

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 276

“Yan, I—”

“Silly girl!” Fu Chengyan pulled her close for a hug. He caressed her back gently. “I’ll always be here.”

Shi Nuan felt the warmth from his body and gradually relaxed. She snuggled deeper and nodded. “Yes.” I know you’ll always be here.

“Have you decided? Will you tell me what happened?” Fu Chengyan rubbed her back like he was consoling a child, and Shi Nuan gradually calmed down. But after a long silence, Fu Chengyan realized Shi Nuan wasn’t going to say anything.

He lowered his gaze to meet Shi Nuan’s conflicted gaze, and nodded understandingly. “You haven’t decided yet? Close your eyes and sleep. You can tell me whenever you’re ready, okay?”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Thank you, Yan.” Thank you for being so understanding.

She shifted and kissed the corner of his lip. Her husband leaned closer to her ear and whispered, “Sleep. When you wake up, everything will be fine.”

That night, Shi Nuan clung onto Fu Chengyan like a koala bear. Her insecure pose made Fu Chengyan’s heart wrench in pain while holding her. By dawn, Shi Nuan was in a deep sleep. Fu Chengyan pulled the covers back and went downstairs.

Su Shaoqing had trouble falling asleep, too. One reason was that someone was following him out there. The other reason was that he always had trouble sleeping around the new year period. Of course, he had thought about curing his insomnia, but nothing worked. He could barely sleep, let alone fall into deep sleep.

Every year around new year, once he closed his eyes he would see an image of a woman bleeding profusely while clutching his arm. Using all her energy, the woman would declare, "Su Shaoqing, from today onwards, I want nothing to do with you!"

In the night, not a sound was heard in Wutong Residence.

Su Shaoqing had quit smoking a while ago, but today he was itching to smoke. He held the cigarette between his fingers for a long time before lighting it up.

The living room was dark. When Su Shaoqing heard footsteps on the floor above, he narrowed his eyes. The next moment, the lights in the living room lit up.

Su Shaoqing held the cigarette in his hand as he watched Fu Chengyan walked over wearing a creased shirt. Since his friend seemed exhausted, Su Shaoqing handed him a cigarette, too. "Do you want one?"

Surprise flashed across Fu Chengyan's eyes. After a brief silence, he smiled. "Are you upset?"

Su Shaoqing frowned. "You make it seem like you are not!" He continued. "What happened to your wife?"

Fu Chengyan wasn't in the mood to tease Su Shaoqing anymore. He took the cigarette but didn't light it up. "Didn't you hear what Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu were talking about in the study?"

“No,” Su Shaoqing rolled his eyes. “When I came out, she was already in that state. Since someone was talking in the study, I pulled her away. She seemed terribly shaken by it. Is it about her identity?”

Actually, Fu Chengyan had told Li Heng to investigate Shi Nuan’s identity a few months back, so Su Shaoqing heard about it. “Anyway, she seemed strange.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “I think so.” He took out his phone to call Li Heng. “Did you find out anything regarding that matter?”

“What?” Li Heng had just fallen asleep when Fu Chengyan woke him up again. “This had better be something important, or else I will make you and Shaoqing pay for waking me up.”

Li Heng sounded furious on the other side of the phone.

Fu Chengyan arched his brows at Su Shaoqing as if he was asking did you wake him up earlier?

Su Shaoqing shrugged, and Fu Chengyan got his answer. “What did you discover about May’s identity?”

“About that?” Li Heng paused for a while before replying, “It’s not a simple task. Strangely, Shi Nuan’s identity seems to be complicated. Everything I’ve found had been deliberately changed. To make it short, Shi Nuan’s identity must be unique. Otherwise, they wouldn’t need to go to great lengths to hide it.”

Li Heng was already wide awake. “You didn’t ask me before the new year, so I thought it wasn’t urgent. I have told my men to speed up the investigation, but you need to give me more time.”

“I can’t wait any longer. What have you found?” Fu Chengyan had no patience – especially on matters relating to Shi Nuan.

“Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng didn’t give birth to Shi Nuan. Your guess was right. To be exact, Shi Nuan isn’t part of the Shi family.” That was all Li Heng found. “But strangely, Shi Yunsheng and Jiang Shizheng treated her differently. I believe you felt it as well, because both men were sincere to her.”

Fu Chengyan’s lips thinned. “So, Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu didn’t adopt Shi Nuan accidentally. It was a deliberate action.”

“Rather than asking me to investigate, go ask both grandfathers. I’m sure they know more than we do,” Li Heng replied calmly, “By the way, I’m afraid there’s something you don’t know.”

“What is it?”

“Your teacher, who is also your wife’s grandpa, Jiang Shizheng, has connections with the Jiang family in Sheen City!”

Fu Chengyan raised his head to look at Su Shaoqing. His friend was confused and asked, “Why are you staring at me?”

“Okay, got it.” Fu Chengyan told Li Heng as he looked away. “Please focus on May’s matter. Let me know as soon as possible.” After Fu Chengyan had hung up, he stared at Su Shaoqing. “The Jiang family in Sheen City.”

“What’s wrong? Why are you suddenly interested in the Jiang family? This is giving me the creeps,” Su Shaoqing sensed something was amiss. “I’m not one of them!”

“But your cousin is.” Fu Chengyan had nearly forgotten about the Jiang family. His own teacher, Jiang Shizheng, was of the same surname, too. “What about the Jiang family’s personal contacts?”

“Don’t ask me that. You’ll have to ask my brother since he’s one of them,” Su Shaoqing replied. His eyes suddenly lighted up. “Right, it nearly slipped my mind. Chengyan, your teacher, Jiang Shizheng, has the same surname as my brother.

Wait a minute, I think my brother's grandfather's name is Jiang Shilin. I've never thought about it. Are they really related to each other?"

After hearing what Su Shaoqing had to say, Fu Chengyan felt like there was an invisible thread connecting everything together. But because the thread was now tangled up, the questions in his heart remain unanswered. "Go back and ask Su Bancheng about this."

Su Shaoqing nodded. "I will ask him even if you didn't tell me to. The Jiang family is complicated. But why are you suddenly curious about them? Is this related to your wife's real identity?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head. "I'm not sure. It's just a guess."

If Jiang Shizheng is related to the Jiang family in Sheen City, it will explain many things. Jiang Shizheng isn't a simple man. And, why did Jiang Yu bring Shi Nuan up? If Shi Nuan wasn't her biological child, there could only be one reason for her to bring up Shi Nuan. Will she get something from Jiang Shizheng in return? That means Shi Nuan must be closely related to Jiang Shizheng.

In other words, even though Shi Nuan isn't Jiang Yu's daughter, she is still related to Jiang Yu. The only option now is to begin with Jiang Shizheng.

Tsk tsk. "Her identity is full of twists and turns," Su Shaoqing never imagined things would escalate to such a point. He continued, "But if she's really related to the Jiang family in Sheen City, your marriage will be easy to settle."

Fu Chengyan shot a look at Su Shaoqing. "Even if she isn't from the Jiang family, I will make sure she gains a firm foothold in the Fu clan!" My wife need not rely on anyone else.

Su Shaoqing arched his brows and snapped, "Fine, I know you and your wife are capable. Do you have to irritate a single man like me?" He couldn't help but roll his eyes. "Did your departure today cause an uproar in the Fu clan?"

Fu Chengyan knitted his brows. He fiddled with the cigarette between his fingers and remained silent for a long time before answering, "Is there any drug that can make people go insane momentarily?"

"Uh..." Su Shaoqing was stunned. He didn't even realize his cigarette was at its end and had started to burn his fingers. Su Shaoqing snapped back to reality when he felt the pain. He asked in shock. "Are you serious?"

"Do I sound like I'm joking?" There was a long silence before Fu Chengyan continued, "This has dragged on for some time. The Song family should be taking action soon." Most importantly, he wanted Shi Nuan to be accepted by the Fu clan. He hoped he wouldn't cause her any trouble and that she would be safe by his side.

Su Shaoqing fell silent, too. "Chengyan, you've changed a lot. Back then, I thought you married her because of her looks. She—"

Fu Chengyan raised his head and glared at his friend. "I know what I want. From the beginning until now, she's the only one I want. There is no other woman!" He squeezed the cigarette hard before throwing it into the trash can.

Standing up, the man looked down at Su Shaoqing. "Give the drug to Zhou Zheng. He knows what to do with it."

He then left, leaving Su Shaoqing staring at his retreating figure. He sat still for some time before nodding to the air. "Okay!"

Well well, I never knew Fu Chengyan would act like this when he is in love.

They had been friends for ages, but this was the first time Su Shaoqing saw him being this serious about a woman. Back then, when Shen Qianan knelt on the ground and pleaded, Fu Chengyan remained calm and indifferent. In the end, he even sent her overseas himself. She was kept away from the rest of the world and was not allowed to return without his permission. To Shen Qianan, it was the worst possible punishment.

Even if Shen Qianan belonged to the Shen family in the capital and her brother was Shen Shixiu, he never went easy on her.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 277

The news of Fu Chengyan leaving the Fu family home that eventful night had spread. Everyone was also clear on Fu Chengyan's attitude toward Song Jingyu. He would never marry her so naturally, he wouldn't show up for the wedding.

With such an understanding, everyone knew to act accordingly and was more cautious when it came to doing business with the Song family.

They all knew what kind of person Fu Chengyan was. It would good if he chose to not take action, but if he did, things would certainly blow up.

Song Zhenyan became extremely cautious because of the incident. She grew up in a household filled with strife; the scheming and backstabbing in the Song family were no less than the Fu family. The reason Song Zhenyan still had a firm standing in the Song family even after getting married was not just because of the Fu family, but also because of her tactics. Even though she was a woman, Song Zhenyan had built a lot of connections while she was still in the Song family. But after she married into the Fu family, she could never really stretch her legs and realize her potential. This was one reason Song Zhenyan refused to return to the Fu family.

She was getting very impatient. She could not let go of what had happened during dinner that night. Fu Chengyan was her son, and yet he treated her like a rival. She couldn't and wouldn't accept it.

"Yan, are you still listening to me?"

Song Huaiyan, who was all the way in the capital, quickly heard of the events of that night. Fu Chengyan's attitude was a slap in the face for the Song family. This

forced Song Huaiyan to have some serious thoughts about the issue. “What on earth was Fu Chengyan thinking?”

“Huaiyan, how about we just forget about Jingyu’s problem?” Song Zhenyan had turned it over and over in her mind and concluded that Fu Chengyan had no reason to treat her that way. Which meant all of it had to be because of Song Jingyu.

Song Zhenyan refused to admit this before, but after returning to the Fu family, she truly learned the meaning of indifference.

Previously, even though those in the Fu family disliked her, they never made it obvious. But now, every single member of the Fu family, from old to young, despised her and the Song family. The reason behind all this was none other than Song Jingyu and Fu Chengyan’s marriage.

Song Zhenyan admitted she had her own personal reasons and wanted to fix her relationship with Fu Chengyan, but she kept failing because of Song Jingyu.

“What are you saying?” Song Huaiyan inhaled sharply when he heard what Song Zhenyan said. “Did you get a concussion? Jingyu and Fu Chengyan’s marriage is a done deal. You agreed to it too! And the little piece of work took Jingyu’s virginity. How dare he try to pretend like nothing ever happened?”

“Huaiyan!” Song Zhenyan was getting a headache. “No one is sure what really happened all those years ago. Yan and Jingyu told different stories. Do you think Yan is someone who would take advantage of Jingyu and not own up to it?”

Even though Song Zhenyan’s relationship with Fu Chengyan wasn’t great, he was still her son, and she knew and trusted his character.

No one saw what happened between Fu Chengyan and Song Jingyu all those years ago. The only thing known was Fu Chengyan suddenly became enraged and stormed out of the Song house while the housekeepers looked on. Yet, none of them actually witnessed him taking advantage of Song Jingyu.

She claimed that something happened between her and Fu Chengyan. She also had the marks and bruises on her body as proof. So everyone concluded that Fu Chengyan was the culprit. Song Jingyu insisted so, too.

Song Zhenyan believed this version of events as well. However, after observing Fu Chengyan all this while, her intuition told her it was someone else who had sexually harassed Song Jingyu.

“He’s your son, so you’re naturally on his side. But don’t forget, you’re part of the Song family. Have you forgotten how the Fu family treated you those years ago? There’s not one good person in there. The Song family took care of you in your time of need, and that’s a fact!”

“I know! I don’t need you to remind me!” Song Zhenyan was nearly in hysterics when she interrupted Song Huaiyan. “I don’t need your constant reminder of my painful past!”

Song Zhenyan had experienced unimaginable pain when she was caught between Fu Sheng and Fu Heng. It was a past she couldn’t bear to revisit. “Anyway, if you want both the Fu family and the Song family to be unharmed, then my suggestion is for you to drop this matter about Jingyu and Yan’s marriage. Chengyan is my son, I know him. If you continue to go down this road, no one knows what he will do.”

“Aunt, what did you say?” Song Zhenyan’s door suddenly opened and in came a zombie-like Song Jingyu. Her eyes dripped with menace as she looked at Song Zhenyan. “Aunt, what did you say? What do you mean?”

“I...”

Song Zhenyan was so taken aback by Song Jingyu’s entrance that she dropped her phone. “Jingyu, listen to me. There’re plenty of good men out there, you can have anyone else you want. I’ll introduce some-”

“Enough!” Song Jingyu pushed Song Zhenyan away hysterically. “You were lying to me all this while! You said you would treat me well and help me with Yan. They were all lies!”

“Jingyu, listen to me. You heard what Yan said that day. He’s never going to marry you. If you go on like this, Yan might take action against the Song family. Jingyu...”

“Then let him! The Song family isn’t afraid of the Fu family!” Song Jingyu screamed uncontrollably. “Yan is mine! Mine and mine alone!”

“Jingyu...”

“If you will not help me, then I’ll do it myself.” Song Jingyu was overcome with rage, and she couldn’t hear a word out of Song Zhenyan. She pushed her aunt aside, ran into her room, and locked the door. She banged her head on the wall while muttering under her breath. Before long, she started convulsing and her eyes lost focus.

It took Song Zhenyan much effort to get up after being pushed to the ground. Because she was worried about her niece, she limped to the latter’s room. Song Zhenyan became alarmed after seeing her door locked and hurriedly banged on the door. “Jingyu, open the door. Listen to me...”

It was New Year and there were many people in the Fu house. Even though people didn’t dare to go upstairs, they could still hear Song Zhenyan’s pleas from all the way downstairs.

Fu Sheng and Fu Heng looked at each other. “I’ll go upstairs to take a look. Heng, you entertain the guests for a while.” Fu Sheng excused himself and went upstairs. He was very surprised to see Song Zhenyan had completely lost her cool and was shouting at Song Jingyu’s door. “What’s going on?”

“Quick! Help me open the door. I’m afraid something has happened to Jingyu.” Song Zhenyan was at a loss and grabbed onto Fu Sheng without thinking much

about it. “Jingyu hasn’t been emotionally stable lately. Yan’s actions from that night were a huge blow to her. I’m worried about her. Just open the door!”

Fu Sheng narrowed his eyes and looked at Song Zhenyan’s hand that was grabbing on to him. Song Zhenyan realized what she was doing and quickly let go. “Quick, open the door!”

Fu Sheng nodded. “Back up.” He kicked the door in.

“Jingyu!”

Song Zhenyan found Song Jingyu convulsing on the floor. It was a rather frightening sight.

“Pills! There are pills in the drawer of my nightstand. Jingyu’s pills!”

“I’ll go get them!” Fu Sheng saw that Jingyu wasn’t looking right, so he rushed to grab the pills. There were two bottles of pills in the drawer, both unlabeled. Fu Sheng frowned but quickly ran back to Song Zhenyan. “What are these for? Is Jingyu really mentally...”

“Stop asking so many questions!” Song Zhenyan interrupted him and shoved two pills into Song Jingyu’s mouth. “Water!”

Fu Sheng poured some for Song Zhenyan so she could feed Song Jingyu. It took quite some time, but Song Jingyu eventually calmed down and they could finally take a breath.

Only then did Song Zhenyan realize she had broken out into a sweat. She looked at Fu Sheng awkwardly. “Can you carry Jingyu onto the bed?” She alone wouldn’t be able to do it.

Fu Sheng nodded and did as he was instructed. After that, the two left the room, Fu Sheng couldn’t help but remind Song Zhenyan. “You understand Yan will never marry Jingyu. And even if Jingyu isn’t ill — which she is — he still wouldn’t

marry her. Moreover, Yan is the heir to the Fu family and he will eventually be the head of the family. But the matriarch will never be Song Jingyu.”

“Then who will it be? Shen Qianan? The one who has been whoring around and gave birth to a bastard child with a nameless father?” Song Zhenyan couldn’t help but retaliate. “Fu Sheng, I didn’t expect you are still so selfish after all these years!”

“I’m selfish? Yan is your son, too. But you don’t know what he wants, do you? Bottom line is, Yan will never marry Song Jingyu. It may not be Qianan, but it definitely won’t be Jingyu. That’s all I have to say. You watch out for yourself.”

“Fu Sheng, you...” Song Zhenyan was so angry her chest was heaving. “You are despicable! If it weren’t for you all those years ago, I wouldn’t...”

“Enough. I don’t want to discuss who was right and who was wrong all those years ago. I can only say I must’ve been blind to insist on marrying you.” Song Zhenyan tried to grab onto Fu Sheng, but he flung her hand away. He looked at her icily. “Let me remind you, Yan isn’t who I was. The methods you and your brother used on me all those years ago won’t work on him. If you insist on going down this road, I don’t mind having Yan help finish what I couldn’t before.”

Fu Sheng stormed off and left Song Zhenyan standing alone. She looked at the forlorn trees outside the window and thought about the incident from all those years ago, the one she just couldn’t let go.

No, all of this isn’t real! It isn’t! “Fu Sheng, you prevented me from marrying Heng all those years ago. Do you think you can prevent Jingyu from marrying Yan now?” She would not let him get his way. She was going to help Song Jingyu accomplish what she couldn’t all those years ago.

Song Zhenyan clenched the pill bottles and walked back into Song Jingyu’s room. She caressed Song Jingyu, who was sound asleep. “Jingyu, I promise to help you!”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 278

It was soon New Year's eve. Shi Nuan was feeling better emotionally. Fu Chengyan was still worried about Shi Nuan's mood. He stayed at Wutong Residence to keep her company. As for the matter of Shi Nuan's birth secret, Fu Chengyan had Li Heng investigate in secret. But the answers were still the same. It was clear someone was trying to keep it all hidden.

Fu Chengyan also realized that Shi Nuan's true identity might not be as straightforward as it appeared, but it wasn't the right time to pay a visit to Jiang Shizheng or Shi Yunsheng. Since both of them were choosing to keep it all a secret, that meant there was something about her origins that people weren't supposed to know. After reaching this conclusion, Fu Chengyan suddenly didn't feel like digging into it anymore.

Two days before New Year, Shi Nuan made an important decision to meet with Shi Yunsheng at Ruyi Tea House without Fu Chengyan. It had been a few years, and many of the shops in that area had closed down. Only a handful was still operating, and Ruyi Tea House was one of them.

Shi Nuan arrived very early. Su Yian wasn't working that day. The two waiters who saw that it was Shi Nuan and just casually greeted her.

When Shi Yunsheng arrived, Shi Nuan was in a private room preparing tea. She saw Shi Yunsheng walked in with the help of Mr. Yang and quickly stood up. "Granddad!"

"Sweetie!" Shi Yunsheng was happy to see Shi Nuan, knowing that she must've experienced some grievance that night or she wouldn't have left so abruptly. Even though he had asked Shi Nuan about it after and also tried to get

information out of Fu Chengyan, he just couldn't get a straight answer out of anyone.

He was glad that his granddaughter had called. "It's only been a few days. Do you miss me already?"

"That's right! Don't you miss me?" Shi Nuan looked at Shi Yunsheng, her eyes were tearing. She told herself to stay calm before coming here, and yet she still found herself unable to handle it.

She knew she wasn't really from the Shi family, and Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu were not her biological parents. Nevertheless, Shi Yunsheng had always been genuinely nice to her. He even treated her better than Shi Wei.

"Look at you. Are you crying?"

Shi Yunsheng felt his heart aching when he looked at Shi Nuan. He sat down with the help of Mr. Yang, grabbed Shi Nuan, and sat her next to him. "Are you that happy to see me?"

Shi Nuan gave him a small smile and tried to appear as normal as possible. "Yes, very happy."

"Sweetie." Shi Yunsheng shook his head helplessly. "Why do you want to meet me?"

Shi Nuan fell silent and poured a cup of tea for Shi Yunsheng. "Granddad, I have something to ask you."

Shi Yunsheng's hand trembled as he saw Shi Nuan's serious expression. He was both curious and uneasy, though he couldn't say why. "Go ahead. Let's see if I can't help you."

Shi Nuan fell silent again, as if she was trying to arrange her thoughts. Just as Shi Yunsheng thought she would not continue on, Shi Nuan took a deep breath and asked, “Granddad, am I your biological granddaughter?”

Shi Yunsheng’s hand, that was holding the cup of hot tea, jerked in response. It spilled and scalded him. He quickly gathered himself. “Granddad is fine.”

“Granddad, I...” Shi Nuan saw how Shi Yunsheng had reacted. She bit her lip and said, “You don’t need to hide it from me anymore. I know.”

Shi Yunsheng gripped the teacup in silence for a long time before he sighed. “What do you know? I don’t even know how or what you think you know.”

“Granddad, you don’t need to hide it from me anymore. Didn’t you want to know why I left abruptly a few days ago?” Shi Nuan smiled bitterly. “Father and Mother were talking in the study when I walked by and overheard them.”

Shi Yunsheng’s eyes darkened, and he shook his head gently. “Silly girl. Why do you assume you aren’t their child? If you aren’t a part of the Shi family, why do you think I’m so good to you?” Shi Yunsheng was about to continue, but Shi Nuan interrupted him. “Granddad, I’m not a little girl anymore. I’m an adult now. If I hadn’t known, so be it. But now that I do, I can’t pretend like nothing ever happened.” This was the line in the sand for Shi Nuan. “I’ve always found it strange when I was younger. Why the other parents could love their children so much? Why were Father and Mother so good to Shi Wei and yet treated me like an enemy? I’ve wondered if I wasn’t good enough or smart enough. So I studied harder and tried to do everything to please them. But no matter what I did, they were never pleased with me.”

“Nuan...”

“Granddad, I know you’ve always been good to me and you have treated me like your actual granddaughter. But now I know that I’m not, I want to ask you. Who are my real birth parents?”

Shi Yunsheng froze.

“Granddad, you know. Don’t you?”

Shi Yunsheng fell silent, which gave Shi Nuan her answer. “They don’t want me, do they?”

“Don’t jump to conclusions. It’s not that they don’t want you, it’s because... they’re not in this world anymore. Nuan, you shouldn’t get torn up over this. You just need to know that you are a part of the Shi family and you are my granddaughter. Everything that I have is yours. That should be enough.”

“But Granddad...”

Right then, the door to the private room suddenly opened, and a man strode in. The man had a light coffee-colored coat in his hands and looked relaxed.

Despite his relaxed demeanor, the cold air surrounding him indicated that he had rushed over. Shi Nuan looked at him in surprise. “Yan!”

Fu Chengyan held his coat in one hand and had his other hand against the door. The moment he walked in, his gaze fell on Shi Nuan. “May.” Then he looked over at Shi Yun Sheng. “Granddad!”

“Yan’s here!” Shi Yunsheng breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Fu Chengyan. “The two of you planned to meet?”

Shi Nuan frowned. “Weren’t you going back to the mansion today?” When Shi Nuan left the house that morning, Fu Chengyan was clearly gone.

When Fu Chengyan heard Shi Nuan, the chill surrounding him became even colder. His eyes darkened when he looked at Shi Nuan, but he said nothing to reprimand her. Instead, he walked over calmly and sat next to her.

He handed his coat over to Shi Nuan, who hesitated for a second before taking it and hanging it up for him.

Fu Chengyan chose a cup, then poured a cup of tea for himself. He held it in his hand as if he was warming himself. "I wasn't able to spend the last holiday with Granddad, so I wanted to take the chance to apologize to you today."

Fu Chengyan raised his cup. "May was thoughtless to ask Granddad out again today."

"I wasn't!" Shi Nuan was unhappy, but she grumbled under her breath because of Fu Chengyan's very strong presence.

He gave Shi Nuan a pointed look, then leaned in to whisper in her ear, "You better have a good explanation for all this later." He then smiled at Shi Yunsheng. "May has always been skilled at preparing tea. Is Granddad enjoying it?"

"It's not bad. Nuan has been spoiled by me since young. If she's doing something wrong, just tell me!"

Fu Chengyan grinned, "Okay!"

Shi Nuan was displeased. "What can I possibly do wrong?"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and said, "Be good and go get us a pot of Biluochun tea."

Shi Nuan hesitated, knowing well that Fu Chengyan was deliberately sending her away. As displeased as she was, she knew that even if she found anything out, she wouldn't be able to keep it a secret from Fu Chengyan, especially since he was so shrewd.

Shi Nuan excused herself and left the private room.

Fu Chengyan was still smiling as he watched Shi Nuan leave, but became stern right after. "I'm sure Granddad knows May well. If she's trying to get to the bottom of something, she won't stop until she does. Moreover, this is such an important matter."

"You know too?" Shi Yunsheng was shocked. "Did Nuan tell you?"

Fu Chengyan shook his head. "No, she didn't. I won't intervene until she is ready to share. Since she came to you today, I couldn't just sit idly by any longer."

Shi Yunsheng sighed and looked at Fu Chengyan with a complex expression. "I'm suddenly a little regretful that I allowed Shi Nuan to marry you." A man like Fu Chengyan wouldn't be easy to handle. If Fu Chengyan leaves Nuan, she would be heartbroken.

"Don't you trust me?" Fu Chengyan continued, "In the six months that I've been with May, even if I haven't fully figured out everyone in the Shi family, I've more or less figured out those she needs to interact with. How do you think I found out, Granddad?" Fu Chengyan placed his cup down. "Truthfully, I have already started investigating a few months ago. But there are people who don't want me to learn more about May's background. Isn't that right, Granddad?"

"Yan, listen to me. If you have Nuan's best interest at heart, pretend this never happened. Nuan is my granddaughter and she will always be my granddaughter. I will give her all that I have." Shi Yunsheng divulged nothing regarding Shi Nuan's biological parents to Fu Chengyan. "As for Zheng and Jiang Yu, I'll warn them not to try anything with Nuan again. This will be the end of this."

"Granddad, the cat will always find a way out of the bag. May won't give up so easily and I won't sit idly by either." Truthfully, Fu Chengyan would not insist on getting an answer. He only wanted to test Shi Yunsheng's reactions and see what secrets were being kept.

Clearly, a secret that had Shi Yunsheng adamantly keeping silent was not a small one.

Shi Yunsheng sighed, “Why are you so persistent? It doesn’t matter what her family name is. What’s important is she’s living a good life now. Sometimes, not finding out the truth can be the better option.”

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Fu Chengyan was about to speak when the door to the room opened. Shi Nuan walked in with a packet of tea leaves. Her gaze darkened when she noticed Fu Chengyan's hesitation. "Granddad, Yan!"

Shi Nuan sat down beside Fu Chengyan. "What were you talking about?"

"What else other than the two of you?" Shi Yunsheng changed the topic a little unnaturally. And in their following conversations, no matter how hard Shi Nuan tried, he always avoided her questions. But the more he avoided, the more curious and determined Shi Nuan was to find out the story behind her birth. Because Shi Yunsheng would not say anything, Shi Nuan couldn't do anything about it either.

It was a good thing Fu Chengyan was there to help mediate the awkward atmosphere.

On the way back, while he was driving, Shi Nuan sat in the passenger seat silently with her head down. Anyone could tell that she wasn't in a good mood. Fu Chengyan didn't start a conversation. He played a song to ease the strange vibe between them.

In the end, it was Shi Nuan who couldn't stand it and spoke up first. "Don't you have anything to ask me?"

Fu Chengyan held the steering wheel with one hand and looked over to Shi Nuan. His gaze was calm as if nothing could faze him. He reached out and squeezed her hand gently. "I said I'll wait until you're ready to speak up. Take your time."

Shi Nuan's eyes flashed, and she pushed Fu Chengyan's hand away for the first time. She looked out the window and waited for several minutes before saying, "You've known for a long time, haven't you?"

"What?" asked Fu Chengyan.

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. "About my birth and my relationship with the Shi family!" Shi Nuan was getting agitated, feeling that Fu Chengyan was just playing dumb. She felt humiliated.

"May!" Fu Chengyan interrupted Shi Nuan's thoughts and sighed, "I've already told you. I don't care what your family name is. I only care about you and that you are my wife. That's all that matters."

Shi Nuan turned to look at Fu Chengyan, her eyes wet with tears, but she refused to cry.

Shi Nuan bit her lips and gave a pained smile. "When did you know?"

"Not too long before you." Actually, he was only making guesses before. He had no evidence to prove it. It wasn't until that day when Shi Nuan broke down did Fu Chengyan conclude his guesses were correct. And yet, he still had no proof.

Shi Nuan hung her head low. "I'm so pathetic. The things I've been chasing after weren't even mine to begin with. No wonder they were never liked me. It's all clear now. I'm not their biological daughter."

"May, you still have me!" Fu Chengyan reached out to hold Shi Nuan's hand again. He looked at her sternly. "You have me. Even if everyone abandons you, I will never do so."

"Is that right?" Shi Nuan had lost confidence. "Yan, do you know? Since I was young, I've always yearned for my mother's hug. I wanted my father to remember my birthday. And yet they never bother. My mother never once hugged me." Shi Nuan tugged on her fingers. "Each year, they only remember after they've

celebrated Shi Wei's birthday. All my birthdays have been spent with Granddad and Grandpa separately."

"Isn't that good? That means Granddad and Grandpa truly care about you!" Fu Chengyan could tell that Shi Nuan had fallen into a spiral. He patted Shi Nuan's hand. "May, listen to me. Let's just pretend this never happened."

"Why?" Shi Nuan looked up at Fu Chengyan in confusion. "I'm not a part of the Shi family, and yet they fostered me. What was their goal? Who were my birth parents? Why did they abandon me? I don't know any of these answers. Now that the cat is out of the bag, I can't possibly pretend anymore. I just can't!"

Shi Nuan could be very stubborn. Once she fell into a hole, it would be very difficult for her to climb out of it. She would keep digging until she came out from the other side. "Yan, I don't want to live like this, not knowing and all the uncertainties. Do you understand?"

Fu Chengyan's eyes darkened. "But you will not get anything out of Granddad."

"Then I'll go ask Grandpa. He must know. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so nice to me all these years. He must. The other day I overheard my mother say that she had to foster me in order for my Grandpa to give her something. So I must be Grandpa's biological granddaughter, right?"

Shi Nuan was becoming agitated. Fu Chengyan stopped the car and looked at her seriously. Fu Chengyan's expression made Shi Nuan anxious.

"Do you think Grandpa will tell you when Granddad won't?" Fu Chengyan shook his head. "You won't get any information from either of them. Listen to me. Don't fixate on this for now. Don't worry about all of this. Since you want to know, I'll take care of it for you. But you need to give me time."

"Really?" Shi Nuan asked suspiciously, "You're willing to investigate?"

“Silly. You’re my wife. Your problems are mine. But you have to promise me to not worry about this for the time being.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. “Okay, I’ll let this go for now. I won’t go ask Grandpa. But you have to help me investigate. I must sort this out.”

“Even if the result isn’t a good one?”

Shi Nuan froze. Her clear eyes looked straight into Fu Chengyan’s and nodded. “Even so.” She had to know.

Fu Chengyan smiled and reached out to caress Shi Nuan’s face, then her lips. “Alright, put the gloomy face away. Give me a smile.”

Shi Nuan twitched the corners of her lips and gave him a reluctant smile.

Fu Chengyan took his hand back. “Since it’s still early, there’s somewhere I want to bring you.”

“Where?” Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan in confusion. “It’s the New Year. Where can we possibly go?”

Fu Chengyan grinned. Shi Nuan saw his excitement, so she pushed her unhappiness away. “Tell me!”

“It’s a secret,” laughed Fu Chengyan as he gently tapped Shi Nuan on the nose. “Sit back,” he said before he stepped on the accelerator and drove off.

Midway, Fu Chengyan made a call. “Are you in?”

The woman on the other end sounded surprised to hear Fu Chengyan’s call. “Yes, but I’ll be closing early today. Are you coming?”

“Yes, I’m bringing someone over. Do you have everything?”

“Yes. I was going to deliver it to you a few days ago, but something happened and we only just fixed it. When are you coming?” Shi Nuan could hear most of what was being said by the very respectful woman on the other end.

Fu Chengyan told her they would arrive shortly, then hung up the call. He turned around to see Shi Nuan looking at him quizzically. He grinned, “You’ll find out later.”

A while later, Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan with surprise. “Why did you bring me to a mall?” It was a high-end mall, too.

Fu Chengyan only smiled in response and got out of the car. Shi Nuan could only follow resignedly. “You’ll find out soon enough. Be patient.”

Fu Chengyan held Shi Nuan’s hand, and the two walked into the mall together. He led her to the jewelry section. Shi Nuan could guess by then. “Are you giving me a New Year present?”

Fu Chengyan smiled in response. They entered a jewelry shop. Shi Nuan was pretty confident then. “You’re giving me jewelry?”

Just then, a well-dressed woman walked up to them. “Mr. Fu, you’re here.”

Fu Chengyan held Shi Nuan’s hand and walked into the shop. “Everything’s ready?”

“Yes, sir. We’re just waiting for you.” The woman smiled as she got a staff to retrieve something. Her gaze fell on Shi Nuan, then on their intertwined fingers. She understood immediately. “This must be Mrs. Fu.”

Shi Nuan was surprised. She looked at Fu Chengyan and noticed that he had little a reaction, so she nodded in response. “Yes. You can call me Shi Nuan.”

“Nice to meet you!” Jian could tell that Shi Nuan had an air of dignified sophistication to her the moment they met.

A man like Fu Chengyan was undoubtedly impressive. He could overshadow anyone but Shi Nuan. They complimented each other well and looked like a beautiful pairing. Shi Nuan had a unique calmness and tranquility to her.

Jian always wondered what kind of woman would suit a man like Fu Chengyan. She could never conjure up an image before, but that all materialized today.

“My wife, Shi Nuan,” said Fu Chengyan while leading her to the rest area to sit down. Jian followed them. “Hello, Mrs. Fu. I’m Jian, the designer here.” Jian’s assistant then handed a jewelry box to her. Jian smiled and nodded.

“Mr. Fu, the item you requested.” Jian handed it to Fu Chengyan as he reached for it.

“Give me your hand!”

Shi Nuan was perplexed, but she still gave him her hand. She saw Fu Chengyan take out a ring from the box and slip it onto Shi Nuan’s finger with a very serious expression.

“The size is perfect!” Fu Chengyan held Shi Nuan’s hand and looked it over from all angles, his face beaming with satisfaction. He looked at Shi Nuan. “Do you like our wedding ring?”

Shi Nuan’s heart skipped a beat. Even her hand that was being held in Fu Chengyan’s was feeling warm. Her face became bright red, and her eyes flashed brightly. She stared at the simple-looking ring. “Erm, we’ve been married for a while now, though?”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 280

“Yes, but when I’m with you, it always feels like we just got married. Everything still feels new.” Fu Chengyan pinched Shi Nuan’s nose and handed her the box. “Put mine on for me.”

“There’s one for you too?” asked a surprised Shi Nuan. She looked at her ring in satisfaction, then looked inside the box to find a full set of jewelry and was even more shocked. “When did you prepare all this?” How did she not know at all?

“It’s a secret.” Fu Chengyan took out his ring and handed it to Shi Nuan. “Put it on for me.”

She took it and compared it with the ring on her finger. Both were designed simply with no patterns or etchings, but the shape was unique, unlike a traditional round ring.

Shi Nuan looked at it this way and that but didn’t put it on for Fu Chengyan. She held it under the light for quite a while. Suddenly, she gasped, “It’s engraved?”

It was only then that Shi Nuan noticed the letters engraved in the inner wall on his ring. It was their initials. She took off her own ring to inspect. It had a similar engraving, but the initials were the other way round.

“These are... our names?” Her ring had ‘Y&N’ whereas Fu Chengyan’s was ‘N&Y.’ Shi Nuan laughed. “Are you staking your claim?”

Fu Chengyan looked at the rarely seen a smile on Shi Nuan’s face and nodded. “You can think that! Don’t take off the ring, okay?” He slid the ring back onto her

finger. Shi Nuan giggled and put his ring on his finger. “Yan, I really like our rings.”

He knew she would. That was why he got them. “Jian’s designs here are all unique.”

“Really?” Shi Nuan turned to look at Jian, who was standing close to them. She was embarrassed when she noticed Jian had been watching them all this while. She had nearly forgotten they were out in public. People would’ve seen the intimacy between her and Fu Chengyan.

“Don’t worry, no one knows we’re here today.” Fu Chengyan held Shi Nuan’s hands and their fingers intertwined. The simple-looking rings suddenly became eye-catching. Shi Nuan, who had been feeling frustrated before, suddenly felt much better. She looked at the two interlocked hands and could feel her heart bursting with joy.

Fu Chengyan patted Shi Nuan’s shoulder, “Have a look at the necklace and bracelet. Do you like them?”

“Yes! I like the whole set!” Shi Nuan nodded in Jian’s direction. “Ms. Jian, your designs are wonderful, I really like them!”

“It’s my honor to do this for Mr. and Mrs. Fu, especially since I am indebted to Mr. Fu!” Jian indicated for her assistant to hand another box over to Fu Chengyan. “When Mr. Fu came here wanting to customize a pair of wedding rings, I was curious to see which outstanding lady would be a good match for Mr. Fu. After meeting you, I finally have my answer. This is my wedding present for the two of you. It’s nothing expensive, but I’ve put thought into it.”

Fu Chengyan nodded to Shi Nuan for her to accept the gift.

Shi Nuan could tell Fu Chengyan cherished Jian’s talents. She was also grateful for the designer’s thoughtful wedding gift. She accepted the gift, opened it, and saw

that it was a brooch that resembled a phoenix. The design was simple yet elegant, with decorated with glittering rhinestones. “This is too expensive!”

Even without considering the cost of labor, the materials would have cost an exorbitant amount. After what Jian said, Shi Nuan had actually believed it was going to be an inexpensive gift. “I can’t accept this!”

Jian perked her eyebrows and smiled at Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan took the brooch from Shi Nuan and thanked Jian. “I’ll have Zhou Zheng send the check over.”

“Alright!” Jian was an easy-going person, and she appreciated how Fu Chengyan always stood by his word. “When is Mr. Fu holding the wedding?”

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow and looked at Shi Nuan. “Not for the time being. When we do, I’ll let you know.”

“Then I’ll wait for the good news!”

Fu Chengyan led Shi Nuan out of the jewelry shop. She was on cloud nine as she held his hand. All her previous unhappiness swept away. Fu Chengyan saw that Shi Nuan’s mood had gotten much better, so he too was happy. “Yan, where are we going now?”

“It’s still early. We can go find a place to eat, then go watch a movie?” Fu Chengyan looked at Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan smiled, then remembered something. “Don’t you need to go back to the mansion? Mr. Su said this is the Fu’s annual gathering. You left abruptly last time, didn’t anyone say anything to you?”

Shi Nuan recalled how she stubbornly insisted for Fu Chengyan to leave. The news would surely travel to the Fu family. Fu Chengyan was the future patriarch of the Fu family; his sudden departure would undeniably raise suspicion.

“You don’t need to worry about these matters. I won’t be going back today.” Fu Chengyan led Shi Nuan to the car, opened the car door for her, then buckled her in. “I have my plans.”

“But...” Shi Nuan felt it wasn’t right. She looked at the ring on her finger. “Are you planning to go public about our relationship?”

“You don’t want to?”

Shi Nuan shook her head. She might have hesitated before, but since she found out she wasn’t really from the Shi family, her attitude changed. “I’m your wife. This is an unchangeable fact. I’ve never thought about running away from it. But if you’re planning to go public, have you thought of the repercussions? Specifically, from the Song family?”

“It’ll all be taken care of soon.” The Song family had never been a roadblock for him. He had been holding back; but now, he had to take action. “Alright. So let’s go eat now. Then we’ll catch a movie and light some fireworks later as we wait for the countdown?”

“Really?” Shi Nuan’s eyes beamed and grabbed onto Fu Chengyan’s hand with excitement. “You’re really going to go to Wutong Residence to countdown with me? Will it be okay if skip the gathering?”

“It’s fine.” Fu Chengyan didn’t really care. It was only a formality, anyway. He always attended in previous years because he didn’t have anywhere else to be. Now that he had Shi Nuan, he couldn’t possibly leave her alone at Wutong Residence.

Shi Nuan hugged Fu Chengyan giddily and kissed him on the cheek. “Yan, I love you!”

“Silly!” Fu Chengyan rustled her hair. “Are you really that happy?”

“Of course!” Shi Nuan didn’t tell Fu Chengyan that countdowns were only a formality to her too. She wasn’t close to her family, and they weren’t happy to be around her. If it weren’t for Shi Yunsheng’s requests, they probably would’ve loved for her to not join them for the celebrations.

So each New Year was Shi Nuan’s happiest and also most difficult time. She was happiest because of the cheery atmosphere, and she had her grandfather. It was a difficult time for her because she had to walk on eggshells around her family members. Those New Year gatherings were always a torment for Shi Nuan.

She originally thought that she would be sad and alone this year. Naturally, she was excited that Fu Chengyan was staying with her.

“But I just remembered something.”

“What?” Shi Nuan blinked, then sat back down. “What’s wrong?”

“We haven’t been to Grandpa’s.”

“You’re right!” Shi Nuan facepalmed herself and looked upset with herself. “I almost forgot! Usually, after I go to Grandpa’s, I always spend some time with him. I was overwhelmed with what happened and it slipped my mind.” Shi Nuan couldn’t help but feel guilty. “Grandpa hasn’t been calling me. Do you think he’s angry with me?”

“No. Of course not!” Fu Chengyan squeezed Shi Nuan’s nose.

“Then let’s go see Grandpa now!” Shi Nuan grabbed her phone and called Aunt Fei. She then found out that Jiang Shizheng had been asking Aunt Fei to prepare extra for the past few days He was expecting Shi Nuan to drop by. Yet the old man had been waiting for a few days and she never made an appearance, so he was feeling unhappy. He had his pride too. Like a child throwing a tantrum, he refused to call Shi Nuan.

She listened as Aunt Fei complained about how Jiang Shizheng had been acting and couldn't help but laugh. "In that case, Aunt Fei, can you prepare extra food? Yan and I are heading over right now."

"Mr. Yan is coming too?" Aunt Fei grinned widely. "Great! I will go prepare right away!"

Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan headed to the mall to buy some gifts before driving over to Jiang Shizheng's place.

When Aunt Fei was on the phone, Jiang Shizheng was actually eavesdropping by the side. When he heard that the 'ungrateful' little girl had finally remembered him, he immediately perked up and forgot about his woes. He asked Aunt Fei to cook a few more dishes, insisting that they mustn't starve his precious granddaughter.

When Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan arrived at the entrance, they could already hear Jiang Shizheng's booming voice. "Hurry up, hurry up! Why're you so slow? Nuan and Yan won't have anything to eat when they arrive!"

Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan looked at each other and laughed as they knocked on the door.

When Jiang Shizheng opened the door and saw Shi Nuan, he immediately put on a stern face and glared at her. "You ungrateful girl. Why're you here?"

"Grandpa! Happy New Year!" Shi Nuan smiled and gave Jiang Shizheng a big bear hug. "It's been so long. You look as spectacular as ever!"

"You little thing!" Jiang Shizheng naturally wasn't really angry with her; any unhappiness he had dissipated when he heard Shi Nuan's laughter. But he still pretended to be mad and gave Shi Nuan a good knock on her forehead. "Why? You're finally willing to drop by? I thought you've forgotten about me! Weren't you thrilled to see your granddad?"

Shi Nuan couldn't help but giggled. She grabbed Jiang Shizheng's arm and led him inside while hinting at Fu Chengyan to bring in the gifts.

She grinned and pulled Jiang Shizheng into the living room. "Of course I was happy! But I'm even happier to see you, Grandpa!"