. Although she wasn't a saint, she still pitied Su Su when she saw the state she was in then. Now that Su Su was in such a pathetic state, Shi Nuan felt that there was no point in holding a grudge against her anymore.

Nevertheless, the news about Su Su had gone viral on the internet. The news would spread very fast with the help of social media nowadays. Not only would everyone in Jiang City know about it but perhaps the whole country too. The impact on Su Su could be devastating.

Fu Chengyan curled his lips and shook his arms as Shi Nuan put the medication back in the first aid kit. She was then pulled into Fu Chengyan's embrace. Shi Nuan laid in Fu Chengyan's arms quietly. Her hands fiddled restlessly with his sleeve which was rolled up.

"I've asked Zhou Zheng to look into it. When the video was first exposed, the characters' faces were blurred off so it wasn't really clear. Everyone is still guessing who it was as no one was able to confirm the people involved." Fu Chengyan frowned when he finished. "Su Su doesn't want to have them charged."

Shi Nuan knitted her eyebrows as she nodded. "I understand her worry. If she were to press charges on them, this matter would blow up. Not only will the lives of the family of those two perpetrators be upended, but Su Su's family will also be

affected. This matter will definitely be widely covered by the media and it will be damaging for her!”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “I’ll get my contacts to remove all the videos. Most of the people in the circle are just busybodies and don’t really care about what happened. Hence, it shouldn’t be too difficult to deal with!” Fu Chengyan reached his hand out and stroked Shi Nuan’s hair. “Don’t you hate her for sabotaging you the last time?”

Shi Nuan furrowed her brows. “I would be lying if I said I didn’t. But now that she has suffered so much, I can’t help but pity her. Shi Wei was the real mastermind while Su Su was the victim this time. If I can tolerate Shi Wei, then I’m sure I can tolerate her.” Shi Nuan squeezed Fu Chengyan’s fingers. “Do you think I’m too soft-hearted?”

“No, you’re just being sympathetic.” Fu Chengyan kissed Shi Nuan’s forehead. “Let’s go and get changed upstairs. I’m taking you out!”

“Now?” Shi Nuan’s eyes sparkled. “Where are you taking me?”

“We are going to the equestrian club!” Fu Chengyan smiled as he said, “Didn’t you say that you wanted to ride a horse?”

“Haha, you actually remembered!” Shi Nuan laughed in delight. She was very excited for she had watched a periodic drama the other day and felt that the male and female leads looked ravishing while riding horses. She then made a passing remark that she wanted to ride out of envy. She did not expect him to remember it. “I’ll go and get changed right now!”

“Go ahead!” Fu Chengyan stroked her head. “I’ll wait for you!”

Shi Nuan changed quickly as she knew she didn’t need to put on any makeup since they were going to the equestrian club. All she did was put on some sunscreen.

She put on sportswear and tied her long hair into a bun giving her a vibrant look.

She had a small face with delicate features that looked pleasant to others. The sportswear she had on made her look even younger.

Fu Chengyan was in formal wear. When he compared himself to Shi Nuan he realized that their styles were too contrasting. He couldn't help but raised an eyebrow as he said, "Wait for me!"

"Alright!" Shi Nuan replied but still followed Fu Chengyan upstairs. She went into the walk-in wardrobe with him. "Yan, why don't you put on some sportswear too? You should try the grey top which I bought for you while we were at the mall. I think you'll look great in it!"

Shi Nuan's voice was filled with excitement as she followed behind Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan turned around and said with glee, "Alright!"

They left the house after half an hour. Fu Chengyan called Zhou Zheng to send more men to the equestrian club. When they arrived, not only did they see Zhou Zheng and his bodyguards but Su Shaoqing and Li Heng too.

Su Shaoqing had met Shi Nuan many times before including at the Wutong Residence. However, it was the first time she met Li Heng.

Shi Nuan had heard about Li Heng before but had never seen him in person.

Fu Chengyan held her hand as they got out of the car. They saw Su Shaoqing and Li Heng leaning against the car door. Su Shaoqing looked back at them with interest. Although there were also bruises on Su Shaoqing's face, it did not make him any lesser.

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow slightly as he looked at Su Shaoqing before turning his gaze to Li Heng. He furrowed his eyebrows as he asked, "Why are both of you here?"

“Chengyan, you’re not being fair to me here. I helped you pick Arnold up not too long ago and here you are at the equestrian club with Mrs. Fu!” Su Shaoqing walked over and smiled as he greeted Shi Nuan, “Mrs. Fu, it’s a pleasure to see you again!”

Shi Nuan’s lips twitched as she replied, “Haha, what a coincidence!”

Su Shaoqing snorted before he laughed, “A coincidence indeed.”

Fu Chengyan wasn’t bothered to be polite towards Su Shaoqing as he introduced Shi Nuan to Li Heng. “May, this is Li Heng.”

“It’s a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Li!” Shi Nuan reached out her hand in a friendly manner. Li Heng raised one of his eyebrows and curled his lip up slightly as he replied with a deep steady voice, “The pleasure is mine.”

Unlike Su Shaoqing, Li Heng spoke concisely. “I heard that both of you had officiated your marriage but I haven’t got the chance to congratulate you yet. This is the first time we’ve met. When you and Fu Chengyan hold your wedding banquet, I’ll definitely send both of you a big present!”

“Let me thank you in advance then.” Shi Nuan laughed. Li Heng was a lot more serious compared to Su Shaoqing’s easy-going attitude. However, Shi Nuan felt that he was someone you didn’t want to mess with. From the way he spoke, she could gather that he had seen and done a lot, just like Fu Chengyan.

“Mrs. Fu, you don’t have to address him as Mr. Li. It’s too formal. Just call him Li Heng will do!” Su Shaoqing smiled as he looked towards Li Heng. Li Heng shot him a glance in return as he nodded. “If you don’t mind, you can call me Li Heng!”

“Li Heng!” Shi Nuan nodded as she looked towards Fu Chengyan. “Aren’t you known as Jiang City’s Big Four ? Who’s the last one?”

“Do you mean Pei Jingxiu? Tsk Tsk, Mrs. Fu, Jingxiu seldom shows himself so it’s not easy to meet him in person. Nevertheless, I’m sure you will see him sooner or later.” Su Shaoqing laughed heartily. “Jingxiu said that he will definitely be there when Chengyan gets married.”

Shi Nuan was doubtful and turned to look at Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan nodded. “He is a busy man and is often not in Jiang City. We won’t be able to see him during this time of the year, perhaps sometime later. He will definitely be there when we hold our wedding dinner!”

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The equestrian club was in the outskirts where there were vast amounts of empty land. Only the rich and famous would come here to pass their time. Shi Nuan had heard Song Rongrong talked about it before but had never been there.

Song Rongrong's family was not considered very wealthy but was rich enough still. When she was little, her family hoped that she would do well in life and brought her to places where the rich and famous would hang out. She told Shi Nuan that she had visited this equestrian club when she was fifteen. She was almost stomped to death by a horse during the visit so she never dared to return since the accident.

Although Shi Nuan had started out full of enthusiasm and was looking forward to horseback riding, she started to feel apprehensive the moment she arrived. She had never ridden a horse before and only saw the actors ride them on TV. Sometimes she would watch horse races where the jockeys were professionals.

Fu Chengyan could feel that Shi Nuan was nervous and he held her hand to reassure her. "Don't worry, I'm here. You will be fine!" Fu Chengyan smiled. "The facilities here are very safe. Even if you're not confident in them, you still have me here!"

"By the way, if you're still not confident in Chengyan, you still have both Li Heng and I here. Li Heng's horse-riding skills is a lot better than Chengyan's. He's really good at it." Su Shaoqing approached Shi Nuan bravely to reassure her as he too saw that she was nervous. "If Li Heng fails, you still have me!" Su Shaoqing beat his chest as he declared, "I'm the best among the three of us!"

“Oh?” Shi Nuan felt her nervousness dissipate a little after hearing Su Shaoqing’s words. She laughed and said, “I believe you when you say that Li Heng is better than Yan. But, it would be ludicrous to think that you are more skilled than both of them!”

Shi Nuan started to play along with Su Shaoqing’s attempt at humor. She said, “I am confident in Yan’s skill. I think you had better put in more effort to keep up with him.”

“Pfft!” Su Shaoqing made a heart-piercing gesture when he heard her. He then turned to Li Heng to complain. “Li Heng, look at them. They are displaying public affection everywhere they go. Don’t you think this is unfair? I don’t remember you being this rude when you first got married.”

The moment Li Heng heard those words, his jovial expression turned into a gloomy one. He shot a sharp glance at Su Shaoqing who immediately realized that he had said something wrong. He then gulped as he raised his hand apologetically. “I’m sorry. It’s my fault! I know better than to bring her up in front of you.” Su Shaoqing took another look at Fu Chengyan but was no longer able to smile. “I was just saying that both of you don’t have to be so harsh on me. One of you is her brother while the other is her husband. I mean ex-husband. Nevertheless, Pei Huan had left for such a long time. Haven’t you gotten over her yet?”

Li Heng pursed his lips as he lifted his eyebrows. He was visibly upset to hear Su Shaoqing bring up the topic. Even Fu Chengyan looked miffed as the person Su Shaoqing was talking about was his sister Fu Jiazhen. She was also Li Heng’s ex-wife, Pei Huan.

“What about you? Fu Ling left long ago, why haven’t you gotten over it yet?”

Pei Huan’s name was a taboo to Li Heng and Fu Chengyan. Just like how the name Fu Ling shouldn’t be mentioned in front of Su Shaoqing.

The three of them had problems in dealing with what happened then.

Shi Nuan felt like an outsider as she didn't know their story from the old days. However, she was sure that both Pei Huan and Fu Ling definitely had something to do with it.

Shi Nuan felt awkward being caught in the middle of the conversation. She shook Fu Chengyan's hand and asked, "Erm...Yan, didn't you say that you will teach me how to ride?"

Shi Nuan spoke at the right time as she broke the awkward silence among the three friends. Fu Chengyan nodded with a smile and stroked her hair. "Alright, let's go. I'll take you to get changed and we will go pick a horse."

As Fu Chengyan led Shi Nuan away, Su Shaoqing stared at them from behind. He felt a sense of remorse in his heart. After a long while, he finally said, "I'm sorry!"

Li Heng squinted his eyes and put a hand in his pocket. He handed a cigarette to Su Shaoqing with another hand. Su Shaoqing waved them away. "I've quit!" Perhaps Li Heng wasn't aware that he had quit many years ago. He would only smoked once in a blue moon to scratch the itch."

Li Heng glared at him as he retracted his hand and put the cigarette pack back in his pocket. He turned over the cigarette in his other hand as he looked towards the horizon. "I made a mistake too."

Both of them exchange glances and smiled as they made peace. "Let's go have a race with Chengyan. The two lonely men shouldn't let him show off that easily."

Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow and said, "You definitely got that right!"

Shi Nuan turned back to take a look at them. "I hope both of them won't fight!" The atmosphere was so tense just now that she was worried that the three of them would start fighting. Hence, she quickly changed the topic to ease the tension. But Fu Chengyan had pulled her away too quickly so she was worried that Li Heng and Su Shaoqing would start brawling.

“No, they won’t. Don’t worry.” Fu Chengyan’s eyes gleamed with confidence. He knew in his heart that it was more likely that they ganged up on him rather than fighting with each other.. “The four of us won’t get into a fight that easily. Hence, Li Heng won’t do anything to Shaoqing.”

“Really?” Shi Nuan was doubtful. She could feel the overwhelming animosity just now. If not for her presence, they would have all started fighting.

In fact, Shi Nuan’s fears were not unfounded as it happened before. It was just that Fu Chengyan kept it from her to not frighten her instead. “Really!”

Shi Nuan nodded. “If that’s the case...can I ask you something?” Shi Nuan bit her lip. “Is Pei Huan, that was said to be Li Heng’s wife, the same person as Fu Jiazhen whom you have always talked about? Is she your sister?”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Yes, she is my uncle’s daughter but got mixed up at birth. She was brought up by a man named Pei Qingcheng. Pei Huan found out about the mix-up by sheer luck as she looked very much like my aunt. So, that aroused suspicions and they proceeded to investigate. Her relationship with Li Heng was a long story. They got married but broke up because of a misunderstanding. We still don’t know where she is until now.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips as she didn’t know what else to say. Although Fu Chengyan didn’t say much about Pei Huan, Shi Nuan could feel how much she meant to both Li Heng and Fu Chengyan. “Didn’t all of you look for her?”

Fu Chengyan shook his head. “Of course we did. But she is a very headstrong character and it’s hard to change her mind. I’m afraid it will be really difficult to get her to come back.” Fu Chengyan frowned as he finished. “When she disappeared, she left behind some divorce papers for Li Heng. It is very likely that she has decided never to return!”

“What about Li Heng? What did he say about it? Does he not want to look for her?”

“May, not everyone’s relationship is that clear cut!” What Fu Chengyan meant was it was up to the parties involved to resolve their problems. Even though Pei Huan was his sister, there wasn’t much he could do. It was really up to them both.

Shi Nuan understood instantly and held on tight to Fu Chengyan’s hand. “Yan, promise me that you will never leave me no matter what happens.” She was fearful of being betrayed as she had already experienced the despair that came with it once. She knew that she couldn’t bear to experience it the second time.

“I won’t unless you leave me. Or else, I’ll never do that to you!” Fu Chengyan squeezed her hand in return. “I know promises aren’t something that’s reliable. But to me, I’ll never break it once I have made one!”

Shi Nuan nodded as she replied, “I love you, Yan!”

“I love you too!” Fu Chengyan kissed her forehead and then gently relieved the tension in her eyebrows with his fingers. “What else you do want to know?”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Fu Ling.”

Fu Chengyan’s expression darkened and Shi Nuan could feel his grip tighten. “She is the other sister that I had mentioned to you before that was trusted by the Fu clan.”

“Fu Jiasi?”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Her situation is different from that of Pei Huan. She’s my half-sister as she was born out of wedlock when my father made a mistake when he was young.” Fu Chengyan frowned. “She wasn’t compatible with the Fu family and equally unsuitable for Su Shaoqing.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. “Did she also break up with Su Shaoqing because of a misunderstanding?”

“No.” Fu Chengyan shook his head. “There was no misunderstanding between them. It was simply because they didn’t love each other anymore. They were unsuited to begin with.”

Shi Nuan felt her heart drop. “What about her? Where did she go? Did she disappear too just like Pei Huan?”

“I’ll tell you more about her next time. But you must definitely not bring her up in front of Su Shaoqing, or else he will go ballistic!” Just as Fu Chengyan finished, they arrived at the changing room. “I have a private room here. Zhou Zheng have already made the preparations in the morning so I think you will find your riding gear inside.”

“Alright!” Shi Nuan nodded as she put the matter of Pei Huan and Fu Ling at the back of her mind for the moment. She then followed Fu Chengyan into the changing room.

“Here they are. Why don’t you give them a try!” Fu Chengyan handed Shi Nuan the riding gear. “I’ll teach you some basic techniques before we pick out a horse for you. Since it’s your first time, we’ll just let you experience have a feel of it. I’ll bring you back the next time we get a chance. Hopefully, we will be alone then!”

He had planned to spend the weekend with Shi Nuan as he wanted to take her mind off what happened recently. Although she didn’t seem to be traumatized, Fu Chengyan was worried that it still might have some impact on her. However, he did not expect Su Shaoqing and Li Heng to join them instead.

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow in surprise when he saw Shi Nuan emerged ready from the changing room. As she turned around for him to see, his eyes glinted in awe of how she looked. She had tied her hair into a tall ponytail and her face hardly had any makeup on but she looked gorgeous.

Her usually calm disposition could no longer be seen as it was take over by someone who looked vibrant and energetic.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 179

“How does it look?”

Shi Nuan was anxious when she saw that Fu Chengyan didn't say anything. She looked down to check on herself instead. She had never worn something like this and neither did the people in the periodic dramas. She felt strange wearing these clothes. However, when she saw the fiery passion in Fu Chengyan's eyes, her insecurity melted away.

Shi Nuan curled up her lip, “It looks alright, doesn't it?”

“It's gorgeous!” Fu Chengyan managed to squeeze those two words out of his mouth as he regained his senses. He smiled as he helped Shi Nuan adjust her clothing. “You can wait for me outside. I'll be out very soon!”

“Sure!”

Shi Nuan left the room and saw that Su Shaoqing and Li Heng had changed too. They looked like totally different people in their gear and she was impressed by how they looked. It even made her forget Su Shaoqing's usually foolish demeanor for once.

Shi Nuan blinked as she saw Li Heng and Su Shaoqing come out. She then greeted them first. “Li Heng, Su.”

Li Heng gave a light nod in acknowledgment but Su Shaoqing couldn't help but notice that there was a difference in how she addressed them. “Mrs. Fu, you greeted him as Li Heng but called me Su instead. You're being more formal with me on purpose, despite us knowing each other for a longer time!”

“Why don’t I call you Shaoqing then?” Shi Nuan laughed as she didn’t expect Su Shaoqing to pick on something as trivial as that. She had just decided to call him Su because it was just more convenient than his full name Su Shaoqing while Li Heng’s name was shorter anyway. She had made it a habit.

Su Shaoqing’s eyebrows relaxed as he was satisfied with her response. However, he added, “I saw the look on your face when you saw both of us just now. If Chengyan had seen it, he would definitely be jealous!”

“Jealous of who?” Fu Chengyan walked out at that very moment and he scanned Su Shaoqing from head to toe. “May had good taste.” It obviously meant that Su Shaoqing was inferior compared to him.

Su Shaoqing was perplexed, “Chengyan, how can you say that? Don’t I have many good qualities? Am I not eligible enough? Even if I don’t fit Mrs. Fu’s taste, what about Li Heng? He’s definitely on the same pedigree as you are!” Su Shaoqing was bent on creating some mischief.

Li Heng glared at Su Shaoqing when he heard what he said. “Shaoqing, are you trying to get yourself in trouble?” Li Heng’s voice carried a tinge of frostiness which was different from Fu Chengyan’s brooding style. Shi Nuan looked at Li Heng and felt that he was certainly a complex character.

Fu Chengyan held onto Shi Nuan’s hand as they walked and said, “Just ignore them. They always behave that way. Let’s go and find you a horse!”

Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan then left the other two. Shi Nuan followed Fu Chengyan from behind as she was gently pulled along by him. Her eyes were fixated on his figure from behind. He looked really good in his riding breeches as she had expected. His all-white breeches paired with black leather boots made him look amazing.

Fu Chengyan had a large frame but wasn’t muscle-bound. The lines of his body looked very pleasant. His figure was the epitome of what a male model’s figure was supposed to be.

Fu Chengyan stopped in his tracks and checked on Shi Nuan. He saw her ogling at him and couldn't help but curled his lips into a grin. His eyes were filled with gentleness and glee. Shi Nuan was awestruck. Then, she finally blinked as she said, "Yan, you look really good. You're the most handsome person that I have ever seen."

"Oh? Is that so?" He squeezed her small hands and smiled. It was early winter and the weather was still relaxing and comfortable.

Someplace far away, Su Shaoqing's eyes glistened and he turned to look at Li Heng who was behind him. However, Li Heng had looked away and seemed to not be in the mood to talk to anyone. Su Shaoqing pursed his lips and watched as Li Heng left. But he then went after him a while later. "Don't you think it's rude of Fu Chengyan to just leave us like that while he takes Mrs. Fu for a ride? What are we really here for?"

"Wasn't it your idea to be here?" Li Heng shot a glance at Su Shaoqing. "You're the one that's looking for trouble. Who are you trying to blame?" Li Heng's voice was cold as he didn't bother to be polite with Su Shaoqing.

He had just been made to feel bad over the fact that he was single and now Li Heng had criticized him too. Su Shaoqing felt that he could no longer continue being friends with them. He then left with a turn of his head. Li Heng narrowed his eyes and looked around. His mind was filled with images of that person. They had both come horse riding here and she told him that they would be together forever.

Pei Huan. Oh, Pei Huan! It's been three years now. Why haven't you returned?

Fu Chengyan chose a docile-looking horse for Shi Nuan because this was her first time riding. He was worried that she was too scared and that she wouldn't be able to control the horse. He then walked with her as he held the reins of the horse. When she sat on the horse and she stroked the horse's neck gently then said, "Yan, he's a really good boy!"

“Yes!” Fu Chengyan looked up and saw her face filled with delight. “Shall I let go for you to try?”

“Sure!”

With Fu Chengyan’s encouragement, Shi Nuan rode by herself for a while and realized it wasn’t as scary as she thought it was. The horse seemed to understand what she wanted and was quite friendly.

Suddenly she felt a gush of wind sweep past. When she regained her senses, she saw Su Shaoqing and Li Heng racing on the track. The magnificent sight that unfolded in front of her reinvigorated the need for excitement in her. “Yan, Li Heng and Su Shaoqing seem to be racing. Who do you think will win?”

Shi Nuan turned to look at Fu Chengyan who was behind her. “Yan?”

Fu Chengyan looked up. “Li Heng!”

“Oh? How do you know?” Shi Nuan glanced at Fu Chengyan and returned her gaze towards Li Heng and Su Shaoqing. “Yan, is Li Heng really good? Who would win in a race between both of you?”

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. He narrowed his eyes and looked over her face before staring at her quizzically. “What? Do you want me to race with them?”

“Can you?” Shi Nuan asked in anticipation.

She was already happy enough to be here and she even got to ride a horse. She didn’t want to do anything too challenging. Fu Chengyan knew that Shi Nuan wasn’t really interested in horses. All she wanted was to satisfy her curiosity. He then helped her down the horse. “Alright! But we have to ask both of them first!”

“Sure, let’s go!”

When Fu Chengyan saw how happy Shi Nuan was, he couldn't help but stroke her hair. "I can see that you're really excited even more so than I am."

"Of course!" Shi Nuan laughed excitedly as she held Fu Chengyan's hand. "I want to see how good you really are!"

Fu Chengyan let out an adoring smile and asked, "What if I lose?"

"Lose?" Shi Nuan bit her lip and made a reluctant face. She then said, "If you lose so be it! It's no big deal after all!" Although she had not thought about what would happen if he lost, it had never crossed her mind that he would lose. But she could see that Li Heng was really skillful. So it really isn't much of a deal if he lost anyway.

However, it was going to be a race where she would never know the results. The reason was that Fu Chengyan received a call from his family and they wanted him to return at once.

Fu Chengyan frowned as he ended the call. Shi Nuan saw his expression and asked, "Did something happen?"

Li Heng and Su Shaoqing came over coincidentally and looked towards Fu Chengyan. "Are you not racing?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head. "Unfortunately no, something came up at home and I need to head back. I don't know what's going on yet!" Fu Chengyan then glanced at Shi Nuan, "I can't accompany you anymore and I'm afraid you have to go home on your own."

"Don't worry about me. You have something more important to attend to. Besides, you can spend time with me anytime you want!" Although Shi Nuan was understanding, Fu Chengyan was still upset. He lifted his eyebrow slightly at Li Heng and Su Shaoqing. "Till next time!"

Li Heng nodded. "Indeed." He then looked in Shi Nuan's direction. "If you don't mind, why don't you join me and Shaoqing for a meal? And we can send you home afterward as it's getting late."

Although the question was directed at Shi Nuan, he was asking for Fu Chengyan's permission in essence.

Fu Chengyan nodded. "Sure, sorry for the trouble." Fu Chengyan patted Shi Nuan on her shoulders. "I feel so much better if you can go with Li Heng and Shaoqing!"

Shi Nuan chuckled when she heard him. "I'm glad you're worried about me but I'm an adult too. I'll be fine even if Li Heng and Shaoqing don't send me home. You should go and attend to your matters and not worry about me."

After Fu Chengyan left, Shi Nuan smiled and looked towards Li Heng and Su Shaoqing. "I'll be in your hands."

"You're welcome."

Shi Nuan rode in Su Shaoqing's car as he felt that she was more familiar with him since she knew him longer. Besides, she was more of a serious person and so was Li Heng. If they shared a car, it would likely be awkward for both of them. Besides, Li Heng had never bothered to be courteous to anyone other than Pei Huan. Su Shaoqing was worried that he might say something that would offend Shi Nuan instead.

Shi Nuan didn't really mind but since Su Shaoqing insisted, it would be rude for her to decline.

"Aren't you curious?"

Su Shaoqing looked at Shi Nuan as she sat there quietly.

Shi Nuan paused for a second before looking up at Su Shaoqing. “What is there to be curious about?” She was going through the pictures on her phone which she took at the equestrian club. There were some of Fu Chengyan and also those from when Li Heng and Su Shaoqing were racing.

She held the phone in her hand as she looked at Su Shaoqing. “What do I need to be curious about?”

“About the reason Fu Chengyan was called back to his family home for?” Su Shaoqing said as his fingers tapped on the steering wheel. He seemed to be insinuating something. “Hasn’t Fu Chengyan brought you to see the Fu family after such a long time?”

Shi Nuan furrowed her brows slightly as she nodded. “That’s true.”

Su Shaoqing curled his lips. “Aren’t you curious as to why he hasn’t brought you there?”

“It’s me that decided to keep our relationship a secret for the time being,” Shi Nuan said. “That’s why I haven’t met them. Is that a problem?”

Su Shaoqing was so surprised that he almost floored the accelerator. “What did you say? It’s you who wanted to keep it a secret and not Fu Chengyan?”

Shi Nuan’s eyes widened. “What’s so strange about it? It was my decision. You know how my family is. So I don’t think it’s a good idea to let others know about my relationship with Yan. I don’t want my family to take advantage of him or cause him any unnecessary trouble!”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 180

Su Shaoqing was surprised to hear what Shi Nuan said. "Then you are really..."

"What?" Shi Nuan looked up at him. Su Shaoqing's eyes sparkled for a moment as he broke out into a smile. "Nothing much, I just feel that you are really thoughtful!"

Shi Nuan laughed. "I just don't want to burden him. All these will just become an unnecessary distraction for him."

Shi Nuan knew her family very well. If they knew about their relationship, they would certainly try to take advantage of it. It would put Fu Chengyan in a difficult spot and their relationship would lose its simplicity. She wasn't keen to let that happen.

Su Shaoqing shrugged his shoulders and didn't continue with that topic. "Where would you like to eat?" Since Fu Chengyan was not around, he was now responsible for taking care of her. If Fu Chengyan found out that they left her hungry, it would be very difficult for him and Li Heng to explain themselves. There was nothing he could do about it. Both of them always deferred to Fu Chengyan due to what happened in the past.

Shi Nuan didn't know what Su Shaoqing had in mind. She wondered what was so important that the Fu clan had called Fu Chengyan back so urgently. She was worried that it could be something serious. As Fu Chengyan's wife, there was no way she could help shoulder his burden. The only thing she could do was to not be in his way.

"What would you like to eat?"

Su Shaoqing smacked his lips as he recalled, "I can still remember how delicious your cooking was."

Shi Nuan smiled when she heard his compliment. "Are you asking me to cook? It's not a problem for me. I'm just worried if that's acceptable to Li Heng. We do have to take his opinion into account!"

"I'm fine with anything!" Li Heng's voice suddenly surrounded the car and gave Shi Nuan a fright.

Shi Nuan looked around in surprise. "How can he hear us?"

Su Shaoqing grinned as he took out a walkie-talkie. "I'm sorry. I think I forgot to turn it off just now."

Shi Nuan, "..."

Su Shaoqing chuckled. "I hope you don't mind!"

Shi Nuan eye's twitched. "No, no I don't. By the way, what would both of you like to eat?"

"Hotpot? It's a great choice under this weather. But it's kind of weird for us to eat together like that!" Su Shaoqing pointed out. Shi Nuan understood what he meant immediately. She smiled in response. "If both of you don't mind, I can invite two of my friends. I think you might know them!"

"Song Rongrong and Su Yian?" Su Shaoqing remembered them because of Shi Nuan. Or else, it's not like him to remember anyone that isn't really related to him.

Shi Nuan nodded. "They are both my best friends and are pretty nice too."

“It’s settled then!” Su Shaoqing and Li Heng liked the idea so Shi Nuan gave both Song Rongrong and Su Yian a call. The two of them had just finished work. Song Rongrong’s work required her to work everyday while the teahouse that Su Yian ran was open daily.

They readily agreed when Shi Nuan invited them to dinner.

Shi Nuan went to the mall to shop for ingredients with the two men. Once they returned to her home, she went straight into the kitchen and started preparing for dinner.

Li Heng and Su Shaoqing sat in the living room and chatted. When they started talking about Shi Nuan, they paused for a moment. “It looks like Fu Chengyan is serious this time?”

“That’s what I said!” Su Shaoqing had met Shi Nuan before Li Heng did. Hence, he had a better understanding of what was going on. “It’s just that I’m a little worried!”

“What are you worried about?” Li Heng raised his eyebrow. “Worried if the other woman returned?”

Su Shaoqing nodded. “You were there when it happened and saw for yourself how serious the incident was. Ever since then, Fu Chengyan’s disposition became more gloomy.” Su Shaoqing recalled what had happened then and felt melancholic about it. “Everyone was sure they would be together then!”

Su Shaoqing noticed that Li Heng was looking in the direction of the kitchen when he finished. “What are you thinking about?”

“I think it might not be the case!” Li Heng grinned. “Shi Nuan is different from her. Although Fu Chengyan loved that woman a lot, it probably wasn’t as much as you thought!” Li Heng didn’t think that she would be a threat to Shi Nuan.

Su Shaoqing didn't agree. "Just wait and see! I just feel that it would become a real issue unless she doesn't come back at all. Or else Chengyan might...I'm just not optimistic about it. However, I do feel Shi Nuan is an amazing person and they do complement each other very well. Ever since they got together, Chengyan's disposition improved a lot."

Su Shaoqing had a good opinion of Shi Nuan, probably because he had met her a few times already. Ever since she got together with Fu Chengyan, she did not seem to have any other motive.

Li Heng furrowed his brows. "This is not something that you should be worrying about." He paused. "But..."

"But what?" Su Shaoqing couldn't help but be intrigued. "Are you now worried about something else?"

Li Heng shook his head. "When both of you asked me to investigate her background, I found something." Li Heng rubbed his forehead with his long fingers.

That was the reason why he had appeared at the equestrian club. He wanted to meet Shi Nuan himself since she could cause the workaholic Fu Chengyan to fall for her.

He finally understood why after meeting her today. She was someone that was gentle on the outside but tough on the inside. Although they had only interacted for a short time, he felt that she was someone extraordinary after observing how well she carried herself both in terms of speech and behavior. Most importantly, she knew where she stood and managed to find some sort of balance with Fu Chengyan.

"What did you find?" Su Shaoqing was intrigued. "Both Chengyan and I find that her family's attitude toward her to be strange. Both she and Shi Wei are their daughters. However, the treatment that their parents gave them was at opposing

ends. Jiang Yu herself had tried to harm her daughter multiple times. I really don't understand her motive.”

“It's easy. Perhaps Shi Nuan isn't Jiang Yu's daughter; however, Shi Jingzheng doesn't treat Shi Nuan well too. Hence, she may still not be an illegitimate child of his. There's one other explanation left; Shi Nuan is not related to them by blood.”

Something clicked in Su Shaoqing's mind. “Do you mean that Shi Nuan may not be Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng's child?” It makes more sense that way. But there was one other thing. “Shi Yunsheng treated Shi Nuan as his own and so was Jiang Shizheng. Unless they didn't know the truth. Or else why would they be so nice to her? They both treated her a lot better than normal grandparents would.”

“True, I find that strange too. I can only try to find out more.” Li Heng said. “I have not informed Chengyan about this yet. I'll tell him once I know more!”

At that moment, the doorbell rang. Shi Nuan rushed out of the kitchen but saw that Su Shaoqing had beaten her to the door. “Let me get the door while you continue with the food!”

“Sure.” Shi Nuan smiled and turned to see Li Heng approached her. “Do you need help?”

Shi Nuan was stunned for a second before she replied, “Oh, there's no need. I can manage on my own!”

“No worries. We're the ones that are being a nuisance. You shouldn't need to be polite with us!” Li Heng took off his jacket and walked into the kitchen. Shi Nuan gasped as she saw Li Heng getting down to business. She didn't stop him but she was surprised at how fast he was with his hands when preparing the food. “I was surprised to see Yan cook, but you too?”

Li Heng nodded. “Yes, I lived overseas since I was young and had to do a lot of things myself. After some time I just got used to it.” As he spoke, he finished washing the vegetables and brought out the mushrooms. He asked, “I'm

surprised that you know how to cook too. As a daughter in the Shi family, I expect you not to have to do any chores.”

Shi Nuan’s expression darkened. “One must learn how to be independent. I’m sure you must have heard that before!” Shi Nuan smiled “I moved out on my own when I was young and stayed in the hostel with my friends during my university days. So I had to cook for myself all the time.”

Li Heng furrowed his eyebrows. “No wonder!” He asked, “Do you need these mushrooms to be cut?”

“Oh? Just leave them there. I’ll do it myself!”

“Please don’t treat me like a stranger. You should treat me the same way as you treat Shaoqing.”

Shi Nuan felt that Li Heng was actually someone that was quite affable. She wondered if she had misunderstood him previously and had the impression that he was not approachable.

The fact was that Shi Nuan’s first impression was correct. Li Heng was indeed hard to get along with. What she didn’t know was that he was seldom friendly with any other women. After so many years, the only person he was nice to was Pei Huan. The reason he was being friendly to Shi Nuan now was so that he could find out more about her background.

When Song Rongrong and Su Yian were stunned when they saw Su Shaoqing opened the door. It was Song Rongrong that was the first to recover her senses. “Oh, didn’t Nuan invite us for dinner? Are you here to join the party too?”

Su Shaoqing squinted his eyes. “It seems that you don’t welcome me.”

Song Rongrong pouted. “No I didn’t. You are misunderstood.”

“Hello!” Su Yian greeted Su Shaoqing politely before tugging at Song Rongrong’s sleeve. “That’s enough!”

Song Rongrong walked past Su Shaoqing reluctantly as she entered the living room. “Nuan, where are you?”

Shi Nuan was busy in the kitchen when she heard Song Rongrong’s loud voice. She couldn’t help but look at Li Heng awkwardly. Li Heng narrowed his eyes and said, “You should go out and entertain your friends. I’ve got this!”

“Are you sure?” Shi Nuan looked worried but Li Heng nodded. “There’s nothing that I can’t handle.”

Shi Nuan left the kitchen after he had put her mind to ease. When she saw Su Yian holding Song Rongrong’s hands, she motioned them not to be too loud. “I’m here!”

“Nuan, it’s been such a long time since we met and I missed you!” Song Rongrong rushed over excitedly. Shi Nuan was caught by surprise and fell two steps back before she could regain her balance. She was so happy that she wasn’t sure whether to laugh or to cry. “Rongrong, don’t exaggerate! It hasn’t been that long since we saw each other!”

“How dare you didn’t stay in touch for such a long time. You invited us for dinner and yet you brought him too?” Song Rongrong touched her nose as she said it. “Where’s my brother-in-law? Is he in the kitchen?” Song Rongrong rushed into the kitchen and yelled, “Brother-in-law, it’s very nice of you to treat us to dinner today.”