

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 266

“But Huaiyan...”

“There’s no ‘but’. I don’t have any more time to talk about this. You have to understand that if we don’t take the initiative now, it will be forced upon us in the future!” Song Huaiyan interrupted Song Zhenyan. “I need to go back immediately so I’ll leave this with you. Remember, don’t do anything to Shi Nuan for now.”

“Why?” Song Zhenyan felt that Shi Nuan was a greater threat than Shi Wei was, given the fact that Shi Nuan resembled Shen Qianan.

“She’s Jiang Shengfan’s girlfriend. Isn’t it obvious? When the Song Group plans to gain footprint in Sheen City in the future, we will have to rely on the Jiang family’s cooperation. If we did something to them now, do you think that they would still want to work with us then? And don’t forget, the Jiang family and Su family will be under Jiang Shengfan’s control in the future.”

“Jiang Shengfan!” Song Zhenyan gasped in surprise. “How can it be that Shi Nuan is his girlfriend? Jiang Shengfan is clearly...”

“I think you have just wasted half a year in Jiang City. Jiang Shengfan is in Jiang City with the Su family. His mother belongs to that family. Anyway, Jingyu knows about this. If you’re not sure you can always ask her, since you’re not supposed to do anything to her anyway.”

Song Huaiyan’s secretary sent him his flight itinerary. His flight was to be at 4 p.m. and it was already 2 p.m. now. Song Huaiyan got up quickly and said, “I’m going back to the hotel to pack and will be leaving immediately. You must remember to not allow anything to happen between Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei.

Jingyu's body can no longer take any more shocks. By the way, this is her medicine. You have to make sure that she takes it on time. Tell me when you run out!"

"Alright!"

Song Zhenyan held the medication in her hand as she watched Song Huaiyan leave. For some reason, she did not feel good.

Song Huaiyan came and went in a hurry. Not only did he not get anything out of Fu Chengyan, the Song Group's shares also plummeted the moment he left the capital. Even if he came back now, the damage had already been done. He would definitely not have the chance to return to Jiang City for the foreseeable future.

Shi Wei had been doing well recently due to the St. Dee commercial and a few other shoots after that. Results are the most important thing for an artiste. As long as she did well in her photo shoots and other productions, the public would slowly forget about the scandalous rumors surrounding her. The entertainment industry was large and rumors were a common occurrence. No one had the time to keep track of it all.

Shi Wei had just finished her photo shoot when she received a call from a stranger.

Su Su was holding Shi Wei's phone so she was the first to answer. It was a woman on the line and she was being rude. Su Su recognized the voice quickly. "Hello, may I know who it is?"

"Are you Shi Wei?"

"No, I'm her assistant. May I know who it is?" Su Su continued to ask patiently as she glanced at Shi Wei who was doing her makeup. She stepped aside to talk. "Hello, may I know who it is? Is there anything I can help you with?"

“Who the hell are you, get Shi Wei to answer my call.”

“Who is it?” Shi Wei put down the makeup remover and turned to look at Su Su. When she saw Su Su’s frustrated expression, she pursed her lips and said, “Give me the phone.”

Shi Wei took over the phone and before she could say anything, the voice on the other side yelled, “Give that b**** Shi Wei the phone!”

B****?

Shi Wei narrowed her gaze and looked at Su Su. Su Su shrugged and mouthed the words, “Song Jingyu!”

Fine! Shi Wei would still be polite if she didn’t know who it was. However, Song Jingyu’s nasty tone and rudeness had enraged Shi Wei, even without considering all the other things that Song Jingyu had done to her earlier. Putting everything together, Shi Wei was resolved to get her revenge.

“So it’s Ms. Song. What is it? What business do you have with me?” Shi Wei sneered, “Since you’re so free, why don’t you look for Fu Chengyan to chat instead of me? Oh, I know, I’m afraid you no longer have the chance to see him at all!”

Shi Wei laughed as she spoke, it was an evil laugh and only served to outrage Song Jingyu even more. “Don’t be gloating yet you despicable b****. I’m telling you that you’re just a desperate whore. Tsk, do you think that Yan really likes you? You must be dreaming. I’m warning you: stay away from Yan or I’ll make you pay!”

“Oh, may I know how are you going to make me pay?” Shi Wei sneered. “I think you’re really weird. You seem to not be able to tolerate any other woman getting close to Fu Chengyan! This isn’t a healthy habit. Putting aside that there’s nothing between us, even if there was, it has nothing to do with you at all. And, if my memory serves me right, you are his cousin! For one to fancy her cousin...

tsk tsk. The media will have a field day reporting about it. What will happen to you then?”

“How dare you, you b****!”

Hmph! Shi Wei continued, “Why don’t I dare? Let me give you one piece of advice. My family may not be as influential as yours, but we’re in Jiang City and not the capital. No matter how powerful the Song family is, it would be too far for them to exert their influence here. You do not have the advantage of being local!” Shi Wei ended the call just as she finished. Her gaze darkened as she yelled, “Crazy woman!”

“Indeed! I think she’s really strange. Even if she felt that there was something going on between you and Mr. Fu, she can’t just declare war on you like that! Is there something wrong with her brain?” Su Su laughed as she spoke. When she realized that Shi Wei had only removed half her makeup, she quickly brought the makeup remover over. “You haven’t finished removing the makeup. Later on you have a dinner to attend with Director Lee; or would you like to skip that?”

“No, we are supposed to discuss the movie ‘Beneath the Sky’. How can I not attend!” After the last incident, Shi Wei became very careful with everything she did. She wanted to make sure that she had everything covered.

“But there’s another thing that you definitely got it right!” Shi Wei laughed. Su Su was puzzled and asked, “What did I say?”

“She is really crazy!” Shi Wei laughed more heartily when she said that. “That’s enough. Time to help me remove my makeup! I still have to return home and get changed. I can’t miss tonight’s dinner!”

Song Jingyu had no place to vent her anger after having her call ended by Shi Wei just like that. She grabbed a nearby vase in the room and smashed it onto the floor.

The maid who was passing by looked up when she heard the noise, but she subsequently pretended not to have heard it, and left instead. After venting her frustration in the room for a long time, Song Jingyu collapsed onto the floor, drenched in sweat. However, her eyes were still full of hatred.

When her door was opened from the outside, she grabbed the glass shards on the floor and threw them at the door. Luckily, Song Zhenyan reacted quickly and evaded in time. When she saw how messy the room was and how she was almost hurt by Song Jingyu, she slammed the door angrily. “What are you throwing a tantrum for? Do you realize where we are?”

They were in the Fu residence and it was their territory. Even she had to be mindful of the boundaries. Song Zhenyan didn’t expect Song Jingyu to throw tantrums multiple times in the Fu residence. “Can you keep your temper in check?” Song Zhenyan approached her and glanced at the broken antique vase. She reprimanded, “What did I tell you in the capital? Didn’t you promise me that you will not do this?”

“Aunt Song, I...” Song Jingyu’s anger dissipated and looked at Song Zhenyan pitifully. “I... it’s all because of Shi Wei – she’s the one who provoked me. Who does she think she is to disrespect me like that! Aunt Song, Shi Wei doesn’t know her place. Yan is mine.”

“Enough!” Song Zhenyan frowned angrily. “How did Shi Wei mock you? Did she call you? How is it possible for her to have your contact number, let alone call you?”

“I...” Song Jingyu bit her lip. “It was me. I couldn’t get over it. Yan is mine. Why would he rather be with a married woman than me? I don’t understand and I just can’t accept it. How is she better than I?”

“So that’s why you called her?” Song Zhenyan was extremely frustrated with Song Jingyu. “Can you please use your brain before you do anything next time?”

“But I...”

“Never mind. Let me remind you that you can’t throw a tantrum here if you still want to marry Yan!” Song Zhenyan started to regret her earlier decision. She was no longer sure whether it was a good idea to have both of them marry each other.

Unlike others, Song Zhenyan knew Song Jingyu like the back of her hand. Although her sickness wasn’t as serious as her mother’s, Song Jingyu’s mood swings were very volatile. She would do something irrational anytime she was triggered.

Song Zhenyan had assumed that if she took good care of her, her sickness could be managed. But given how Song Jingyu behaved in Jiang City and at the Fu residence over the last few months, Song Zhenyan was reminded of what happened three years ago.

“This is the medication that your father had given me,” Song Zhenyan said as she helped Song Jingyu up from the floor. However, Song Jingyu became hysterical at the mention of the word “medication”. She pushed Song Zhenyan away and screamed, “I’m not sick! I don’t need the medication because I’m not ill! I’m not crazy, I’m not!”

Song Jingyu retreated a few steps and glowered back at Song Zhenyan, “Did you hear me? I said I’m not ill! Yan doesn’t want me because all of you keep saying that I am. How can I be sick when I’m doing just fine!”

“You...” Song Zhenyan cut her hand from the broken glass shards on the floor after Song Jingyu pushed her to the ground. Blood started to flow as she grimaced from the pain. “Jingyu, calm down. I didn’t say that you were sick. The medication is good for you. Trust me, I won’t harm you.”

“I don’t trust you at all!” Song Jingyu picked up the bottle of medication and smashed it into pieces. She collected the tablets from the floor and flushed them into the toilet. As she did that, she muttered to herself, “I’m not sick. I’m really not sick at all!”

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“Jingyu!” Song Zhenyan went after her. But when she saw that Song Jingyu was in her own little world, Song Zhenyan kept her distance instead. She then took pictures of Song Jingyu with her phone and sent them to Song Huaiyan who was on his way back to the capital.

Song Zhenyan heaved a sigh of relief when Song Jingyu finally calmed down. After having comforted her for a while, she gave Song Huaiyan a call. “I’m afraid that you need to send more medication!”

Song Huaiyan had just landed when he saw the pictures of Song Jingyu going hysterical. He was instantly frustrated. “I’ll get my secretary to send them to you. But you have to remember to keep them yourself and feed them to her discreetly!”

“Alright!” That was the only thing they could do at the moment. Song Zhenyan didn’t know how was she going to get Song Jingyu to take the medication willingly. “If there’s nothing more, I’ll end the call first.”

“Zhenyan,” Song Huaiyan stopped her and sighed, “You have to be more understanding of her. You were the one who brought her up since she was little, and you know that she isn’t a bad person. It’s just that she’s obsessed with Yan!”

“I understand, don’t worry! You’d better focus on resolving the issues with the company first!”

Song Zhenyan ended the call and glanced at Song Jingyu who was now fast asleep. She couldn’t help but shake her head.

...

“What is this?”

Fu Chengyan held a white prescription bottle in his hand. “Hmm?”

“I got this medication from the delivery company this morning. It was sent by your uncle to your mother,” Zhou Zheng said in a solemn manner. “I’ve let Mr. Su examine it and he says that these are anti-depressants used for managing Song Jingyu’s mental illness.”

Zhou Zheng passed the lab report to Fu Chengyan. “As we were short on time, Mr. Su did not do a detailed analysis. So we still don’t know what all the ingredients are! According to our spy inside the Fu residence, Song Jingyu had a breakdown yesterday and threw away her medication. These were supposed to be the replacements.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “You did well!” He added, “Have you changed them?”

“Yes. Because I was short on time, I replaced them with vitamins. Mr. Fu, do you want me to change it to something else?” Zhou Zheng gave it some thought. “As long as side effects are not obvious, no one will notice that the medications have been switched.”

Fu Chengyan grinned as he raised his eyebrows at Zhou Zheng. There was a tinge of playfulness to his gaze and it sent a chill down Zhou Zheng’s spine. “Mr. Fu?”

Fu Chengyan recovered his focus as he held onto the bottle. His gaze was dark with coldness. “You can decide what to do, as long as you don’t kill her!” He stood up and threw the bottle into the rubbish bin. “It’s fine for her to be half-dead!”

Zhou Zheng couldn’t help but laugh as he suddenly had an idea. He replied, “I’ll get right onto it!”

“Wait!” Fu Chengyan called out to Zhou Zheng. “When is the movie premiere?”

“Half a month later!” Zhou Zheng thought about it. “Mr. Fu, do you really want to attend?”

Fu Chengyan put a hand in his pocket and gave Zhou Zheng a mischievous look. “Do you have a problem with that?”

Zhou Zheng shook his head immediately. “I wouldn’t dare. I’ll be off now!”

After Zhou Zheng left, Fu Chengyan stood by the windows and looked down at the tiny figures from the twenty-seventh floor. He let out a slight smile as his gaze remained frosty.

Song Huaiyan was already busy repairing the damage from the Xiang family’s unilateral withdrawal from their partnership. He had no time to deal with the internal strife within the company and its falling share price. Everything happened without warning. This resulted in Song Huaiyan being pressured by the board of directors so hard that he could hardly breathe. Due to all these reasons, whatever plans Song Huaiyan had for Jiang City had to be put aside for the moment.

Meanwhile, Song Jingyu couldn’t tolerate Shi Wei’s existence, so she resorted to spending much time online trying to create trouble for the latter by digging up all sorts of dirt on her. As Fu Chengyan had said: no matter what sort of trouble Song Jingyu gave Shi Wei, Fu Chengyan would resolve it on her behalf. It wasn’t until Song Jingyu was finally close to losing it that she chose to do something more drastic to Shi Wei.

It was under such circumstances that the press conference for the movie *Beneath the Sky* was held. As there were rumors of Fu Chengyan attending the event himself, everyone was more excited about seeing him than the unveiling of the cast.

They knew how famous and elusive Fu Chengyan was in Jiang City. They heard about him often but few had actually seen him in person. Even when rumors between him and Shi Wei spread, pictures of Fu Chengyan's face appeared only briefly before being taken down swiftly. Hence, everyone waiting to see him was filled with anticipation.

Nevertheless, as the highlight of the press conference was still the movie, no one would neglect the cast and crew. The director and the screenwriter were among the main selling points of the movie. Other than Shi Wei, Xinhuang's top artiste Bai Qing and international star Wu Qi also starred in the show. It was certainly an all-star cast. When news of the movie was first leaked online, it had generated a lot of interest. Now that there was a press conference, many members of the media fought to gain access to the event.

Backstage, Shi Wei looked stunning once the makeup artist was done with her. Even the crew beside her were all impressed.

Shi Wei wasn't the kind of women obsessed with vanity. She was already confident of herself as she was born beautiful. However, as she had placed a lot of emphasis on the movie, and the fact that Fu Chengyan would be attending, she too was filled with anticipation.

She wasn't sure what she was hoping for, but it was definitely an exciting feeling to hear the crew compliment her. She was so happy that she actually said something nice for once.

Su Su was standing beside her, holding her gown in her hands. When she heard the crew praise how pretty Shi Wei looked, Su Su couldn't help but take a look. However, her gaze was of nothing but contempt. But Su Su was good at hiding her emotions and recovered her smile quickly. "Wei, here's your gown. Go change quickly! The press conference is about to start!"

"Is Mr. Fu here yet?" Compared to the press conference, Shi Wei was more concerned about Fu Chengyan's arrival.

Su Su squinted her eyes and replied, "Not yet, but he should be on his way by now! You have to know that he's a busy man. It would be great if he could make it, but hoping that he would arrive early would be wishful thinking!" Su Su walked over as she spoke and took another look. "Wei, you look gorgeous today. I can guarantee you that the spotlight will be focused on you tonight!"

"Is that so?" Su Su's words carried a lot of weight for Shi Wei as she had completely trusted her by now.

"Definitely!"

"Is everyone ready? We are about to start!"

"Almost ready!" Su Su hurriedly helped Shi Wei up. "Quick, go get yourself changed. Once the male and female leads have been introduced, you're up next." While she was speaking, Su Su noticed that Shi Wei had a stiff look on her. She quickly added, "Wei, you're still young and have a lot of potential. This movie's most interesting character is the supporting actress. I'm sure after this movie, your career will improve significantly."

"Yes!" Shi Wei nodded. "Give me the gown; I'm going to change!"

...

In the Shengyuan president's office, Fu Chengyan was still looking through some data when Zhou Zheng was already waiting outside.

Mai Qi couldn't be more anxious. "Mr. Zhou, they are already chasing me saying that the press conference is about to start. Is Mr. Fu still not ready to go yet?" Just as she finished, her phone started ringing again. Zhou Zheng shot a glance at Mai Qi as he remained exceptionally calm. "After working for Mr. Fu for so long, haven't you gotten used to his habits? Silence!"

Zhou Zheng's eyes scanned around and he wasn't surprised to see Song Jingyu hiding in one corner.

Mai Qi followed his gaze and saw Song Jingyu leaving from the shadows. Mai Qi raised her eyebrows in surprise. “Mr. Zhou, is Ms. Song...”

“Ignore her.”

Given how stubborn Song Jingyu was, she would be sure to come along. Besides, today’s event was too important to be missed. They probably didn’t need to do anything at all because Song Jingyu herself could cause enough trouble.

“What are you looking at?”

Fu Chengyan opened the door and walked out of his office. He saw Zhou Zheng and Mai Qi from the corner of his eye and said, “Let’s go!”

“Yes!” Zhou Zheng stood up immediately. “The person in charge over there has told us that everything is in place. They are just waiting for your arrival.”

“Alright!”

“Not everyone from the media is allowed in, only those that are aligned with us. By the way, Song Jingyu’s men have gone in, too.” Zhou Zheng paused for a moment. “Your appearance today might lend further credibility to the rumor of you being involved with Shi Wei. Is Mrs. Fu...?”

Fu Chengyan stopped in his tracks and stared at Zhou Zheng from the corner of his eye. He raised his eyebrow and said, “Continue.”

Zhou Zheng gulped. “Is she alright with this?” Zhou Zheng felt that this was a bad idea. Shi Nuan was Fu Chengyan’s wife, and any rumor of him being together with her sister would be extremely distasteful, even if it wasn’t true.

Fu Chengyan grinned. “That would depend on how capable you are.”

Zhou Zheng, "..."

"I'm sorry, Mr. Fu, but what can I even do? The media reports will definitely be there. There's no way I can control how Mrs. Fu feels about it!"

"Just focused on making it happen. She won't say anything about it!" Fu Chengyan said as entered the car. He added, "Tell the staff at the press conference to start now! I'll be there close to the end. As to what happens in the middle, Song Jingyu would likely put on a good show for them!"

"At once." Zhou Zheng rubbed his hands together. "The backstage called just now, saying that there's a problem with Shi Wei's dress. Mr. Fu, we will have a really interesting show to watch soon!" Fu Chengyan chose to arrive close to the end to allow Song Jingyu and Shi Wei enough time to put on a show.

Before they arrived at the press conference, Zhou Zheng received a call. "Mr. Zhou, are you here yet? Something big has happened!" It was as Zhou Zheng had predicted.

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“What happened?” Zhou Zheng asked as he glanced at Fu Chengyan who was sitting behind him. The man on the other end continued, “Ms. Shi’s dress is torn. We don’t know who did it. There’s a commotion at the press conference and it’s just out of control here.”

Zhou Zheng raised his eyebrows as he didn’t expect everything he predicted to come true.

As Zhou Zheng had turned on the speakerphone, Fu Chengyan could hear everything for himself. His cold gaze was tinged with a sense of darkness as he grinned. “Ask them to maintain control of the situation.”

“Try your best to keep the situation under control. We’re almost there!” Zhou Zheng ended the call and looked toward Fu Chengyan. “Mr. Fu, there’s really no need for you to show up today!”

Fu Chengyan raised his hand instead. “Drive faster!”

After ten minutes, they finally arrived at the venue of the press conference. The situation was now under control and Shi Wei had been sent to the hospital for a checkup. The culprit who sabotaged her dress had also been caught. It was one of the hotel staff.

He did it for money. He had discreetly sabotaged her dress by sprinkling it with some powder. It made Shi Wei’s body go all red due to a serious allergy.

When everyone saw Fu Chengyan arrive, they rushed to see him. Luckily, he brought his bodyguards with him and they kept the reporters at bay.

“What happened?” Fu Chengyan walked along a path opened by the crowd for him towards where the press conference was. The director and screenwriter had been sent backstage. The ones who were left in front were those in charge of security and Qin Hong the producer.

When she saw Fu Chengyan arrive, she went up to him. “Mr. Fu, it wasn’t that big of a deal. It’s just that Shi Wei had some issues and was sent to the hospital. As to this man...” Qin Hong glanced at the hotel staff that had just been identified as the culprit.

“Mr. Fu, our hotel had nothing to do with this. We have already fired him. If there’s something you need from us...”

Fu Chengyan raised his hand to interrupt the hotel manager. He squinted his eyes and pointed at the man caught by the hotel’s security. “Who paid you? It appears the hotel doesn’t pay enough!” Fu Chengyan glanced at Zhou Zheng, who then took out a check from his bag. “This is for you from Mr. Fu. Tell us who ordered you to do it.”

When the man saw the check for a hundred thousand, his eyes sparkled immediately. “It was Ms. Song. Your own cousin Ms. Song Jingyu. She gave me ten thousand to mess up Ms. Shi’s dress and told me that the powder would give her an allergic reaction. She would pay me another ten thousand after I completed the job. Mr. Fu, what I’m telling you is the truth.”

The spotlight shone on the man for a brief moment and the crowd started to chatter about what he said. Fu Chengyan shot Zhou Zheng a glance before leaving with Mai Qi.

Fu Chengyan hardly did anything throughout. Nevertheless, he had played his role exceptionally well.

After Fu Chengyan left, Zhou Zheng went to see Qin Hong immediately. “This is what needs to be published by the media; I’ll leave the rest to you! When Public Relations comes to see you for your explanation, remember that this is the

headline that Mr. Fu wants.” Zhou Zheng smiled as he spoke. “Alright, Mr. Fu still needs me so I won’t be staying around.”

Qin Hong was a smart lady. She understood quickly what Zhou Zheng was really asking her to do. “Dear friends from the media, you are welcome to ask me anything with regard to what happened today.”

Zhou Zheng left together with Fu Chengyan. “Mr. Fu, where are we going now?”

“The hospital, to visit Shi Wei!” Just as he spoke, he noticed a few men at the hotel entrance. They seemed to be following them from the shadows. Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows. Anyone who didn’t know him would think that he was smiling, but in reality, he was angry and Zhou Zheng knew it. “We will need to make sure that this gets blown up!”

Shi Wei’s allergy didn’t turn out to be serious. However, it still affected her looks. Given that she was an actress, she would likely be sidelined from work for a few weeks at least.

She made a big fuss at the hospital as she threatened to tear it down if the doctors couldn’t cure her.

Su Shaoqing was leaning outside the door as he listened to the doctor inside the room trying to calm Shi Wei without any success. The sides of his lips widened into a slight grin as he raised his fingers and made a pinkie promise sign to the approaching nurse.

“Mr. Su, I hear that you were looking for me?” When the nurse saw Su Shaoqing’s playful expression, she felt her heart flutter as she blushed. She approached him bashfully. “Mr. Su.”

Su Shaoqing squinted and let out a disarming smile. “Is the patient inside Shi Wei the movie star?”

The nurse nodded, "Yes, she has an allergy. She's still upset and has threatened to tear down the hospital even though our Department Head is attending to her!" The nurse continued to complain, "I didn't expect her attitude to be so bad for a movie star. She kept saying that if we didn't cure her, Mr. Fu would hold us responsible." The nurse looked at Su Shaoqing again when she finished. "Mr. Su, what did you want to see me for?"

Su Shaoqing grinned. "It's nothing, please go back to what you were doing!"

Su Shaoqing waved his hand for the nurse to leave him. He walked to the entrance of the emergency room and made a video recording of himself. "Tsk Tsk, that actress of yours is here in my hospital. What do you want me to do?" He then sent it to Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan's car had just arrived at the hospital when he received Su Shaoqing's video. He grinned when he saw it. He replied, "I'll leave it up to you; hopefully you can keep her in there for a while. Oh, and make sure she remains upset."

Fu Chengyan kept his phone as he grinned mischievously.

When Zhou Zheng caught Fu Chengyan's expression from the corner of his eye, it sent chills down his spine. "In that case, do we still need to go up and see her?"

"No need. You can go on my behalf instead!" Fu Chengyan glanced at his watch. "It's late now; time to head home."

Fu Chengyan shot Zhou Zheng a glance, who then got down the car and brought Mai Qi with him. Both of them look bewildered as they saw Fu Chengyan drive off from the hospital, and exchanged glances. "Erm... Mr. Zhou, what do we do now?"

Zhou Zheng smiled wryly. "What else can we do? Let's go up and take a look to see how bad is her suffering."

Zhou Zheng thought to himself and realized that Fu Chengyan didn't do a thing the entire time! Although he wanted to attend the press conference, by the time he arrived, everything was already over. Fu Chengyan did not meet Shi Wei in any way, let alone do anything that would stir up any new rumors.

As for the hospital, Fu Chengyan didn't even have to step inside.

He realized that he could hardly fathom what Fu Chengyan was thinking recently. Everyone else had the impression that he was Fu Chengyan's glamorous right-hand man and would naturally know everything that was going through his boss' mind. But only he himself knew the mental gymnastics he had to endure in trying to guess what his boss wanted.

This boss of his was already on his way to the market – there was one more hour to go before work ended. Fu Chengyan visited a market near Shi Nuan's rental place to buy some fresh groceries. By the time he arrived at home, it was only five something.

Fu Chengyan rushed into the kitchen and started to get busy. Shi Nuan would leave work at six sharp and by the time she got home, it would be 6:40 p.m. She could smell a delicious aroma the moment she stepped into the house. Shi Nuan's eyes sparkled as she took off her shoes and entered the house. "Yan?"

She leaned at the door as she watched Fu Chengyan busily working in the kitchen with his apron on. She looked surprised. "How did you... manage to leave work so early today?"

What she really meant to ask was: aren't you supposed to attend the press conference for the movie? How come he came home so early?

Fu Chengyan held a soup spoon in one hand and wiped his other hand on the apron. He turned to look at Shi Nuan, "You're back. Go wash your hands; dinner is almost ready."

Shi Nuan tried hard to sniff, "Did you make soup? What soup is it?"

“Pork ribs soup.” Fu Chengyan waved his hands. “Quick, wash your hands!”

“Okay!” Shi Nuan smile; she was going to wash her hands, but she still looked at Fu Chengyan curiously. After hesitating for a while, she asked, “Didn’t you say that you would be late today? Aren’t you attending the press conference for the movie launch?”

“Hmm,” Fu Chengyan nodded as he passed a dry towel to Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan used it to wipe her hands as she continued, “You haven’t answered me!”

“It didn’t turn out to be much. I did go, but there was an accident so it was canceled instead.” Fu Chengyan explained as if he was just making a passing remark. However, Shi Nuan managed to latch onto an important point. “Accident? What kind of accident?”

Fu Chengyan grinned and reached out his hand to pet her on her head. “Enough. Why do you have so many questions?” Fu Chengyan replied as he brought out the soup. “Before I arrived, there was an accident at the press conference. Someone had sprinkled pollen all over Shi Wei’s dress. She had an allergic reaction and was sent to the hospital.”

“Shi Wei has an allergic reaction to pollen?” Shi Nuan was shocked. “Very few people know about this. Other than the Shi family, it would be...” Shi Nuan hesitated for a second. “Do you know who did it?”

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows. “The culprit has been arrested so I know who did it. Anyway, don’t worry about this. I know how to handle it!”

Fu Chengyan held Shi Nuan’s hand in his and pat it gently. “Alright?”

He knew that she would still feel uncomfortable about it even if she knew the truth.

Fu Chengyan had initially planned to arrive at the press conference earlier to create more drama but decided against it at the last moment. It no longer

mattered whether he was there or not. The main point would be what the news would report tomorrow.

Shi Nuan bit her lip and held Fu Chengyan's hand back. "Yan, thank you!"

Shi Nuan wasn't a fool, in fact she was really clever. It didn't take her long for her to read between the lines about what was going on. She knew that Fu Chengyan purposely came home early because he knew she would worry too much and feel upset.

Shi Nuan realized that she could be possessive at times. She felt that since both she and Fu Chengyan were married, he shouldn't flirt with other women, even if the flirting was just for show.

After Fu Xicheng had betrayed her, her attitude towards relationships had become more resolute. "Thank you for taking my concerns into account."

"Foolish girl!"

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Shi Wei's face still hasn't recovered despite being in the hospital for one week. In that same week, the news of the conflict between Shi Wei and Song Jingyu spread like wildfire.

Media outlets were indirectly controlled by Zhou Zheng; they reported everything according to plan. Meanwhile, the paparazzi employed by Song Jingyu kept attacking Shi Wei unilaterally. Shi Wei's fans hit back at them angrily in social media. They even managed to find Song Jingyu's social media profile and attacked her there relentlessly.

The power of social media couldn't be underestimated. In a short time span of one week, public opinion over the matter changed. It started with Shi Wei being accused of being shameless, but now the attacks were focused on Song Jingyu for being crazy and narrow-minded.

As the relationship between Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei had never been substantiated and the fact that Fu Chengyan wasn't someone to be trifled with, the attacks rarely involved him. Even when his name was brought up, it was just about how rich and handsome he was and nothing negative.

It was under those chaotic circumstances that Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan celebrated their first New Year's Day as a married couple.

As few knew that they were married, they couldn't officially visit their families together. In the past, she had both looked forward to and dreaded visiting her own family on New Year's Eve.

Her relationship with the Shi family was complicated. Although Shi Yunsheng had always treated her well, all the other members of the Shi family didn't like her. Hence, going home to visit her family was Shi Nuan's biggest dilemma every year.

Last year, she didn't visit because she was overseas. But she didn't have any excuse not to this year. Notwithstanding the fact that Shi Yunsheng had called her specifically to remind her that visiting family was a must during New Year's Eve. And it didn't matter if she had an estranged relationship with Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu – she was still a member of the Shi family.

Shi Nuan had given it some thought and decided it would be best for her to visit. However, what made this year's visit more complicated was that Shi Wei was married and had so many unfortunate incidents happen to her. On top of all that, her relationship with Fu Xicheng remained unclear.

Shi Wei had been hiding at home ever since she was discharged from the hospital. Fu Xicheng had adopted an indifferent attitude towards Shi Wei. He didn't return home some nights; in fact, he'd rather stay overnight in the office than see Shi Wei at home.

One reason for which was recent rumors relating to Shi Wei. It was unacceptable to him all the more so because the person linked to Shi Wei was someone more capable than he.

Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng were still obliged to visit the Shi family during the New Year regardless of how reluctant they were. It was a family tradition that must be adhered to. However, Shi Wei was worried that Fu Xicheng had not gotten over Shi Nuan yet. To prevent her relationship with Fu Xicheng from deteriorating further, she asked Jiang Yu to call Shi Nuan to insist that she bring Su Bancheng back for a visit.

Shi Nuan declined the request straightaway: she was already married, and she had no real connection to Su Bancheng at all. Even if Su Bancheng was her boyfriend, it would still be too early to bring him home for such an important

family event as the New Year festivities. If she brought Su Bancheng to visit her family, it would definitely send the signal that their relationship was serious.

Upon the relationship being acknowledged, Shi Nuan knew what her mother would be up to next. Her mother would use her as a pawn and insist that they get married. This way, Shi Wei would no longer be threatened by Shi Nuan.

“What are you thinking of?”

Fu Chengyan came out of the shower and saw Shi Nuan with a solemn expression as she held onto her phone. He walked closer and took the phone away from her hands. His eyes gleamed when he read the message.

Shi Nuan recovered her senses and saw Fu Chengyan in his white bathrobe. His hair was still dripping wet.

She stood up and used a towel to help him dry his hair. After sitting him down on the sofa, Shi Nuan sighed gently. “Granddad just called, followed by mom next.”

Fu Chengyan squinted and nodded. His expression became serious when saw Jiang Yu’s number appear on her phone just now. “What did she say?”

“She talked about the New Year celebrations.” Shi Nuan hesitated a while. “Don’t be angry with what I’m going to tell you!”

“Why would I be angry? What did they say?” Fu Chengyan turned to look at her. He held her hand as he massaged her fingers. “Hmm?”

“They asked me to visit and... to bring Su Bancheng along!”

Just as she finished her sentence, she could feel the atmosphere in the room dampen.

It wasn't the first time she had seen this expression of his. It was just that ever since they were together, he rarely showed her this side of him. She was already used to him being calm and collected all the time. At that very moment, Shi Nuan could feel a strong sense of frostiness coming out of Fu Chengyan; it sent a chill down her spine.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but tighten her grip on the towel. Her eyes showed a little fear in them. She then slowly continued, "I didn't agree."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and recovered his senses after a brief moment. When he saw the fear and nervousness in Shi Nuan's eyes, he raised his eyebrows in surprise. "I'm not angry with you!" He didn't like this side of Shi Nuan; he detested the fact that she would fear him.

"May!" Fu Chengyan held her hand and pulled her into his embrace.

Fu Chengyan circled one hand around Shi Nuan's waist while the other hand held her slender fingers. He sighed gently. "Did I scare you? I wasn't angry with you!"

"I know!" Shi Nuan pursed her lips and tried to force a smile. But it came out awkwardly.

She could feel his remorse and patted him on the back of his hand. "I wasn't frightened, I... Next time please don't show me that expression, alright?"

Fu Chengyan nodded. "I promise!"

Shi Nuan heaved a sigh of relief. She gathered her courage and pecked him on his lips and smiled. "Though I know your anger wasn't directed at me, it still made me uncomfortable."

"Alright!"

“I just said that my mom wanted me to take Su Bancheng home with me. But I didn’t say I was going to do that!” Shi Nuan put her arms around Fu Chengyan’s neck and hung on it for support. “You should also realize that the Su Bancheng that my mom talked about isn’t the real one. It’s Su Shaoqing instead. If I really brought the real Su Bancheng home, it would definitely give them a shock!”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips and reached out his hand to scratch Shi Nuan on her nose. “You naughty girl!” he added, “I know that you are really keen to take Shaoqing home with you!”

“Why?” It was Shi Nuan’s turn to be puzzled. “You don’t know my mom. If I really brought Mr. Su home, it won’t be as simple as sharing a meal together anymore. Do you know what it would signify?”

There was a grave expression on Shi Nuan’s face. “Su Bancheng’s status is special because the Su family is rich and powerful in Jiang City. That’s what they are aiming for. Why would they be nice to me for no reason?” As Shi Wei was married, they had no choice. Hence, they were banking on Shi Nuan marrying into the Su family. If that happened, the Shi family would not only be related to Fu Xicheng by marriage but also to Jiang City’s Su family too, which was a much more prominent family than Fu Xicheng’s.

“Foolish girl!” Fu Chengyan pinched Shi Nuan’s hand. “Don’t worry, even if your mom is planning for that to happen, she won’t succeed. Who does she think the Su family is? It won’t happen just because she said so!” Fu Chengyan pursed his lips as he stared at Shi Nuan. “It’s better to let Shaoqing go with you than someone that I have no control over!”

“Do you mean that if Su Shaoqing doesn’t go, my mom would find someone else?” Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows in surprise. When she saw Fu Chengyan’s hesitation, she felt a sudden sense of helplessness. She couldn’t deny that what he said was true. Based on Jiang Yu’s character, she would definitely look for someone else.

Fu Chengyan stroked her forehead gently and tapped against it. “Don’t furrow your eyebrows. This is not something that you can change.” He knew what was

troubling her and shook his head. “To let Shaoqing go with you is the best solution for now. Besides, it’s not like your mom will ask him to marry you immediately.”

“That’s easy to say!” Shi Nuan had the niggling feeling that it wasn’t going to be as simple as that.

Since Jiang Yu had invited her back home, she would definitely have an agenda. Shi Nuan had no clue what it was. But more importantly, she still couldn’t understand why Jiang Yu despised her despite the fact that both she and Shi Wei were her daughters.

“Alright, don’t overthink it. It’s already late so we should rest early.”

Shi Nuan nodded and put down the towel before hugging Fu Chengyan’s at his waist. She buried her head in his chest and said, “I’ll be spending New Year’s at the Shi residence. What about you? Will you return to the Fu residence?”

“Yes!” Fu Chengyan nodded. “That’s a given.” His face darkened slightly as he replied. “So, May, when can I be official? We’ve been hiding our relationship for a while now; we can’t even spend the new year together!”

“Fine!” Shi Nuan held Fu Chengyan up by his cheeks and kissed him on his lips. “I promise that after all this is over. I will immediately declare our relationship to the public, alright? We will have our wedding right after that!”

“Definitely!” Fu Chengyan stroked Shi Nuan on her back and then picked her up with both his arms. He then placed her gently on the bed. “I’ll patiently wait for the good news then.”

Filled with joy, Shi Nuan’s smile was so wide that it looked like the crescent moon.

She laid on the bed with her arms around Fu Chengyan’s neck. She pulled him in gently towards her, and proceeded to kiss him all over his face before finally

landing on his lips. She let out a warm and gentle laugh. With a little bit of force, she pulled Fu Chengyan onto the bed.

Fu Chengyan lowered his gaze and turned his body immediately. With the help of his hand, he pulled Shi Nuan up so that he didn't land on her with all his weight.

They frolicked on the bed in each other's embrace. Fu Chengyan supported himself with his hand as his eyes sparkled. "Naughty you!" He pinched her nose and leaned in to kiss Shi Nuan on her lips.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 270

The Shi family had always gathered during New Year's eve as with tradition, but they chose to gather earlier this year. This was done to accommodate Shi Wei, who had to spend New Year's eve with her in-laws. Going forward, Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu decided they would have their family gathering before New Year's Eve.

Shi Nuan had no problem with the decision as it didn't matter to her. If given a choice, she preferred not to be there. The only reason she attended was that she was obliged to do so as a member of the Shi family and because of her close relationship with Shi Yunsheng. No matter how much she hated it, she would still visit nonetheless.

Shi Nuan didn't want to go empty-handed so she went shopping. It was customary to bring presents for the New Year family reunion. As Shi Nuan's relationship with Fu Chengyan was still a secret, both of them couldn't go out together. But Fu Chengyan refused to let Shi Nuan go out alone, so he tasked Su Shaoqing to be her porter instead.

A porter was just Fu Chengyan's way of sugarcoating it. In reality, Su Shaoqing was supposed to carry all her shopping bags. Fu Chengyan pampered Shi Nuan so much that he wouldn't allow her to do anything that would require any actual effort. Su Shaoqing felt pathetic that he had to go along with it.

At that moment, Shi Nuan was buying up gifts non-stop while Su Shaoqing's hands were filled with all sorts of bags. He wanted to complain but didn't dare do so. He could only stare at the petite figure in front of him darting around.

Shi Nuan enjoyed shopping for the New Year, despite the fact that she didn't like the members of the Shi family. Nevertheless, she loved her granddad and was looking forward to seeing him. Hence, everything she bought was suited for the elderly. She also picked out some high-end electronic gadgets for him.

Shi Yunsheng always said that he didn't need health supplements, but Shi Nuan bought them anyway due to her filial love for him.

Shi Nuan had spent the whole afternoon shopping before she remembered that Su Shaoqing was with her. She was shocked when she turned and saw him with his hands full of shopping bags. She held out her hand embarrassed. "Su, I think I can carry some of those!"

Su Shaoqing squinted and said, "No, you'd better not. If Chengyan knows that I mistreated you, it will be the end of me!" Su Shaoqing then laughed wryly as he looked at Shi Nuan. "Besides, how much more are you going to buy?"

This was the first time Su Shaoqing felt the full force of a woman's shopping spree. Shi Nuan bought a lot of things that Su Shaoqing thought were unnecessary.

Shi Nuan shook her head awkwardly. Just as she was about to say something, her phone rang. "Granddad?"

"Nuan, where are you?" She could hear Shi Yunsheng's familiar voice over the phone. "It's getting late, why are you still not here?"

"I'm coming now, I'm already on my way!" Shi Nuan laughed. "Granddad, please wait a while longer!" Shi Nuan ended her call before turning to Su Shaoqing. "Sorry for the trouble, Su. I shouldn't have involved you in all this in the first place."

"Don't mention it. But I still feel that you can't hide forever. Sooner or later you will need to tell everyone. You just can't keep using me as a substitute!" Su Shaoqing

shrugged his shoulders helplessly. "Let's go; your grandfather can't wait anymore!"

"Sure!" Shi Nuan nodded. They drove to the Shi residence after settling the bill.

As it was the New Year, the Shi residence was filled with decorations that elevated the celebratory atmosphere.

Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing entered the Shi residence together. When the maid saw Shi Nuan returned, she quickly went to welcome her. "Missy, you're back!"

The maid checked out both Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing as she greeted them. "This must be Mr. Su! Madam has mentioned that you would bring home the new Sir today!" The maid then held out her hands and said, "Sir, I'll help you with those!"

Su Shaoqing squinted and glanced at Shi Nuan from the corner of his eye. Shi Nuan felt helplessly awkward. "Aunt Fu, you can address him as Mr. Su." Shi Nuan then shot a glance back at Su Shaoqing. "Bancheng, you can pass all those things to Aunt Fu."

Su Shaoqing let out a disarming smile instantly. Those narrow eyes of his gazed at Shi Nuan as he grinned. "Alright!" Su Shaoqing passed all the presents to Aunt Fu. He felt instant relief after that, and motioned for Shi Nuan to come over.

Shi Nuan pursed her lips as she held Su Shaoqing's hand. She leaned closer to him and whispered. "I hope you don't mind. I don't know why my mom said that!"

Su Shaoqing grinned and said, "No problem!"

Shi Nuan didn't know, but he did. The Su family was a prominent family in Jiang City, and Su Bancheng's status was special. To be able to marry him would mean being related to both the prominent Su and Jiang families. Jiang Yu wasn't a fool at all; in fact, she was very smart.

Jiang Yu had been waiting at home since early morning for Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng to come back, but there was still no sign of them. Perhaps it was because Shi Wei was a big star and her relationship with Fu Xicheng was on the ropes. Instead, Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing arrived first.

Jiang Yu heard some movement as soon as Shi Nuan stepped into the door. It was then that she saw Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing holding hands. Her eyes sparkled and her mind started scheming. Although she was reluctant to let Shi Nuan bag such an eligible bachelor like Su Bancheng, she was willing to set her feelings aside as her priority was to become relatives with the Su and Jiang families.

“So, both of you have finally arrived!”

Jiang Yu approached them warmly. She then discreetly pulled Shi Nuan’s hand away from Su Shaoqing. Jiang Yu squinted as she glared at Shi Nuan. “Why are you late?”

Shi Nuan grinned as she pulled her hand out of Jiang Yu’s grasp. She proceeded to walk back to Su Shaoqing’s side. “Bancheng wanted to prepare some gifts for Granddad. What’s wrong? Do you still think that we’re late?”

Jiang Yu was stunned. She didn’t expect Shi Nuan to talk back to her in front of Su Shaoqing. Her expression darkened. “Of course not. Since you were buying presents for Granddad, it wouldn’t matter even if you were late.”

What else could Jiang Yu say? She didn’t dare say much, anyway. Jiang Yu couldn’t help but feel bitter seeing Shi Nuan stand beside Su Bancheng – heir to both the Su and Jiang families. She also wondered whether she did the right thing pushing Shi Nuan to be with Su Bancheng in the first place.

“Come on over, don’t just stand there. Please have a seat.” Jiang Yu kept her emotions in check and started to entertain Su Bancheng. “Aunt Fu, serve some tea for Sir quickly!”

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes and said, "Mother, Mr. Su and I are just friends at the moment. It's inappropriate for you to address him that way!" Shi Nuan looked at Su Shaoqing as she spoke. Su Shaoqing smiled through his narrow eyes and said, "Aunt is just being friendly; I'm sure she does this to everyone!"

Su Shaoqing let out a smile on that innocent face of his. However, the smile itself carried with it a hint of ferocity.

Jiang Yu suddenly had goosebumps for some inexplicable reason. She then laughed awkwardly in return. "Nuan, look at you. I'm just worried for you. Since you have known Bancheng for some time now and he's visiting today, my guess is that you are likely engaged!"

Shi Nuan's smile turned awkward while Su Shaoqing's expression darkened.

It was likely his first time meeting someone even more shameless than he. He couldn't believe how thick-skinned Jiang Yu was to say something like that.

Fortunately, the butler came down from upstairs at that very moment. "Ms. Shi, Mr. Su." He stood beside Shi Nuan and greeted them respectfully. "Ms. Shi, Old Master knows that you're back. He would like to see you. Mr. Su, please join them, too!"

"Sure!"

There was no point for Shi Nuan to stay in the same space as Jiang Yu. In fact, that would be very awkward. Shi Nuan led Su Shaoqing upstairs while the butler walked in front of them. He asked, "Ms. Shi, this is..."

"Uncle Yang, don't worry. He is my friend!" Shi Nuan laughed. "Mr. Su, this is our butler, my granddad's assistant!"

"A pleasure to meet you, Uncle Yang!" Su Shaoqing knew how to differentiate friend from foe. From the looks of it, he could see that Uncle Yang wasn't on the same side as Jiang Yu. Hence, he was able to let down his guard.

Mr. Yang nodded in acknowledgment. "The pleasure is mine, Mr. Su."

"Old Master is in the room. The two of you can enter." Mr. Yang hesitated for a moment. "Old master is in a good mood today. By the way, what tea would you like?"

"The same one as Granddad is having!" Shi Nuan pushed open the door as she replied. She led Su Shaoqing into the room.

Shi Yunsheng was sitting on a bamboo chair. He was reading a book with a thick blanket on his lap. When he saw Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing enter, he took off his glasses and put down his book. "Is my Nuan back?"

"Granddad!" Shi Nuan approached him happily and held his hand. "I'm back!"

"Alright, alright!" Shi Yunsheng nodded repeatedly. He proceeded to raise his head to look at Su Shaoqing. "Nuan, who is he?"

"Granddad, this is Yan's good friend, Su Shaoqing." Shi Nuan motioned for Su Shaoqing to come over. "Mr. Su, this is my granddad!"

Su Shaoqing approached them in an elegant manner.

Although Su Shaoqing was always playing the fool, he could still be relied on when the time came.

Su Shaoqing knelt down to be at eye level with Shi Yunsheng before greeting him politely. "Mr. Shi, it's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Su Shaoqing."

"Su Shaoqing? Didn't they say you're Su Bancheng?" Shi Yunsheng was a little shocked as he wasn't clued in on their charade. He recalled that he saw Jiang Yu busy the whole day and had instructed the servants to greet Shi Nuan's companion as "Sir".

Since Shi Yunsheng was already old, he didn't want to concern himself with all the details. Given the fact that he knew Shi Nuan was married to Fu Chengyan, he didn't expect Jiang Yu's actions to amount to much. Hence, he wasn't really bothered.

It was just that he remembered the name mentioned as Su Bancheng and not Su Shaoqing.

Shi Nuan and Su Shaoqing exchanged glances and laughed together. "This is really Su Shaoqing, he is Yan's friend!"

"The Su Bancheng that you mentioned is my brother. His is also known as Jiang Shengfan. I'm not sure if you have heard of this name before?"

"Jiang Shengfan? A member of the Jiang family?" Shi Yunsheng was shocked. "The Jiang family of Sheen City?"