# I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 246

Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan spotted Lin Shen, too. A woman was clinging onto him as they made their way over.

"Mr. Fu, what brings you here today?" Lin Shen swept his gaze across the ring on Shi Nuan's finger before nodding. "By the way, you got married without telling anyone. You didn't even throw a banquet to announce it. Are you only buying a ring today?"

Lin Shen gazed at the ring on Shi Nuan's hand, which was obviously a cheap and simple ring. "Mr. Fu, are you short on funds? Why didn't you buy a nicer ring for her?" Lin Shen shot a look at the salesperson deliberately.

The salesperson paled visibly at his words. The other salespeople exchanged glances after hearing what Lin Shen said.

None of them knew Fu Chengyan, but after observing how Lin Shen treated Fu Chengyan, they were sure Fu Chengyan was someone influential.

Fu Chengyan arched his brows and shot Lin Shen a look. Before he could say anything, Shi Nuan spoke up. "I think a simple design suits me well. We are the ones getting married. It's the thought that matters." Shi Nuan examined the ring before shaking her head. "Anyway, we have been married for a long time, so it doesn't matter at all. It's late, let's go home."

A smile lit up Fu Chengyan's face. "Okay!" He turned to Lin Shen. "Mr. Lin, Ms. Zhou, take your time."

Fu Chengyan returned the ring to its original spot, then took Shi Nuan's hand before turning to walk out. Lin Shen's fiancée, Zhou Qian, spoke up. "Mr. Fu, why are you in a hurry to leave? I haven't been introduced to your wife yet."

Zhou Qian was a smart woman who was great at reading social situations. She had guessed Shi Nuan's identity from their conversation. Previously, she didn't have time to attend Pei Jingxiu's event and missed the opportunity to meet Shi Nuan.

"Mrs. Fu, hello. I'm Lin Shen's fiancée, Zhou Qian."

Since Zhou Qian had stretched her hand out in greeting, Shi Nuan took her hand politely. "Hello, Ms. Zhou. I am Shi Nuan."

"What a coincidence, meeting you here. Shall we go for tea?"

"No need, it's late." Fu Chengyan glanced at his watch and gave Lin Shen a curt nod. "We'll meet up next time."

"Sure!" Lin Shen didn't insist, since Fu Chengyan seemed unwilling. "Next time, invite us to your wedding!"

"Of course." Fu Chengyan nodded slightly and left with Shi Nuan's hand in his. After Fu Chengyan left, Lin Shen's face immediately fell. "Ask your manager to come see me."

"M-Manager? Who are you? Our manager isn't here." One salesperson stammered upon feeling Lin Shen's oppressive aura. "Our manager isn't here."

"He isn't here? Good. Tell him everyone here, including him, is fired! I want you to disappear from my sight today!" Lin Shen demanded furiously.

Zhou Qian sensed his anger and asked, "What's wrong? Why did you suddenly get angry? Are you afraid that you've offended Fu Chengyan?"

"What do you think?"

Lin Shen was certain the problem wasn't Fu Chengyan. It was Shi Nuan. Although Fu Chengyan seemed to call the shots and he garnered respect wherever he went, it was obvious that he had come today because Shi Nuan wanted to.

But these ignorant salespersons had looked down on Shi Nuan and angered Fu Chengyan.

Shi Nuan seemed simple-minded, but she was the hardest to please. She was not one to be impressed by materialistic treasures and had no desires or wants, so it would be difficult to please her.

"Don't worry. Maybe you're overreacting."

"Can't you see? Fu Chengyan agreed to everything Shi Nuan said." Lin Shen turned and glanced at everyone with a grim expression on his face. "Where is he?"

"Mr. Lin? Why are you here? What's wrong?"

The manager rushed in while they were talking. Truth was, he had been in the store all the while, but had remained hidden because the situation seemed unfavorable for him. Now that he saw Lin Shen's stormy expression, he knew he was in deep trouble.

"What's wrong'? Why did we hire you? To chase customers away?" Lin Shen shot a sharp look at the manager, who was already wiping his sweat off with a handkerchief. The manager replied cautiously, "Mr. Lin, I don't get what you mean. Of course, we wouldn't chase our customers away. Was it all a misunderstanding?" The manager pointed at one salesperson. "You! Come, tell me what had happened. Why is Mr. Lin upset?"

"Sir, I have nothing to do with it. It was her fault!" The salesperson who was mentioned immediately pointed at the woman who had served Shi Nuan. "It was all her fault. She was certain the young couple couldn't afford to buy the ring, so she ignored them. Sir, this has nothing to do with us."

"Really? So it's your doing?" The manager glared at the salesperson in question. "Didn't you pay attention during our training? The customer is king. Even if they can't afford it, you should serve them well."

Lin Shen quirked a brow. "Enough. It's too late to discipline them now," he continued impatiently, "Fire her at once. Although the others didn't play a role, they watched the whole thing happen without interfering at all. One month's pay will be deducted. As for you, you didn't supervise them well. Three months' pay will be deducted."

The man harrumphed coldly after announcing that. "Tomorrow, go receive training at the headquarters."

After Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan left the shop, Shi Nuan couldn't help but burst out laughing. "Was it a bad idea to do that to Mr. Lin?"

Actually, they didn't go to Shengyuan's shopping mall because they were afraid people might recognize them. Besides Shengyuan's shopping mall, the only shopping mall nearby was Lin Group's shopping mall.

Lin Shen own the shopping mall, and as luck would have it, they bumped into him.

Fu Chengyan merely frowned. "Do you really like that ring?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "Actually, we don't have to get a ring. We didn't get one when we got married, right? If I put on a ring, others would ask if I got married. That would be a hassle."

"But we're already married. It doesn't seem right if you don't have a ring on," Fu Chengyan caressed her hand. "You're my wife!"

"I know. Fine, should we continue our shopping spree the next time?" Shi Nuan laughed, "We're not in a hurry. Let's go. It's winter, and I'm freezing." Shi Nuan giggled as she grabbed Fu Chengyan's hand before running out.

Both of them ran out of the mall and belatedly realized that night had befallen. The street lamps were already lit up.

Shi Nuan slowed down and swung her hand that was laced together with Fu Chengyan's. They seemed like a pair of childish kids. Fu Chengyan lowered his head to gaze at Shi Nuan, who was beaming happily like a kid.

Three days after Shengyuan's annual meeting, rumors about Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei started circulating.

An intimate photo showing both Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei at the annual meeting was enlarged and published on the cover headlines. Shi Wei was considered a popular celebrity. She hadn't quite reached the top tier, but everyone had high expectations for her. But after her scandals blew up a while ago, the industry gave up on her.

When everyone thought Shi Wei was done for, Fu Chengyan's Xinhuang signed her on and gave her a few good roles to act in. Hence, everyone thought Xinhuang saw her potential and wanted to make Shi Wei popular. But now, people started guessing that Shi Wei might have something to do with Fu Chengyan, otherwise the man wouldn't have saved the damsel in distress.

Early morning, there were already reporters who started calling Xinhuang to clarify the rumors. However, no matter how hard they tried, no one in Xinhuang answered the phone.

Meanwhile, Shi Wei received Guan Jing's call in the morning. "Shi Wei, go read today's news right now."

"What's wrong?" Shi Wei had taken a leave for the past two days as the annual meeting was too tiring for her. After getting what she wanted from the annual meeting, she came back and told Fu Xicheng the good news—she had successfully established a connection with Fu Chengyan. As long as she became close to Fu Chengyan, Fucheng would get to collaborate with Shengyuan.

Fu Xicheng's parents agreed to what Shi Wei did. They thought she did a good job. So, with their support, Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng went on a trip.

Shi Wei had just woken up. Last night, Fu Xicheng was energetic and had rendered her exhausted.

She thought Guan Jing was delivering the good news. "Today's news? About what? Is it about me getting endorsed by St. Dee?"

Fu Xicheng sat up in the bed after hearing Shi Wei on the phone. He glanced at Shi Wei before wrapping his arms around her waist. "It's early. Who's on the phone?"

"Shh, it's nothing. Guan Jing called to ask me to read the news. It might be about my endorsement. Can you search it up?" Shi Wei asked and handed Fu Xicheng his phone, which was on the bedside table. "It should be available on the forum. Help me find it." She told Guan Jing, "Okay, I am going to read it now. Let's talk later."

"Shi Wei, how can you be in the mood to laugh? You're in deep trouble," Guan Jing couldn't hold herself back and reprimanded Shi Wei, "Read the news carefully."

"What?" Shi Wei was stunned and turned to Fu Xicheng. Her husband was indeed livid as he flung his phone at her. "Shi Wei, is this how you establish a connection with Fu Chengyan? Well, what a great connection you have here!"

His phone hit Shi Wei right on her chest, and she winced in pain. The woman was bewildered. "Xicheng, what are you talking about? How could I..." She

picked up the phone, and her face became ashen upon seeing the photos. "T-This is impossible. I…"

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"Why is it impossible? Don't tell me the photos are fake." Fu Xicheng's fury heightened. He had never expected Shi Wei would betray him by getting together with Fu Chengyan. Back then, Shi Wei had promised him that with her help, Fucheng would get plenty of chances to collaborate with Shengyuan. If the help Shi Wei meant was achieved through the means reported in the news, he would've been cuckolded. "Shi Wei, how could you do this to me?"

"No, Xicheng. You have to trust me. Fu Chengyan and I aren't in that kind of relationship. Don't misunderstand. I don't have feelings for Fu Chengyan. I merely think of him as an elder. I was treating him as an elder—"

"Enough!" Fu Xicheng shoved her hand away impatiently. "Look at how you gazed at Fu Chengyan. Looks don't lie. Shi Wei, you never failed to surprise me. So you do harbor feelings for Fu Chengyan, huh? Now that you are exposed, what else do you have to say?"

Fu Xicheng flung the covers off and got out of the bed. Glaring at Shi Wei with contempt, the man changed his clothes swiftly. Shi Wei's heart sank. Her eyes were red-rimmed, as if she was about to cry any minute. The woman climbed out of bed and grabbed Fu Xicheng's arm. "Xicheng, don't be mad at me. It must've been a misunderstanding. Trust me, I'll ask someone to find out what really happened. Xicheng, you—"

"Enough! If it was a misunderstanding, resolve it before you come to me." Fu Xicheng sneered, "I even felt guilty and brought you on a trip, but you did this to me."

Fu Xicheng ignored Shi Wei's pleas. After changing his clothes, he left the room and went downstairs.

They were in Sheen City to travel, but Fu Xicheng had business to discuss here, too.

Because Shi Wei spoke with such certainty that day, Fu Yuqing valued her help and forced his son to bring her on this trip. Fu Xicheng also thought he had neglected her for some time and agreed to bring her along.

Downstairs, Fu Xicheng's secretary showed up not long after. "Mr. Fu, where do you want to go now?"

"Let's get breakfast, then we'll go survey the site."

"Then... What about Mrs. Fu?" The secretary had obviously read the news and asked cautiously, "Should I arrange her schedule today?"

Fu Xicheng's gaze turned frosty as he glared at his secretary behind him. "Are you my secretary or hers?"

The secretary shut up immediately. "Mr. Fu, please get in the car." After opening the door for Fu Xicheng and watching him enter the car, the secretary slid into the driver's seat. He dared not mention Shi Wei anymore.

Shi Wei could only watch as Fu Xicheng left. She wanted to go after him, but because of her identity and the news, she dared not go out.

After changing her clothes hastily, Shi Wei made a call to Su Su.

Su Su was having breakfast at home with her parents when she received Shi Wei's call. A gleam appeared in her eyes, along with a mocking smile on her face. "Hello, Wei? How are you? Are you having fun with your husband in Sheen City?"

"Having fun? How can I have fun? Su Su, I am in deep trouble." Shi Wei was about to cry. "Please help me!"

"Calm down, don't cry. What's wrong? Did you have a fight with Fu Xicheng?" Su Su asked. Her parents turned to look at her. Motioning for them to remain quiet, Su Su left the dining room and went to the living room to sit down. "Calm down and tell me everything. What happened?"

"Don't you know? Didn't you read the news today?" Shi Wei was stunned. "Someone posted photos of me that was taken during Shengyuan's annual meeting."

"Isn't that great?" Su Su was confused. "I've been spending time with my parents at home, so I wasn't keeping up with the news. But that seems like a good thing, no?"

"Of course not! If it's positive news, I'll be over the moon, but this is bad news! Someone took photos of me and Fu Chengyan at an incriminating angle and sold the photos to the paparazzi. Now, every news outlet is reporting our so-called secret relationship! It would have been fine if I were single, but you know that I am married to Xicheng. To makes matters worse, my husband is related to Fu Chengyan. Su Su, you need to help me!"

"This is hard to handle. Does Fu Chengyan know about this? What about Xinhuang?" Su Su frowned. "Wei, return now. Book a flight ticket back today. We can't delay this any further. If this affects your image, Fu Chengyan would sacrifice you to protect Xinhuang."

"Okay, I'll book a flight ticket back now," Shi Wei agreed before she continued, "Xicheng just found out about this. He was extremely furious and left without me. If I leave now, will he get angrier?"

"You're not in the position to care about your husband's mood swings. Come back now. After we deal with this, Fu Xicheng will stop being mad at you," Su Su snapped, "I'll book your flight ticket now."

Su Su hung up, and her mother came to her with a plate of fruits. "Is it that Shi Wei again? Didn't your dad and I tell you to stop contacting this woman? You got hurt badly back then. Wasn't that enough?"

"Mom, don't bother." Su Su clutched her phone, her eyes cold. "It's exactly because of what happened back then that I'm keeping in touch with her."

"You... Su Su, why are you making yourself suffer? Listen to me. I've helped you apply for a college overseas. Let's go on a study tour. About Jiang City—"

"Mom, I need to do this. When this ends, I will go wherever you want me to go. Before that, I won't leave Jiang City at all. That's it." Su Su was resolute. Mrs. Su sighed. She didn't know how to stop her daughter although she knew Su Su's decision was not wise. "Darling, come talk to your daughter!"

"I think Su Su's right. Why let that woman escape unscathed when Su Su got hurt badly? I believe karma will get to her sooner or later. Just wait and see!" Mr. Su was upset at Shi Wei too.

Back then, they were against their daughter befriending Shi Wei, but she wouldn't listen to them and suffered from it. At least she knew what went wrong and came back to her senses.

"Su, I promise I'll support you as long as you don't go overboard."

"Thank you, dad!" Su Su finally knew how much her parents loved her after what had happened. "After this, I'll leave Jiang City."

"Yes, what a good girl."

Su Su took a deep breath and ended the conversation with her parents. She made a call to Guan Jing. "Ms. Guan, what happened? Who leaked the photos?"

"It wasn't me," Guan Jing frowned, "I wouldn't have done that. I don't know who did it, though. I haven't heard from Xinhuang yet. The subject of the scandal is Fu Chengyan, our boss. If he looks into it, we will be in deep trouble."

Guan Jing wasn't worried about Shi Wei. She was merely concerned she would be dragged into the mess. "By the way, who do you think did this?"

"Ms. Guan, how would I know if you have no idea who did it?" Su Su hung up promptly and gnawed on her lip. The woman sorted through everything in her mind before calling Zhou Zheng.

Meanwhile, Zhou Zheng was browsing the headlines of every news outlet. Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei's photos were splashed across various publications together with provocative captions to mislead the readers.

Zhou Zheng couldn't help but lament. Mr. Fu takes drastic actions when it concerns his wife. He even sacrificed himself. Yes, Fu Chengyan had sacrificed himself in order to deal with those women.

Zhou Zheng's phone buzzed with an incoming call. He glanced at it and realized it was Su Su. The man made her wait before answering her call. Su Su's voice travelled through the speaker. "Mr. Zhou, have you read the news today?"

Zhou Zheng arched his brows. Sure enough, Su Su was calling because of the news. He nodded. "Yes, I just saw it. What happened? Why was Mr. Fu photographed with Shi Wei? And the angle... Someone must have done it on purpose!"

Zhou Zheng sounded angry, so Su Su deduced that he too had found out about it through the newspapers. So they were not the ones who did this?

But who dares to go against Fu Chengyan by publishing his photos in Jiang City? Does that person have a death wish?

"Mr. Zhou, to be honest, I called because I wanted to ask your opinion this matter. Shi Wei called me this morning. She seemed terrified."

"Terrified? Are you not behind this?" Zhou Zheng demanded icily. "How dare you set Mr. Fu up? Are you not afraid of angering him? I'm sure you know that you won't get to see tomorrow if he gets mad."

Su Su paled instantly upon hearing his words. She knew Fu Chengyan was capable of doing so. "Mr. Zhou, I can assure you we have nothing to do with this. Shi Wei isn't a fool. She's already married. It isn't worth it to plan this publicity stunt!" She hurriedly replied.

"What you said makes sense, but if you can see from my perspective, this incident won't benefit Mr. Fu. Instead, it will help Ms. Shi increase her exposure and popularity. You mentioned her marriage, but what if she doesn't love Fu Xicheng at all? What if she wants to use this opportunity to get a divorce? That might be a possibility."

"But Mr. Zhou... From what I learned, Shi Wei has no idea about this. Someone else must be behind this."

"Oh? Ms. Su, who do you think is behind this?"

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"I called you because I was hoping you'd know. I am sure Shi Wei has nothing to do with this, although I do want her to screw up soon. Mr. Zhou, please think harder. Who else wants to harm Mr. Fu?" Su Su didn't want to help Shi Wei. All she wanted was to flatter Zhou Zheng and Fu Chengyan.

Su Su knew Shi Wei was nothing but a pawn while Fu Chengyan was the master of this little game of chess. If she managed to flatter Fu Chengyan, her revenge would be a success.

Zhou Zheng snorted internally. Su Su is indeed Shi Wei's former best friend. They are birds of a feather. Compared to Anna, Su Su has little to no conscience. At least Anna repented after finding out the truth. Su Su didn't even regret her actions.

Anna chose to leave, but Su Su chose to take revenge.

"Ms. Su, don't worry. Even if we find out that Shi Wei is behind this, we will focus on the issue itself. You won't be implicated."

"That's great. I can relax after hearing your words. Mr. Zhou, what do you want me to do?"

"Nothing. Just observe in silence. I'll find out who's behind this. And make sure Shi Wei stops inviting trouble for now. Where is she?"

"She went on a trip with her husband, but she will fly back today," Su Su told Zhou Zheng everything. The man listened and ordered Su Su to console Shi Wei

so the disgraced celebrity wouldn't stir up more trouble for the paparazzi to hold against her.

But it wasn't an effortless task. Shi Wei's flight schedule was leaked, so she got surrounded at the entrance by reporters and paparazzi once she got off the plane.

Because Shi Wei had boarded the flight alone, she did not have her assistant or bodyguard by her side. The reporters immediately spotted her and swarmed around her. They shoved their microphones in her face and focused their cameras on her.

"Ms. Shi, what is your explanation regarding the scandal?"

"Ms. Shi, are you really in a relationship with Shengyuan's CEO, Fu Chengyan?"

"Rumor has it that Xinhuang—which is under Shengyuan Group—signed you on when you were involved in a scandal back then. What do you have to say about this?"

"Shengyuan's CEO, Fu Chengyan, spent big bucks on you. He also allowed you to get St. Dee's endorsement deal in Z Nation. What are your thoughts on this?"

"Ms. Shi, please answer our questions."

"Ms. Shi, you have just married Fucheng's Fu Xicheng. Everyone in Jiang City knows about this. Fu Xicheng is supposedly a distant relative of Fu Chengyan. What—"

"Get lost! Leave me alone!"

The reporters bombarded Shi Wei with sharp questions, causing her to lose control.

All she could hear was a buzzing sound in her ears. She wanted to push these people away so they would get lost. But the crowd trapped her, so there was no way to escape.

Someone in the crowd bumped into a man who was holding a camera. Losing his footing, the man hurtled in Shi Wei's direction.

"Ah!"

Shi Wei's high-pitched scream broke through the clamor. It was a chaotic scene as everyone squeezed forward to interview Shi Wei.

Shi Wei was knocked to the ground by the paparazzo. He had extended his arm to break his fall, but his hand coincidentally landed on Shi Wei's chest.

Shi Wei immediately flushed a bright red. She was in a disheveled state. The woman started kicking and hitting the paparazzo on top of her. "Move! Get lost!"

It was rare to see a celebrity in this state, so the reporters started gossiping and taking photos of Shi Wei.

Even if they didn't manage to interview her, news about Shi Wei being molested at the airport before she escaped in embarrassment was shocking enough.

After the paparazzi were satisfied with the photos taken, they left promptly with no regard for the miserable celebrity. Shi Wei was still lying floor, her eyes wide and blank.

The passersby were pointing and talking. "Is she crazy? Why is she lying on the ground?"

"Eh, she seems familiar."

"Yes, look. Her clothes are all torn and her nipples are visible."

"Yes, this woman... Hey, isn't she a celebrity?"

"Hurry, take a photo of her! Oh dear, did we just run into a celebrity in this state?"

The onlookers were delighted and pulled out their phones to take photos of Shi Wei. Shi Wei, who was sprawled on the ground, finally snapped out of her daze. She immediately stood up when she saw the onlookers snapping pictures of her. The woman tugged at her clothes and yelled, "Stop it! Delete the photos, or I'll sue you!"

However, the onlookers couldn't be bothered. They shot her a scornful look and left immediately.

Shi Wei shrieked, seemingly on the verge of total derangement. "Stand right there!"

"Wei!" Su Su hurried over after seeing Shi Wei. She took off her jacket and covered Shi Wei up. "How did you end up like this?"

"I…" Shi Wei finally broke down after seeing Su Su and flung herself into Su Su's arms.

When Shi Wei wasn't looking, a smirk lit up Su Su's face, and her gaze was icy. "Wei, didn't I tell you to wait for me inside? Why did you come out? I only came out because you didn't show up. What happened? Why are you in this state?"

"Let's not talk about this. Where is your car? I want to leave."

"Okay, okay. Don't cry. My car is right there. Let's talk in the car." Su Su helped Shi Wei into the car and gave her a thermos flask. "Here, have a sip of hot tea. Tell me. What happened? I was waiting for you inside. Why did you come out?"

"I don't know what happened. The paparazzi crowded around me and started bombarding me with questions. I couldn't find you, so I ran out. I never expected the reporters would be waiting outside!" Shi Wei was trembling furiously. She was terrified upon recalling what had just happened. She never knew this was what it felt like to be stalked and surrounded by a swarming crowd. The crowd didn't even listen to her explanation. They kept accusing her of doing things she did not do.

"Seems like someone did it on purpose. Who could it be?" Su Su furrowed her brows. "Did you offend anyone recently? This person even tied you and Fu Chengyan together. I just called Mr. Zhou. He told me Fu Chengyan was furious, too. They thought you were the one behind this."

"Of course it wasn't me. I'm not a fool. Look, will I do this to myself?" Shi Wei wailed hysterically. "Su Su, you know me well. I love Fu Xicheng so much. I would never betray him. Someone must've framed me."

Shi Wei was certain someone had set her up. She felt terrified whenever she closed her eyes. How dare that paparazzo molest her after pressing her to the ground! "Su Su, what should I do? The reporters and paparazzi took photos of me in that state. What should I do?" It took her some effort to shake of her past scandal, so she couldn't let this ruin her career.

"Su Su, call Zhou Zheng and ask him to deal with this."

"But..." Su Su was stumped. "Mr. Zhou just told me to make sure you'd stay out of trouble, but you have just done that. He..."

"I don't care. He's Xinhuang's boss. If he doesn't help me deal with this, he would have to suffer the consequences too," Shi Wei was shivering. "That paparazzo that just molested me – help me find out who he is. I must make him pay for what he did!"

There was a dangerous glint in Shi Wei's eyes. On the surface, Su Su seemed to be worried about Shi Wei's current predicament, but deep down, she was gloating at Shi Wei's misfortune.

Shi Wei, I never dreamed this would happen to you. You should experience what I went through previously. How does it feel like to be framed and hurt?

Su Su sent Shi Wei to the hospital to check for injuries before sending her back to the Shi residence.

Because of what happened, Shi Wei dared not go to the Fu residence. She was afraid Fu Yuqing and Liu Minjun would put her in a tight spot.

Jiang Yu was distraught to see her daughter in such a state and pulled her upstairs. "Poor child, what happened? Who set you up? Was that person jealous of you?"

"Mom," Shi Wei wrapped her arms around Jiang Yu miserably. "Mom, you must help me. That person must be jealous of me, so... It must be Shi Nuan! It has to be her!"

"Shi Nuan?" Jiang Yu was taken aback. "Why do you say that? What does this have to do with her?"

"It must be her. She was at Shengyuan's annual meeting too. She must be jealous because I got St. Dee's endorsement deal, so she took the photos to frame me and Fu Chengyan. Shi Nuan still hates me and Xicheng, so she did this to take revenge on us. Yes, it must be Shi Nuan. She was jealous because we got married, and that Fu Chengyan was impressed with my performance. Shi Nuan's just a whore. Is she that jealous of me?"

Shi Wei clenched her fists. "Mom, it must be Shi Nuan."

"What you said does make sense. Shi Nuan might be behind this, but do you have any proof?" Jiang Yu was rarely this clear-headed. "This has gone viral, and I won't let anyone bully you. But it involves Fu Chengyan, and you know how he is like. If Shi Nuan was behind this, we can use Fu Chengyan to get back at her. If it wasn't her—"

"It must be her! She's the person who hates me the most in this world. She must be jealous because I am doing better than her!"

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Shi Wei was certain Shi Nuan was behind everything. She had offended many people, but Shi Nuan was the one who despised her the most. Plus, Shi Nuan was there that night. Her sister must've done this because she was jealous.

After making up her mind, Shi Wei went crazy thinking about the possibilities and decided with certainty that Shi Nuan was the culprit. "Mom, it must be Shi Nuan. She hates my guts!"

"Okay, it was her fault. That makes things so much easier. We'll let Fu Chengyan know about this. Shi Nuan will be doomed as she has offended Fu Chengyan. We don't have to do anything else."

"Yes." That was what Shi Wei thought, too. She had seen the merciless side of Fu Chengyan. Even if she hadn't witnessed it personally, there were plenty of rumors going around about Fu Chengyan and his ruthless reputation.

"Well..." Su Su had been listening to them all the while. When she heard that Shi Wei and Jiang Yu planned to put all the blame on Shi Nuan without even investigating, she couldn't help but frown.

She finally realized how pitiful Shi Nuan was for being related to these people.

Shi Wei regained her composure and shot Su Su an apologetic look. "I'm sorry, Su Su. Just now..."

"It's fine." Su Su forced a smile. "I'm really upset this happened to you. I wish I was the one to go through this instead of you. Wei, we're besties, so there's

something I must say. I don't think this is as simple as it seems. Shi Nuan wouldn't dare to do this to you."

"So what do you think?"

"I think you shouldn't go to Fu Chengyan for now. After all, no one knows him well."

"What do you mean?" Jiang Yu immediately furrowed her brows upon hearing Su Su's words. "You mean our Wei must suffer in silence? I am sure that whore Shi Nuan—"

"Mrs. Shi, I know you love Wei, but please let me finish," Su Su cut in patiently, but deep inside she was already full of contempt for Jiang Yu. Her father is a university professor, but she isn't a cultured woman.

Shi Wei held Jiang Yu's hand and shook her head. "Mom, listen to Su Su. She's my assistant and has helped me a lot. If it wasn't for Su Su, I would have..." A fierce glint flashed across Shi Wei's eyes. "Su Su, you must find out who the man at the airport was."

"Don't worry. Getting back to the point, we shouldn't be put off our stride. We have no idea who is behind this, and what their aim is. Wei, are there other people who attended the annual meeting who hate you besides Shi Nuan?"

"What?" Shi Nuan's eyes widened in shock. "The celebrities from Xinhuang who attended Shengyuan's annual meeting with me are suspects too?"

Su Su nodded. "Think about it. Besides Shengyuan's staff, who else will benefit from this?" She took Shi Wei's hand, helped her to the sofa, and poured her a glass of warm water. "You must be still in a foul mood. I understand if you can't think straight. Calm down and consider this. Besides Shi Nuan, who else hates you?"

After hearing Su Su's explanation, Shi Wei collected herself. "We were all competing to get the St. Dee's endorsement deal, and I got it in the end. The person who is most upset by this outcome must be Bai Qing, because Hai Na and the other girl didn't stand a chance. I stole Bai Qing's limelight, so there is a possibility that she might be behind this."

Shi Wei finally realized what Su Su meant. She gritted her teeth in anger. "Damn it, we were competing in a fair manner. How could she do this to me?" Shi Wei clenched her fists. "How could she do this?"

"We can't be sure of that yet." Su Su shook her head. "It might not be Bai Qing. We are purely guessing now as we don't have proof. It also does not mean that doesn't mean Hai Na and the other girl are out of question. Actually, you have overlooked one person."

"What?"

Shi Wei was confused. "Who did I overlook?"

"Song Jingyu. Have you forgotten about her?" Su Su told Shi Wei her reasoning. "You took the limelight from her. Will Song Jingyu let you off lightly?"

"Who is Song Jingyu?" Jiang Yu was already confused. "Wait, this Song girl must be Fu Chengyan's cousin, right? Why would she do that to Wei?"

Jiang Yu wasn't at the event, so she did not know what Song Jingyu had done. Shi Wei, on the other hand, knew what had happened, so Shi Wei's words made sense to her. "I think you might be right. Su Su, what would I do without you?"

Shi Wei grabbed Su Su's hand. "Even if she was the one behind this, we don't have proof."

"Not really. If she was indeed the culprit, I don't think she will stop here. She will take multiple measures to harm you. Song Jingyu isn't an easy target. She is obsessed with Fu Chengyan."

Although Su Su had only met Song Jingyu once, she thought the woman was out of her mind.

"You mean she will continue targeting me?" Shi Wei's brows creased. "No! I won't let her bully me easily. So what if she's from the Song family? I am certain Fu Chengyan despises her."

"Yes, but no matter how much he dislikes her, she is still his cousin. Fu Chengyan won't hurt her. Wei, we need to find proof and expose Song Jingyu's true colors. Xinhuang and Fu Chengyan will have to answer to this." Su Su clasped Shi Wei's hand in encouragement. "But this incident might not be a bad thing."

"What? This isn't a bad thing?" Shi Nuan asked in disbelief. "I've worked hard to build my reputation and now it's in shambles!"

"You can earn it back later. You can act well, so if your dramas become popular, resources and roles will naturally come pouring in. Because of this commotion, your popularity had increased. Look." Su Su retrieved her tablet and handed it to Shi Wei. Sure enough, Shi Wei had topped almost every trending list online. "Although the trending list seems negative, this will change after some time. We need to take our time instead of being impatient."

"Yes, Wei. Su Su is right. You can't act recklessly. We can get back at Shi Nuan later. For now, we need to resolve your situation." Jiang Yu found Su Su's reasoning was sound. She saw how Su Su did her best to analyze the situation and convince Shi Wei. Su Su had also come up with a splendid plan and took Shi Wei's health and mood into consideration. Because of what Su Su did, Jiang Yu was no longer wary of her.

After convincing Shi Wei, Su Su left the Shi residence. She gazed stonily at the entrance of the Shi residence for a long time before getting into her car and driving away.

The news about Shi Wei went viral on the Internet. In less than twelve hours, there were plenty of versions about Shi Wei and Fu Chengyan's relationship circulating online. But because Fu Chengyan was an influential man in Jiang City, Shi Wei got the brunt of the attacks. Plus, Fu Chengyan's photos were removed at once, so there weren't any photos of the man circulating online anymore.

Back in Wutong Residence, Shi Nuan was scrolling through news about current affairs. It was rare for her to get two days off, so she was grateful for the opportunity.

As she had wasted the whole of yesterday, Shi Nuan refused to go out. The weather had turned chilly, signaling winter's arrival.

The cup of coffee that was placed next to her had already cooled. When she finally put down her phone and reached for the coffee, she realized it had turned cold.

Shi Nuan stood up and went to the kitchen to brew another cup of coffee. When she emerged from the kitchen, she saw Fu Chengyan at the bottom of the stairs. The man was wearing a casual training suit. His hair was slightly messy. It was a fresh look compared to his usual suited up look for work.

Normally, her husband maintained a distant appearance that emphasized his formidable temperament, but today, he seemed more down-to-earth.

Fu Chengyan spotted Shi Nuan, too. He moved to sit on the sofa and beckoned Shi Nuan to come over. Shi Nuan walked over and handed the cup of coffee to him. "You're done with work?"

"Yes." Fu Chengyan held the coffee with one hand while the other grabbed Shi Nuan's arm before tugging her into his embrace.

Shi Nuan propped a hand on the sofa, and her other hand slid to his chest. Exasperated, she admonished, "Be careful. The coffee is still in your hand. Can you sit properly?"

Fu Chengyan raised his brows before releasing his grip on Shi Nuan's hand. He held the coffee to his nose. "Did you just brew this?"

Shi Nuan nodded in reply. "I thought you wouldn't finish so early. Are you done for the day?"

"I am more efficient than you." Fu Chengyan took a sip of the coffee and frowned. "How many cubes of sugar did you put in?"

"Just one," Shi Nuan smiled before continuing, "Actually, this isn't for you. I didn't expect you to be done with work already." She leaned backwards to see his face better and patted his hand. "If it's too sweet, don't drink it. I'll make you another cup."

Shi Nuan tried to stand up, but Fu Chengyan tugged at her hand. "No need for that." He put the coffee down and pulled her into his arms once again.

The man gently flipped her over, and Shi Nuan ended up lying on the sofa with her legs dangling off the armrest. Fu Chengyan placed her head carefully on his lap.

Shi Nuan raised her brows in surprise and met Fu Chengyan's gaze. Smiling, she asked, "What's wrong? Why are you acting strange suddenly?" She reached out to touch his forehead and brows. "Stop frowning. You look ugly and old when you frown."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. He asked hesitantly, "Don't you have anything to ask me?"

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Shi Nuan was stunned by Fu Chengyan's sudden question. She glanced at him in suspicion and blinked twice. His solemn question surprised her, and the hand that was smoothing out his forehead stilled. She had never seen Fu Chengyan act this cautious and hesitant before.

Shi Nuan pursed her lips and blinked before staring at Fu Chengyan seriously. "What do you want me to ask? Did you do something behind my back? Something against my wishes?"

Fu Chengyan seemed conflicted, so Shi Nuan was somewhat startled. She sat up and asked in a sober tone, "Really?"

"Listen, this-"

"Wait," Shi Nuan lifted her hand to stop Fu Chengyan. She contemplated the possibilities before saying, "Don't say anything and let me think. This is the first time I've ever seen you acting like this. Actually, no matter what you did, as long as you didn't betray me, I won't mind. Okay, you can go on now."

Fu Chengyan's lips thinned as he met Shi Nuan's gaze. Shi Nuan stared at Fu Chengyan. Something was obviously wrong, but she couldn't tell what it was. Gradually, her expression turned solemn. "Are you not going to tell me?"

"Didn't you read the news today?"

News?

Shi Nuan was taken aback as she turned to look at to the newspapers and her phone. "You know well that I normally read the financial section only. Hmm..." Shi Nuan unlocked her phone and went straight to the trending section. Immediately, news regarding Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei's scandal appeared on the screen.

Shi Nuan stared at Fu Chengyan in shock. Biting her lip, she raised her head and asked in an uncertain tone, "You mean this?" She waved her phone at Fu Chengyan.

When she noticed Fu Chengyan's grave expression, everything became clear. The man was the one behind this. Shi Nuan was smart. She immediately guessed why Fu Chengyan did this.

The woman arched her brows and tossed her phone aside, pretending to be vexed. "I'm mad. This will lead to serious consequences. Make sure you come out with a plausible explanation."

Shi Nuan glowered at Fu Chengyan, as if she was warning him that she wouldn't leave the matter unsettled.

Fu Chengyan remained silent as they stared at each other. Shi Nuan could the air between them thicken as tension arose. In the end, she pretended to cough twice and relented. "Fine, I'm not mad. Why should I be mad? I don't believe a word they say. I know you are not interested in Shi Nuan. After all, she isn't as great as me, and she's already married. You won't be interested in a married woman, right? I know I am the most important person in your heart."

The woman giggled as she leaned closer to Fu Chengyan before nestling her head on his lap once again. "But you have to tell me why you did that."

"How do you know?" Fu Chengyan was surprised.

Shi Nuan shot him an exasperated look. "Who are you? No one dares to cross you unless he or she has a death wish. Unless the person behind this is off their rocker, I think you were the one who allowed the news to be released. Others

might be clueless, but I'm not dense." Shi Nuan smiled and nudged his palm with her head. "But I need you to tell me, why did you do that?"

Fu Chengyan's eyes sparkled as he held Shi Nuan's hand. "You are too smart. There's nothing I can hide from you. I wanted to see you upset, or even get jealous, but look at how you reacted. Don't be too smart. Otherwise, I won't be able to lie to you."

"Lie to me? Why would you lie to me? Do you need to lie to me?" Shi Nuan grabbed Fu Chengyan's fidgeting hand. "How dare you lie to me?"

"Okay, stop it." Fu Chengyan smiled in resignation and allowed Shi Nuan to hold his hand.

Shi Nuan was upset and held his hand even tighter. She might've used up all her strength, but Fu Chengyan felt nothing.

Shi Nuan gritted her teeth and dug her nails into Fu Chengyan's arm. "Tell me!"

"It's nothing. The Song family seems to be on edge, so I had to do something to placate them."

That was all Fu Chengyan said, but Shi Nuan immediately understood what he meant. "Oh, you deliberately faked a scandal with Shi Wei so Song Jingyu will target Shi Wei? And punish Shi Wei through her?" Shi Nuan couldn't help but shake her head. "How could you do this to them? That's harsh."

"Darling, are you demanding that I let them off lightly?" Fu Chengyan arched his brows. Shi Nuan hurriedly covered his mouth. "No, I think you did well. Actually, I'm not someone who would let someone bully me without striking back." She was made of flesh and blood, just like anyone else.

If you fall down at the same spot and got hurt, you'd remember what happened and avoid that spot in the future. But if you can't avoid it, the best way would be to confront and defeat it.

Shi Nuan never thought of herself as a kind person. If she kept giving in, the people who hurt her would never receive the punishment they deserved while would continue being framed and tortured. It is said that 'offence is the best defense', so why shouldn't she strike first to protect herself?

Fu Chengyan nodded proudly. "I'm glad you think that way. I didn't marry you in vain, then."

"Oh?" Shi Nuan arched her brows. "So you knew I have the potential?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head in amusement and stroke Shi Nuan's nose. "Yes."

Shi Nuan nodded in satisfaction. "Okay, I know. What else do you want to say?"

"Although this concerns Shi Wei, you must be careful. Song Jingyu wouldn't target Shi Wei alone." Fu Chengyan hated Song Jingyu, but she was his cousin and he knew her well.

His cousin was terribly stubborn. She was obviously obsessed with Fu Chengyan, frighteningly so.

Shi Nuan's heart sank. If he was talking about any other person, she would doubts his words, but since he was talking about Song Jingyu, she knew he must be telling the truth. She had experienced Song Jingyu's craziness several times first-hand.

But Shi Nuan was still rather curious. "Song Jingyu seems to treat me strangely."

"What do you mean by 'strange'?" Fu Chengyan's eyes flickered dangerously, but it faded away once Shi Nuan raised her head. He caressed her cheek and stared at her seriously. "Tell me about it."

Shi Nuan shook her head. She didn't know how to phrase it, but Song Jingyu had stared at her strangely during the annual meeting. It was as if the woman saw

someone else in her. Plus, Song Jingyu seemed to be terribly afraid of that someone.

"I don't know either. Either way, she seemed strange. I don't think she knows my real identity, so why the hostility?" Shi Nuan was baffled.

"Did you forget that we danced the opening dance together?" Fu Chengyan reminded her. "You know nothing about Song Jingyu. She targets every woman who comes near me. You and Shi Wei are the best examples."

Fu Chengyan's words made sense.

She danced with Fu Chengyan during the annual meeting, but that was the only interaction they had. Shi Wei too had merely talked to Fu Chengyan, and he gave the endorsement to her. Endorsement?

Shi Nuan raised her head abruptly. "So everything was part of your plan? You gave Shi Wei the endorsement deal and released the news today so Song Jingyu will target her?" Shi Nuan finally sorted things out. "I thought you came up with that on a whim. Turns out it was all part of your plan?"

Fu Chengyan nodded. "You are indeed smart."

"So you also arranged the number I got. I knew it. Song Jingyu seemed shocked back then, like she was certain you'd get her number. Did she rig the box?"

Realization dawned on Shi Nuan when she saw Fu Chengyan nod. That was the reason Song Jingyu resented her that much. "You knew she had rigged the box, and it was filled with only her number. No matter which number you got, it would be her. But she didn't expect you would switch the box back." Shi Nuan couldn't help but chuckle. "Don't tell me you filled the box with only my number?"

Fu Chengyan arched his brows silently.

Shi Nuan was speechless. "You had your fun, but Song Jingyu ended up resenting me. How unfair!" She spread her palms. "Say, how will you make it up to me?"

"Make it up to you?" Fu Chengyan's lips curled up as his slender fingers lifted Shi Nuan's chin. The man narrowed his eyes and grinned. "How do you want me to make it up to you? Should I give myself to you?"

"That doesn't count. You already belong to me!" Shi Nuan slapped Fu Chengyan's hand away. She grabbed his wrist and stood up before turning to meet his gaze. "Anyway, I took the blame for you. You have to make it up to me. I'll be the one who decides what it would be."

Fu Chengyan shrugged. "Fine."

"You can ask for anything, but before that, I need you to repay a favor, my darling." Fu Chengyan mused before scooping her into his arms. Turning, he pinned Shi Nuan under him.

Shi Nuan shrieked in surprise. "Fu Chengyan, get up! Why are you pinning me down? I don't owe you anything, so why do I need to repay your favor?"