

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 201

“Lin?” George nodded. “He was my student, but he had left France some time ago. Ms. Shi, do you know him?” George’s gaze had changed, especially when Shi Nuan nodded in reply. “Great! I haven’t met Lin in a while. I wonder how he is right now.”

“He’s doing well!” Shi Nuan smiled. “Mr. George, your last trip to China must’ve been a while ago. Lin Yu is working in Shengyuan Group now. He’s my superior,” Shi Nuan told him. “Mr. Lin was supposed to be here today, but he had been feeling unwell recently, so he couldn’t make it.”

“That doesn’t matter. We can meet another day.”

When they were chatting, Zhou Zheng had already driven the car to the neighborhood. As they needed a pass to enter, Shi Nuan took out the pass she had prepared earlier and handed it to the security. “Number 1808.”

“Oh, is this Mr. Fu? Mr. Fu hasn’t been here in ages.” The security knew Fu Chengyan well. To be exact, those who lived in this neighborhood had to be verified before they could move in.

After the security let them in, Shi Nuan handed the pass to George. “This is one of my husband’s villa, but no one lives here. Mr. George, you can stay here without any worries. I’ve already prepared the toiletries.”

They got out of the car as Zhou Zheng helped them bring in the luggage like the assistant he was. Shi Nuan fell behind as she was chatting to George about Lin Yu. It seemed like George liked Lin Yu a lot, because the man was delighted to talk about him.

Shi Nuan unlocked the door, and they went in. Zhou Zheng brought George, Dani, and the assistant to their upstairs while Shi Nuan went to the kitchen to check it out. Luckily, Shi Nuan had already sent someone to clean the place up and restock the refrigerator with fresh ingredients last night.

“Hey, who’s this?”

Shi Nuan heard a familiar voice and turned to see Su Shaoqing leaning against the doorframe. The man’s arms were folded across his chest as he shot a smile at her.

Su Shaoqing was surprised to see Shi Nuan here, and vice versa. “Mr. Su?”

The man arched his brows. “Yes. Why are you here?” Su Shaoqing walked over to Shi Nuan and studied the place. “I was wondering why someone suddenly showed up at this villa after it had been left empty for two years. I thought Chengyan has finally see the light. Where is he?”

“He isn’t here. He went to see Li Heng.” Shi Nuan gazed at Su Shaoqing. “Why are you here?”

“Here, see that?” Su Shaoqing brought Shi Nuan to the villa’s entrance and pointed at a villa not far away. “That’s me, number 1806. Back then, when Li Heng finished developing this area, he gave us one villa each. That’s mine, and Jingxiu’s villa is right beside mine. But Jingxiu and Chengyan never stayed here. Li Heng rarely comes by too.”

Realization dawned upon Shi Nuan. “So you don’t stay with your family?”

Su Shaoqing replied with a smile, “What’s so strange about that? Chengyan doesn’t stay with his family, too.” The man wandered around the living room. “What’s going on? Are you planning on moving in today? That will be awesome! We can be neighbors from now on, and I can come for dinner sometimes!” Su Shaoqing glanced around. He had his own agenda. “The furniture has been here

for two years, but still seems new because nobody ever used it. You don't have to buy new ones."

"Mr. Su, I think you must've misunderstood," Shi Nuan couldn't help but cut Su Shaoqing off. "We are not planning on moving in."

"You're not planning to move in? Then why are you here today?"

Shi Nuan pointed upstairs. "Yan hired a lead architect from overseas, and he has to stay in Jiang City for at least one year. I thought it would be inappropriate to let him stay in a hotel long-term, so I took it upon myself to find him a place. Yan told me this villa was unused, and it would be wasteful to keep it empty, so we decided to make good use of it."

"Well, I highly doubt Chengyan willingly offered up the villa. You were the one who suggested it, right?" Su Shaoqing shook his head and gave a thumbs up. "You can use the place and save the hotel expenses."

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes but said nothing.

"I think Chengyan is lucky to have married you," Su Shaoqing reached out to pat the sofa. "You said the lead architect is here, right? Where is he?"

"Zhou Zheng is with him upstairs. I'm just checking if there's anything missing downstairs." Shi Nuan glanced around. "Would you like some tea?"

"You have tea?" Su Shaoqing raised his brows. "You just moved in, so I assumed the house would be empty."

"Well, no. I had asked someone to prepare the essentials earlier. Yan said Mr. George likes Chinese culture and loves Chinese tea, too." Shi Nuan went to the kitchen to get the tea set. Su Shaoqing stood up and followed her. "Don't bother. I'm just here to check out what's going on as the villa had been empty for some time." Su Shaoqing sighed. "That's all. I just got back from work and need some rest."

“You took the night shift last night? But you’re only back now?”

“Yes, I had a surgery to perform this morning, it was an emergency operation. I need to go now. I’ll visit you and Chengyan when I’m free. I’ll get Li Heng and the others to come so we can gather!”

“Sure!”

Shi Nuan walked Su Shaoqing to the door and watched as the man went into his own villa. She went to the kitchen and picked out a few pretty teacups to prepare tea.

Upstairs, Zhou Zheng showing George around. Both George and Dani were picky about the lighting and design, so it took some time for them to discuss before choosing their rooms. The assistant picked a room beside George’s for convenience sake, as he had to take care of him daily.

After they had settled down and tidied their rooms, everyone went downstairs. Shi Nuan had just finished preparing the tea. “Mr. George, Ms. Dani, you must be tired. Come, have some tea.”

Shi Nuan gestured for them take a seat and gave served them tea.

George was a foreigner, but he had been intrigued by Chinese culture since he was a child, and his love for Chinese culture grew after Lin Yu became his student, as he admired Lin Yu’s wisdom and intelligence. Lin Yu was the one who taught him everything about Chinese food.

George was both Lin Yu’s teacher and friend. They were close to each other.

The man took a sip of the tea, and his eyes immediately sparkled with delight. “Ms. Shi, I didn’t know you could prepare tea so well.”

“Mr. George, you flatter me. I’m just an amateur. I have a friend who’s better than me,” Shi Nuan smiled. “It’s almost time. Shall we make move? Mr. George, you

have been to Jiang City, right? Then you must've seen all that Jiang City has to offer.”

“Because of work, I haven't had the chance to enjoy the scenery.”

“Since you'll be here for some time, you can take your time to visit the city. Let's go enjoy some local delicacies for today.”

Shi Nuan shot a look at Zhou Zheng after saying that. George was excited to explore, but Dani hadn't gotten used to the place yet, so she chose to rest at home. To show her concern to Dani, Shi Nuan told Zhou Zheng to hire a Western chef to accommodate George and his team's palates.

Shi Nuan brought George to lunch before bringing him to Ruyi Tea House.

At the entrance, George was already full of praises. Both Shi Nuan and Su Yian were in charge of building and designing Ruyi Tea House back then, so everything was done according to their tastes.

They loved having a quiet environment and were inspired by traditional Chinese decor. The overall ambience was comfortable and relaxing.

George marveled over the design and was full of compliments. “The Chinese culture is profound.” The man spoke in Chinese when he stressed the word “profound”. Although his pronunciation seemed strange and funny, he showed his sincerity well.

Shi Nuan nodded and introduced the place to him. “Mr. George, you flatter us. My friend is in here, so you can learn from her. By the way, she majored in French.”

“Great!” George nodded. “Ms. Shi, you and your friend are capable women.”

When they were talking, Su Yian had already come out of the room. She was wearing linen clothes, which seemed casual but polite at the same time.

The teahouse was well heated, so there was no need for thick clothes. Su Yian's long hair was tied up in a simple ponytail.

Su Yian had a gentle smile on her face. "Nuan, you're here."

"Yes, I told you I'm bringing a guest here." Shi Nuan introduced George to her, "Mr. George, this is my friend, Su Yian. You can call her Ann."

"Hello, Mr. George." Su Yian smiled and stretched her hand out in a friendly manner. George shook her hand politely. "Hello, Ann. I'm George!"

"Please, do come in!"

Su Yian told the servers to prepare a tea set before leading Shi Nuan and George into a room. "I've already prepared everything. Mr. George, is there anything you wish to drink in particular?"

"Anything would do."

Su Yian glanced at Shi Nuan, who nodded. "You can decide." Suddenly, her phone rang. Shi Nuan apologized and went to the door to answer the call. "Hello, Mr. Lin?"

"You're with George today?" Lin Yu asked. Shi Nuan nodded and told him, "Yes, it's the weekend, so I'm bringing Mr. George around. What's wrong?"

"Where are you? I'll come right now." Shi Nuan told Lin Yu the address. She turned to see George and Su Yian chatting delightedly in French.

When the server arrived, Shi Nuan told him to put the tea set down. Then, she started boiling water quietly. George would include her in their conversation occasionally, and it was a harmonious gathering.

"Ann, have you been to France?"

“Yes, I have. But it was for a trip,” Su Yian answered with a smile. Shi Nuan handed her a cup of tea, and she lightly swirled it. Just then, someone knocked on the door, so Shi Nuan stood up to open it. A man stood at the door with his coat in his hand. He seemed to have rushed here, but he still maintained his poise. “Sorry, I’m late.”

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“You’re not late.” Shi Nuan realized Lin Yu’s aura seemed different today. She shot him a grin. “Mr. George is inside.”

Lin Yu nodded, his face slightly pale. The man followed Shi Nuan in.

George had already spotted Lin Yu. He stood up to welcome him. “Lin, long time no see!”

“George, long time no see.” Both men shook hands and exchanged greetings. Shi Nuan noticed Lin Yu seemed unwell, so she poured him a cup of warm water. “Mr. Lin, if you’re unwell, you don’t have to come.”

“I’m fine.” Lin Yu took the water from her politely, but set it aside. His slender fingers began folding up his coat. Su Yian gave George a cup of tea before standing up. “Mr. Lin, please give me your coat.”

Su Yian stretched her hand out politely, but Lin Yu was taken aback, like he had just noticed her existence.

The man’s dark gaze fell on Su Yian.

Because Lin Yu had arrived late, he didn’t know who Su Yian was, so his gaze was full of curiosity.

Both of them froze. Shi Nuan reacted first and introduced them to each other. “Mr. Lin, this is my friend, Su Yian. She’s also the owner of this teahouse. I personally invited her to talk to Mr. George.”

Lin Yu finally regained his senses and shot Su Yian an apologetic look. “Thank you, Ms. Su.”

“It’s nothing.” Su Yian gave him a slight smile and took his coat. When she came back, Lin Yu’s gaze was still fixated on Su Yian.

The woman found a quiet place and sat down. She took over Shi Nuan’s task of making tea. George was excited as he hadn’t seen Lin Yu in a while, so both men started discussing about new project animatedly.

Shi Nuan would join in their conversation from time to time, but it was mostly Lin Yu and George talking. However, Lin Yu’s gaze would dart towards Su Yian occasionally. Su Yian might not have realized it herself, but Shi Nuan noticed Lin Yu’s expression. She smirked and inched closer to Su Yian before winking at her.

Su Yian glanced at her curiously. “What?”

The woman seemed baffled, so Shi Nuan tilted her chin in Lin Yu’s direction, but he had already looked away awkwardly. Shi Nuan raised her brows and shook her head with a chuckle. “It’s nothing.”

Su Yian’s lips curved up in resignation. She handed a cup of tea to Shi Nuan. “I thought you came closer because something’s up.”

Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan arrived at the golf course on time. At this time of the year, the golf course wasn’t empty. Instead, it was full of players. Fu Chengyan found out later that it was Lin Shen’s birthday today, and he had planned to invite a few friends to play golf with him. But because Fu Chengyan and Li Heng were too intimidating, Lin Shen dared not invite them.

When Fu Chengyan walked in, he saw Li Heng casually sipping his tea. The man didn’t look like he was here to play golf. He saw Fu Chengyan approaching him and told the server to prepare tea.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and walked up to him. “Why are you free today?”

“I thought you were the one who asked me out?” Li Heng shot him a look before realizing Fu Chengyan was dressed in... “What is it about?”

Li Heng handed a cigarette to Fu Chengyan, but Fu Chengyan man placed it aside. “We’re in a no-smoking zone.”

His friend merely smirked. “I never knew you cared about that! I thought you’d be busy on weekends.”

“Yes, I am. I didn’t want to come at first,” Fu Chengyan told him honestly. Li Heng narrowed his eyes before gazing sharply at Fu Chengyan. He tapped his fingers on his knee. “Are you sure you want Li Group to take over the West City project?”

“Of course!” Fu Chengyan caressed the spot between his thumb and forefinger, pausing. “I thought Li Group would be an excellent partner in Jiang City.”

“But you should know I’m not in charge of Li Group now,” Li Heng replied, his tone indifferent. “My father allowed Li Xufan to share my position in order to weaken my influence in the company.”

“I believe you can settle that issue yourself as it’s a division within your company, and I won’t interfere. But then again, are you not planning to monopolize Li Group?” Fu Chengyan asked with a sharp glint in his eyes.

To Fu Chengyan, Li Group had little value. If it wasn’t for Li Heng, he would’ve acted ages ago.

Li Heng narrowed his eyes and paused upon hearing Fu Chengyan’s words. “I have news about her.”

Fu Chengyan flinched and curled his fingers. “You want her to return?”

They knew exactly who that “her” was – the person who had left and caused Li Heng and the entire Fu clan to end up in a stalemate. If it wasn’t for Li Heng, Fu Chengyan unleashed hell upon on Li Group and the Li family.

“But you should know that the person who hurt her the deepest wasn’t the Li family. It was you. Coming back might not be the best choice for her. You should understand that. If there’s even a slight chance that she’ll get hurt again, I won’t allow her to return.”

Fu Chengyan refused to back down. Pei Huan might be Fu Heng’s daughter, but Fu Chengyan treated her like a sister.

Back then, Fu Chengyan’s mother, Song Zhenyan, had a fight with his father, Fu Sheng, and left in a fit of anger. The man grew up without his mother. His father buried himself in work, so Fu Heng and Ning Xin were the ones who raised him up. Fu Chengyan was nice to Fu Jiaqi because he thought Fu Jiaqi was his uncle’s daughter.

Back then, when Pei Huan started dating Li Heng, Fu Chengyan didn’t know Pei Huan was Fu Heng’s daughter. When he finally found out, it was too late. Li Heng and Pei Huan had been through too much for them to break up.

Li Heng fell silent. He suddenly raised his head to look at Fu Chengyan. “I’ve been waiting for too long. Chengyan, I don’t think you know what it feels like to wait for someone. I just want her back. Even if I have to sacrifice myself, that’s what I want.”

Fu Chengyan frowned and massaged his temples. “You’re my friend, so I don’t wish to see you unhappy. But Pei Huan is my sister, and I won’t allow her to get hurt. If she comes back to meet your family’s wrath, what will you do? Whose side will you stand on? I hope you understand the complexity of this.”

“I know. I’ll deal with everything before she comes back.”

Fu Chengyan's lips thinned. This was the first time he had ever heard his friend say that.

Waiting for someone?

Li Heng said Fu Chengyan knew nothing about waiting, but in fact, he did. After waiting for a year, and even ten years, he had gotten through it.

Fu Chengyan patted Li Heng's shoulder. "Then please help me finish the West City project as soon as possible. After that, you can do whatever you want to Li Group."

An amused smile lit up Li Heng's face. He shoved Fu Chengyan's hand away and stood up. Both men faced each other, refusing to back down. "Well played, my friend. The West City project will take at least a few years to finish. You want to delay Huan's return?"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. "Do you have a better solution? Do you know where Pei Huan is now?"

Li Heng pursed his lips. "Chengyan, the day I defeat you, I'll make sure you feel the same way I feel today!"

Fu Chengyan merely smirked. "If that day ever comes. By the way, how did the investigation go?"

Li Heng raised his brows inquisitively. "Are you that curious about Shi Nuan's background?"

"I'm not curious. I just want to cut ties with the Shi family." If it wasn't for them, he and Shi Nuan wouldn't have to go through all that trouble.

The Shi family was like a timed bomb. Even if they weren't to be feared at all, they might do something out of desperation. The Shi family's attitude towards Shi Nuan was really strange, and it didn't help that Shi Nuan was full of secrets.

It wasn't easy to get his family's approval, too. Besides Song Zhenyan, who had already stated her disapproval, Fu Yunsheng would also be against them. He had no choice but to let Shi Nuan cut ties with the Shi family as soon as possible.

That was also the reason Fu Chengyan agreed not to inform the public about their marriage. Once everyone knows about their marriage, the Fu clan and the Song family would target Shi Nuan. Even if he could protect Shi Nuan, he wasn't sure about Shi Nuan's feelings. There were still things beyond his control. Fu Chengyan would never do anything he was unsure of. Before resolving these hidden dangers, he agreed not to make their relationship public.

“Shi Nuan might not be Jiang Yu's daughter. I need to find out if she is Shi Jingzheng's daughter. It's not an easy feat, because she's already in her twenties. If she is neither Jiang Yu's daughter nor part of the Shi family, I would have to investigate the events that had happened twenty years ago. But, Jiang Shizheng and Shi Yunsheng are suspicious too, as they treat Shi Nuan too well, like they owe her or something.”

Fu Chengyan frowned. He had noticed this, too. If they didn't know Shi Nuan's background, that would be normal. The other people in the Shi family would be the strange ones. But if they both knew Shi Nuan's true background, they would be the outliers.

“This is what I have discovered. Besides Shi Yunsheng, who transferred his shares to Shi Nuan, Jiang Shizheng also left everything—including his real estate—to Shi Nuan. But she will only receive these after his death. Don't you think it's strange? Jiang Yu is Jiang Shizheng's daughter, and Shi Wei is Jiang Shizheng's granddaughter. But why didn't they appear in Jiang Shizheng's will? Why did the old man mention Shi Nuan only?”

Li Heng told Fu Chengyan what he found. Fu Chengyan was deep in thought, too. “What else did you find out?”

“What else?”

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“What else do you want? I’ve just started the investigation, so I got little information. If you are curious, go ask Jiang Shizheng or Shi Yunsheng. You can get an answer faster that way.”

Li Heng had already told him everything he knew.

Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows, because this was indeed an arduous task. It had been years, so it was difficult to find out clues based on what they had. If someone deliberately withheld the truth, the investigation would take a long time.

“Jiang Yu and Jiang Shizheng seem to be at odds,” Fu Chengyan recalled he had once met Jiang Yu when he was Jiang Shizheng’s student, but Jiang Yu must’ve forgotten about it, since she didn’t know who he was. “Focus on Jiang Shizheng and Jiang Yu, then.”

“Okay, I’ll try that.” Li Heng shrugged. “Wanna play a round?”

Meanwhile, Lin Yu and George were chatting enthusiastically. Like attracts like, and both men were excellent in their field. George appreciated Lin Yu’s talents a lot. “Lin, if you didn’t choose to come back, you would’ve achieved a lot by now.”

Lin Yu’s eyes flickered, but the man’s lips curved up in a faint smile. “Not really. Back then, I had my own reasons to return. If I didn’t return, no matter how much I achieved, I wouldn’t be happy.”

Shi Nuan faltered upon hearing the man’s answer. She had been working under Lin Yu for only a short time, but she knew the man well. Lin Yu was a workaholic. Nothing could change his mind when it came work. If he had a great chance back then, why did he give up the chance to return?

Lin Yu said nothing when he saw Shi Nuan's surprise. He merely smiled and said, "There was someone important to me."

"Oh, then did you find that person?" George's eyes sparkled with curiosity. "Back then, you told me you were going back for her, but I thought you were lying to me. So this person exists, then?"

Lin Yu paused, and his eyes darkened. His lips curled up in a bitter smile. "Yes, I found her. But I think I've lost her again."

Shi Nuan sighed wistfully when she saw Lin Yu's expression. "Mr. Lin, you're a great person. I believe you'll meet someone better in the future."

"Thank you!" Lin Yu grinned. "I believe she's doing well now, so it doesn't matter anymore. Come, let's talk about something else."

At night, Fu Chengyan treated both George and Lin Yu to dinner. Shi Nuan noticed Lin Yu was interested in Su Yian, so she dragged her friend along to accompany her under the pretense that she didn't want to be the only female at the table.

Su Yian wanted to say no, because she only knew Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan among them. Actually, besides Shi Nuan, she wasn't close to the others at all. But Shi Nuan kept begging her to come along, so she didn't have the heart to reject her. In the end, all of them went to Shuchang Restaurant.

Shi Nuan had booked the place earlier. She chose this restaurant because they were treating George. Shuchang Restaurant wasn't the top restaurant in Jiang City, but it was the oldest restaurant in Jiang City. The owner of Shuchang Restaurant was a descendant of an imperial chef of the Qing dynasty. Hence, it was famous and popular for its food. If Shi Nuan didn't make reservations, they might not be able to go in.

George had heard about Shuchang Restaurant some time ago. A few years ago, he wanted to come, but had to leave the country in a hurry because of his packed schedule. This time, the man was excited to be here.

“Eric, your wife is really considerate.”

Shi Nuan and Su Yian were leading the way, and the owner of Shuchang Restaurant came to welcome them because he knew who Fu Chengyan was. But because Fu Chengyan was talking to his guest, Shi Nuan went to the owner and told him, “Hello, I’ve booked the Changshang Pavilion.”

“Oh, are you Ms. Shi?”

“Yes,” Shi Nuan replied with a faint smile. “Please lead the way.”

“This way please, Ms. Shi!”

All of them arrived at Changshang Pavilion. Shi Nuan had already sat down after arranging the seats. Fu Chengyan and the others arrived strolled in soon after. When Fu Chengyan heard George praising Shi Nuan, his face lit up with an amused smile. “Mr. George, thank you.”

“By the way, Lin and I were talking about the West City project. He told me it’s a bit complicated this time?”

“Not really. Let’s talk about work tomorrow!” Fu Chengyan gestured for George to enter the pavilion. George—who was slightly embarrassed by his response—held back his enthusiasm.

George knew nothing about Fu Chengyan, but Lin Yu knew his boss well. The man had an idea of what was going on in Fu Chengyan’s mind as he hurriedly changed the topic.

During dinner, none of them talked about work. Fu Chengyan paid full attention to Shi Nuan. No matter what she wanted to eat or get, he would be the first one to

pass it to her. It was slightly embarrassing for Shi Nuan because her husband treated her like a child.

Meanwhile, the others chatted in French fluently during dinner. George was from France, so his mother tongue was French while Lin Yu was his student. Su Yian would occasionally introduce the Chinese traditional culture George was interested in. So, the three of them seemed liked-minded.

Shi Nuan reached out to pinch Fu Chengyan's waist silently. She motioned for Fu Chengyan to look at Lin Yu and Su Yian.

Fu Chengyan was in the midst of peeling off the shells from the prawns, but he raised his head to look at Shi Nuan. "Hmm?"

Shi Nuan gestured for him to remain silent before she signaled him to look at Lin Yu and Su Yian. Leaning closer, she whispered in his ear, "What do you think about them?"

A smirk appeared on Fu Chengyan's lips as he fed Shi Nuan a prawn. "Eat up."

Shi Nuan raised her brows. Fu Chengyan said nothing, but she knew the man already knew what she meant.

She couldn't help but glance at Lin Yu and Su Yian again. They seemed like a perfect pair.

After dinner, Shi Nuan suggested Lin Yu to fetch Su Yian home, while she and Fu Chengyan would fetch George home.

Lin Yu was a gentleman. Since Shi Nuan requested, he couldn't refuse. Fu Chengyan saw through Shi Nuan's trick and shook his head in resignation.

After dropping George off, Shi Nuan recounted the events of the day. Fu Chengyan said nothing as his wife chattered on. When she finally finished, he

handed her a bottle of water. Shi Nuan paused before taking the water from him. "Don't you have anything to say?"

"No," Fu Chengyan hesitated, "Are you tired?"

"Well, I'm not really tired. But, Yian must be tired. I forced her to come to dinner," Shi Nuan chuckled. "By the way, you have no idea how Mr. Lin stared at Yian when he arrived at the teahouse. He couldn't take his eyes off her!"

Fu Chengyan merely smiled as he tapped her nose. "Your actions were too obvious. Won't your friend feel awkward?"

"Was I that obvious?" Shi Nuan blinked. "I did this for them. Yian is an exceptional woman, and I think Mr. Lin has a prominent character, too. He's obviously attracted to Yian."

"Not necessarily," Fu Chengyan remained a neutral stance. "They are the ones who know their feelings best. You shouldn't interfere."

"I'm not interfering. They seemed to be attracted to each other, so I'm simply giving them a push. If they aren't fated to be together, they can be friends." Shi Nuan beamed in delight. "By the way, how did your discussion with Li Heng go today?"

"Not bad."

Shi Nuan held the water bottle right up to Fu Chengyan's lips. The man glanced sideways at her and spotted the crafty look in her eyes. He shook his head in amusement and took a sip of the water.

"You told Mr. Zhou to deal with Shi Wei's situation yesterday, right? How did it go?"

"She had a disagreement with someone at the drama set. The whole thing was recorded, and she got threatened. It's nothing serious. Zhou Zheng can deal with

it,” Fu Chengyan replied, “So, you don’t have to worry about her for the time being. She’s really asking for trouble.”

Shi Nuan nodded and fed Fu Chengyan a sip of water. “I think you know her well. She’s a magnet for trouble. I would know, since I grew up with her. Besides troubling me, she’d create trouble wherever she went.”

Back then, Shi Wei liked to pick on Shi Nuan. Her sister was also on bad terms with their other classmates.

Shi Wei had a fragile look about her that attracted men, but women hated her.

Shi Nuan heaved a sigh of relief upon recalling that. “I hope she’ll be at the drama set for a long time.” This way, I can stop worrying for a while.

But that was only Shi Nuan’s wishful thinking. She knew Shi Wei wouldn’t leave her alone. If Shi Wei wasn’t busy shooting her drama, she might’ve tried to make Shi Nuan’s life miserable. Now, since she couldn’t stir up trouble for Shi Nuan, she started creating chaos at the set.

Shi Wei’s assistant was a hardworking, servile girl. As Shi Wei acted badly today and the director gave her a scolding, she was simmering with resentment. Her assistant managed to offend her at the worst possible timing. Shi Wei was terribly upset and immediately yelled at her assistant.

“I told you to bring me water, not try to burn my tongue! Drink it! Show me if it burns your tongue!” Shi Wei screeched as she flung the cup at her assistant.

Shi Wei was resting under a tree while the other actors were still acting. When they turned to see what the commotion was about, all they saw was Shi Wei flinging the cup at her assistant.

“Be careful!”

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Acting fast, Su Su pulled the assistant away. After calming her down, she told the assistant something, and the assistant ran away with red-rimmed eyes.

Shi Wei was about to fly into a fit of anger, but she held herself back when she realized Su Su was the one who had helped the assistant. All she did was glare at Su Su. "What are you doing?"

"I should be the one asking you that question!" Su Su poured a cup of water for Shi Wei before motioning to her to look around. "We're in the drama set. Everyone is staring at you. You're a celebrity, so you're already in the spotlight. Plus, your scuffle with Eiffel isn't solved yet. Do you want people to hold this against you?"

Su Su handed the cup to Shi Wei. "I told you to dismiss your assistant if you dislike her. I'm with you now, so I can be your assistant," the woman consoled Shi Wei.

Because Shi Wei felt apologetic to Su Su, she took in what Su Su said. After pondering, she told Su Su, "I just got furious momentarily."

"I know you're furious, but you have to know where you are right now. Guan Jing isn't here for a few days, so I'll be with you." Su Su sat down and continued analyzing the pros and cons. "You just entered Xinhuang. Remember the rumors about you back then? Xinhuang might still be observing you, so your actions could leave a terrible impression on them."

Shi Wei calmed down upon hearing that. She grabbed Su Su's hand and nodded. "Su Su, you're right. Thank goodness you're by my side. Otherwise, I'd be

criticized if this gets out. A few days ago, Zhou Zheng had already helped me once. He seemed dissatisfied with me. What should I do right now?"

"You don't have to be scared. Actually, whatever they think of you should be temporary. Think about it – if your drama is broadcasted and well-received, and your commercial value increases, Xinhuang will automatically change their opinion."

Seeing that Shi Wei had calmed down, Su Su continued, "For now, focus on shooting. After the shooting ends, you can rest for some time. I've asked Mr. Zhou, and he told me Xinhuang is currently getting an endorsement for you. If they successfully sign the contract, you won't have to worry!"

"You're right. I'll listen to you and focus on shooting for now!" Shi Wei understood what Su Su meant. Although she had been signed by Xinhuang and Fu Xicheng was close to Fu Chengyan, entrepreneurs were scrupulous. Fu Chengyan did Fu Xicheng a favor, but he might not continue doing that. If she didn't work hard, Fu Chengyan might refuse to keep helping her.

"Good! Let's go over your lines. You must do your best later. I know you can act well, so make sure to impress the director!"

After Shi Wei regained her composure, Su Su told the makeup artist to touch up her makeup. Shi Wei would be acting with the leading actor later on. If she performed well, the director would change his impression of her. After all, if whoever acted well deserved to call the shots in the entertainment industry. Any rumors would be dispelled once a new drama or film was released.

At night, after work, Shi Wei told Guan Jing she would like to fire the assistant as she already had Su Su. Guan Jing agreed without much thought.

After following Shi Wei to Xinhuang, Guan Jing realized Xinhuang differed from the other entertainment companies she had been to. Her authority was unchallenged here, and she had ample workspace too.

Guan Jing had no time for Shi Wei. All she wished was for Shi Wei to stay low. The next day, Shi Wei paid her assistant and told her to leave, leaving Su Su to become her one and only assistant.

“Su Su, won’t you feel upset about being my assistant?” Su Su was from a wealthy family, so she needn’t work as an assistant. But Shi Wei had an over-inflated ego. Su Su’s background was comparable to hers, but Su Su ended up being her assistant, so her ego was satisfied.

Su Su narrowed her eyes and sneered silently. Even so, she kept a smile on her face. “No. I feel much calmer here. Now, I want to work hard to distract myself.”

She passed Shi Wei a towel. “Wipe your sweat off. The makeup artist is coming soon. I’ll go through the lines with you when you get your makeup done so you can perform well later.” Su Su had arranged everything well. Shi Wei felt that her workflow was smoother ever since Su Su took over.

In a blink of an eye, it had been three months since Shi Wei started the shoot, and the drama finished shooting on time.

In Jiang City, the West City project had been put on the agenda. However, something happened at this critical moment.

Fucheng had prepared for ages, but Shengyuan disqualified them at once. They had no idea this was going to happen. They had complete confidence they could get the project. Even though it might not be the entire project, they expected to at least get a slice. But a few days ago, someone working in Shengyuan had leaked information that Fu Chengyan was collaborating with Li Group and another foreign team. All those companies who handed their proposals to Shengyuan were rejected.

In Fucheng’s executive-only meeting, everyone remained silent. Mr. Li and the directors he represented were upset at what happened. Mr. Li was especially irritated at Fu Yuqing and Fu Xicheng’s decisions.

“What happened? I believe both Mr. Fu’s’ should explain. Three months ago, young Mr. Fu boasted that we would successfully get Shengyuan’s project!”

Fu Xicheng seemed grumpy, too. He had just returned a few days ago and was buried in work. He had been busy preparing the annual review for the past few days. At the end of the year, the company’s projects needed to be integrated and reviewed. Fu Xicheng was so busy that he completely neglected this project.

He thought they would get this project for sure. Never in his wildest dream did he think they would get rejected.

Since Fu Xicheng remained silent, Mr. Li showed no mercy in reprimanding him. “I think you’re not concerned about this huge project at all. Everyone, take a look at this.” Mr. Li told his secretary to pass out an article to everyone. “This was where young Mr. Fu was a few days ago. The gossip magazine even got a photo of him.”

Everyone glanced at the news and realized it was Fu Xicheng and his wife, Shi Wei.

“What? Isn’t Mrs. Fu shooting a drama at Xiangshan? Did Mr. Fu go to Xiangshan?”

“What’s going on?” Fu Yuqing was livid as took the newspaper from the secretary. His expression darkened. “Xicheng, I need you to explain. What happened? Why did you go to Xiangshan instead of working?”

“Dad, I—”

“Don’t call me dad. Please address me as Mr. Fu!”

“Explain yourself!” After the meeting had ended, Fu Yuqing brought Fu Xicheng to his office. The man nearly slapped his son and barely stopped himself after remembering they were at work. He pointed at Fu Xicheng. “I’ll turn a blind eye

on the fact that you went to Xiangshan privately while on a business trip. I thought you were pretty confident we'll get the Shengyuan project?"

"Yes, I was pretty confident. For the past three months, I told my subordinates to work overtime so we could come out with good numbers to show Fu Chengyan. But who knew Fu Chengyan would end up making that decision? We are nothing compared to Li Group."

Fu Xicheng was furious, too. His team had worked hard for three months, but in the end, their efforts were all for naught.

"Father, didn't you say Fu Chengyan's grandfather agreed to give Fucheng a chance?"

"Yes, he has agreed, but I believe Fu Chengyan said no." Fu Yuqing clenched his jaw. "I don't know what Fu Chengyan is doing. He announced the project tender himself but went back on his words and chose Li Group under the table."

"What should we do now?"

"What else? We should go to Fu Chengyan now. You go to him, and I'll go to his grandfather. Let's see what Old Master Fu has to say about this!" I can't believe it. I saved someone from the Fu clan, and they owe me a favor. How dare Fu Chengyan say no after his grandfather has agreed to it?

"Okay. I'll go to Shengyuan Group to demand an explanation from Fu Chengyan. Father, are you going to Old Master Fu now?"

"There's no rush. You can go to Fu Chengyan first. I'll visit the old man later."

Meanwhile, in Shengyuan Group, Fu Xicheng failed to enter the building. Without an appointment, he couldn't meet Fu Chengyan. As Fu Xicheng didn't even have Fu Chengyan's contact, he could only tell the front desk to call the 27th floor.

Mai Qi was the one who answered the phone. After confirming with Zhou Zheng, she informed him that Fu Chengyan wasn't not in. As a matter of fact, Fu Chengyan was indeed not in the building. The man was surveying the site. It was winter, but a large group of people trailed after him. The West City project had been in preparation for a long time. Three months was more than enough for everyone to get to know the land well.

George tagged along today. Before he came, he had already talked to Lin Yu, hence he was highly interested in the land's development.

"Eric, this is the initial concept that Lin Yu and I came up with. What do you think?"

George spread the blueprint out. "I think we can build the shopping mall here. For this area, the pollution isn't that serious and can be treated in time for the construction to commence around six months later. I think a medical facility should be built here. As for this area... Lin and I have different opinions on this area. I think you should build a park, but Lin thinks you should build an orphanage here."

"Show me." Fu Chengyan took the blueprint and swept his gaze across it. He pointed at an area circled in blue. "George, is this your idea?"

George nodded. "Yes, I think building a park will help in developing and prospering the West City. Your ZF is working to achieve this too, right?"

"Mr. Fu, it's Mai Qi. She told me Fu Xicheng had come for you, but she sent him away. It might be because of the West City project. What do you think?" Zhou Zheng handed the phone to Fu Chengyan, but his boss refused to answer it. "I won't meet him."

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 205

Fu Xicheng was waiting in Shengyuan's lobby despite getting rejected. He knew Fu Chengyan would refuse to see him, but thought the man was in the building. Hence, he remained in the lobby. Fu Xicheng would be sorely disappointed since Fu Chengyan wasn't planning to go back to his office.

Fu Xicheng waited in Shengyuan's lobby for a long time. He even watched the staff leaving for their lunch break. Instead of meeting Fu Chengyan, the man saw someone he had never expected to meet.

Shi Nuan and Yuan Jia didn't go on the site inspection with Lin Yu today. They had just finish a minor project, so Yuan Jia insisted on treating Shi Nuan to a meal. As Shi Nuan couldn't make time for dinner, Yuan Jia decided to buy her lunch instead. They were heading to a Japanese restaurant near Shengyuan for lunch when Fu Xicheng spotted Shi Nuan at the entrance of Shengyuan Group.

Shi Nuan saw Fu Xicheng too. She was surprised to see Fu Xicheng at Shengyuan's entrance.

It had been months since they last met. Shi Nuan looked great, and she appeared to be glowing. Fu Xicheng had already given up on Shi Nuan, but his heart started thumping furiously upon seeing her again.

Yuan Jia didn't know who Fu Xicheng was, so she didn't notice Shi Nuan's strange reaction. Yuan Jia was rambling about what they would order later when she raised her head and noticed that Shi Nuan seemed to be avoiding someone. She asked curiously, "Shi Nuan, what's wrong?"

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. But before she could speak, Fu Xicheng had already come to them and blocked their way. “Nuan, long time no see!”

Yuan Jia staggered back in shock by Fu Xicheng’s sudden appearance. She patted her chest before staring at Fu Xicheng in suspicion. “Who are you? Do you know Shi Nuan?” Yuan Jia turned to Shi Nuan. “Nuan, is he your friend?”

Shi Nuan’s brows were creased. If she had a choice, she would deny knowing him. But since she didn’t know the reason for arrival, she merely looked at him and asked, “What is it?”

Fu Xicheng frowned, seemingly displeased by Shi Nuan’s distant reply. “What? Can’t I come if nothing’s on? Nuan, we were once—”

“Fu Xicheng, please make way if you have nothing to say. Our lunch break isn’t long, so don’t take up our time!” Shi Nuan had no time to listen to Fu Xicheng’s nonsense.

Her relationship with Fu Xicheng was already over for some time. She had already given up and forgotten about that man since she wasn’t someone who refused to move on.

Fu Xicheng’s face fell when he heard her answer. But because of the stranger beside Shi Nuan, he couldn’t retort back. The man gave Yuan Jia an apologetic look. “Hello, you must be Nuan’s colleague. Can you please excuse us? I need to talk to Nuan.”

“Well...” Yuan Jia was stumped as she turned to Shi Nuan. It was obvious Shi Nuan didn’t like the man at all, and wouldn’t want to talk to him in private. “I’m sorry, sir. You heard her, too. We don’t have time to talk to you now. Please don’t waste our lunch break as we need to come back to work later.”

Since Shi Nuan had no intention to talk to Fu Xicheng, Yuan Jia took Shi Nuan’s hand and left. But Fu Xicheng wouldn’t let them leave. “Nuan, can’t you listen to me?”

“What do you have to say, Mr. Fu? I don’t think there’s anything to talk about.” Shi Nuan gave him a smile. “You can say it here. I’ll give you two minutes, and we’ll leave right after that.”

“You... Nuan, how are you doing in Shengyuan?” Fu Xicheng was about to fly into a fit of rage, but he held his anger back upon seeing Shi Nuan’s expression.

“Can’t you see? I’m doing well as long as I don’t see you. Anything else, Mr. Fu?”

Fu Xicheng’s face had already darkened as he said, “I’m glad that you’re doing well. Well... Which department in Shengyuan are you in? I remember you were in the project management department previously. After leaving Fucheng, I thought you would—”

“Mr. Fu, get to the point. I don’t think you’re here for me. Why are you here?”

“I-I just want to know if you’re doing well. I also want to ask about the West City project. Since you’re in the project management department, I believe you know about it, so—”

“I’m sorry,” Shi Nuan cut Fu Xicheng off. “Since you’re aware that I’m working at Shengyuan now, I’m sure you understand that my loyalties lie with this company. This is inside information, so I don’t think you should ask me about it. If I leak such vital information, how would I keep my foothold in this industry.”

Fu Xicheng froze. “I didn’t mean that. I just wanted to ask if you know anything about the project. Why did Shengyuan give up on working with Fucheng suddenly? Previously we—”

“Give up? Did Shengyuan ever verbalize a collaboration with Fucheng?” Shi Nuan scoffed. “Or was it all your delusion?” Shi Nuan glanced at her watch. “Your two minutes are up. I’m sorry!”

Shi Nuan nudged Yuan Jia, who immediately said, “Sir, your questions are related to our company’s internal affairs. I hope you won’t make it difficult for Shi

Nuan. No matter what your relationship is, business is business. I'm sorry, but we have to go."

As Yuan Jia was present, Fu Xicheng's hands were tied.

After Shi Nuan left with Yuan Jia, Fu Xicheng left, too. Shi Nuan didn't tell him any useful information, but her attitude hinted that Shengyuan never intended to collaborate with Fucheng in the first place.

After Shi Nuan left with Yuan Jia, Yuan Jia started to prod Shi Nuan, "This Fu Xicheng isn't related to our boss, right?"

"I think so!" Shi Nuan's lips curved up in a smirk.

Actually, they weren't related. But Fu Xicheng's family would, of course, try their best to establish connections with Fu Chengyan. But they didn't even know their place.

"How are you related to him? I think he was staring at you strangely. His words were strange, too. He seemed like a nice man, but after close inspection, I don't really like him. He even tried to use you."

Yuan Jia had a low opinion of that man. She was suspicious when Shi Nuan remained silent. "Don't tell me... You're in a relationship with him?"

"No!" Shi Nuan's lips thinned. "He's my sister's husband, and also my previous superior."

"Oh, right. He mentioned Fucheng, and you worked there previously. So you and him..."

"We're not on good terms. Otherwise, I wouldn't have come to Shengyuan." Shi Nuan obviously wanted to stop talking about Fu Xicheng. "He must be here to ask why Fucheng wasn't chosen for the West City project." That was just Shi Nuan's guess, but she was quite certain of it.

Yuan Jia shrugged. “Well, we’re collaborating with Li Group this time. Fucheng is nothing compared to Li Group.” Yuan Jia chuckled as they went across the road, heading to the Japanese restaurant. Once they reached the restaurant, Yuan Jia immediately found a table. “Today’s lunch is on me, so feel free to order anything you want.”

“Sure!”

Meanwhile, after failing to meet Fu Chengyan at Shengyuan, Fu Xicheng went home and told his father what he had found out. Fu Yuqing brought him to the Fu clan’s residence at once.

The Fu clan was at home today. Fu Sheng, Fu Heng, and their respective wives, as well as Fu Zhengyun were all present.

Fu Yuqing arrived with loads of gift, and the butler couldn’t stop him from ordering other servants to carry the gifts in.

Fu Zhengyun was playing chess with Fu Sheng upstairs, while Fu Heng and his wife remained in their room. Downstairs, Song Zhenyan was making tea when she heard the commotion out there. “You don’t have to do this as you’re the butler. Let the other servants do this.”

“Here, Hang. Move all the supplements in. I haven’t been here in a while. How is Old Master Fu?”

Song Zhenyan faltered when she noticed a middle-aged man walking in like he was familiar with the place.

Song Zhenyan rarely came to Jiang City, so she didn’t know who Fu Yuqing was, let alone the connection he had with Fu Clan. All she noticed was that the man entered and started ordering the butler around. The butler wouldn’t even listen to her orders.

The butler was definitely upset. “Mr. Fu, I told you Old Master Fu isn’t receiving any guests today.”

“I’m not a guest. My surname is Fu, and we belong to the same clan. Our ancestors were a family, so we’re considered relatives. I was free and decided to visit Old Master Fu since I haven’t visited him in a while.”

“Oh, you have a guest?” Fu Yuqing’s gaze settled on Song Zhenyan, and his eyes widened in awe when he saw her exquisite looks. “You said Old Master Fu isn’t receiving guests. Isn’t this a guest?”

“Hmph!” Song Zhenyan harrumphed in disgust. The middle-aged man had left a poor impression on her. “Who is this? I think you’re getting incapable lately. Why did you allow strangers to enter the house?”