

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 286

“You don’t have to worry about that.” It was easy for Su Shaoqing to say as he wasn’t the one who did it. Besides, even if the Song family were to seek revenge, it would be against Fu Chengyan and had nothing to do with him.

“Alright, I’ll head home first then. You should go home too. Your father had always hoped that you would return to take over the family business. It would certainly be good for you.”

“Let’s not talk about me. You know me, I don’t have what it takes to be a businessman. Besides, there’s always my brother!” Su Shaoqing replied lightly.

Fu Heng squinted his eyes. “Is that so?”

Fu Heng had watched Su Shaoqing grow up too. Although he had chosen to go into medicine, Fu Heng knew the real reason for his choice. He couldn’t help but sigh and said, “It’s a good idea for you not to take over the family business. Ling would be...”

“Uncle!” Su Shaoqing interrupted him suddenly. “I have to go now.”

“Alright!” Fu Heng nodded, as he realized that he should let them live their lives and intervene less since he was getting old. However, Ling’s face constantly appeared in his mind. Perhaps it was because Ling had gone through a similar experience as his daughter, Pei Huan. They were both sisters and best friends at the same time. Given what they had to go through, Fu Heng just wished that both of them would be able to find happiness.

After Fu Heng had left, Su Shaoqing stayed back and stood by his car for a long time. He took out a pack of cigarettes and picked one out with his trembling fingers. As he closed his eyes, his mind was filled with images of her – from when she was little up to when she became a young lady. She would later grow up to be a feisty woman in front of others while being reserved in front of him.

Unknowingly, the cigarette he was holding had crooked as he became tense thinking about those memories.

Su Shaoqing took a deep forceful breath and entered his car. Although the heater was on, he still felt a lonely chill throughout his body. He wound down the windshield to allow the cold air outside to rush in. Only after a long while did he give Fu Chengyan a call.

“Song Jingyu had a nervous breakdown!”

Fu Chengyan was hugging Shi Nuan to sleep when he received Su Shaoqing’s call. His eyes gleamed coldly in the darkness of the bedroom.

He pulled aside his blanket and got out of bed gently. After covering her back with the blanket, he proceeded to his study. “How did you know?”

“What did you do today?” Su Shaoqing couldn’t help but laugh. He placed his hand on the car window sill and tapped his fingers in curiosity. He added, “She is in my hospital now and had to be given two sedative jabs before she would calm down.”

When he heard the nurse said that Song Jingyu had been warded into the hospital, Su Shaoqing could roughly guess what transpired. “You’re really ruthless to use such a heavy-handed method on a lady!”

There was not an ounce of mercy in those sharp eyes of Fu Chengyan. He put a hand in his pocket as he snorted at what Su Shaoqing had just said. “Is this the first day you got to know me?” It wasn’t like Su Shaoqing’s methods were any less savage than his.

On the other end, Su Shaoqing took another forceful breath. It could be that it was just too cold outside, and he had forgotten to bring his coat along. “What do you plan to do next?”

“What is her current condition?”

“I don’t know, I’ve just left the hospital. By the way, both your parents are at the hospital, and they are injured.” Su Shaoqing uttered a light ‘tsk’ before continuing, “I think your parents are really weird.”

Su Shaoqing had never liked Song Zhenyan despite not having met her before. To him, she was just an idiot. His hatred for Song Zhenyan started when he was young too. The story went too far back and had to be started from Ling.

Ling was Fu Chengyan’s sister by another mother. She was an illegitimate child. The reason why Ling was never accepted into the Fu clan was because of Song Zhenyan.

During that time, she was looking for an excuse to divorce Fu Sheng, so she drugged Fu Sheng and a female undergraduate. Both of them slept together, and that was how Ling was born. However, Song Zhenyan’s marriage with Fu Sheng didn’t end because of that. It ended because that female undergraduate had to feel the brunt of the Song family’s wrath instead. Meanwhile, Ling, who was the most innocent of all, was then banished before she was even born. She could never be recognized as a member of the Fu clan, and her existence would never be acknowledged.

Su Shaoqing clenched his fists, and his fiery tone caught Fu Chengyan by surprise. “You don’t have to vent your anger at me!”

Su Shaoqing laughed suddenly. “What anger is there left in me? By the way, aren’t you going to visit them? They’re both injured, you know. Don’t you plan to create some drama out of this?”

“It’s not time yet!” Fu Chengyan said softly. “It’s late now. I’m going back to bed.”

“Hello? Hello?” Su Shaoqing repeated a few times and realized that Fu Chengyan had ended the call before he had the opportunity to say anything else. Su Shaoqing’s eyes widened as he stared at the blank phone screen. With his gritted teeth, he mumbled in frustration. “Chengyan!” You bastard!

He was in a foul mood today and was looking for someone to vent on. Fu Chengyan saw it coming and avoided him instead.

Su Shaoqing clenched his phone and proceeded to repeatedly lock and unlock his phone. After a while, his anger died down. He then unconsciously opened his album on his phone and scrolled through the photos.

In one of the photos, a girl looked spirited and had a vibrant smile. She was wearing a long dress and standing underneath a tree looking at something...

In the meantime, the Song family at the capital heard about Song Jingyu’s episode that night itself. Song Huaiyan was shocked when he heard it; he had not expected Song Jingyu to have a nervous breakdown.

According to their spy in the Fu residence. Song Jingyu not only became hysterical, but she had also hurt Song Zhenyan and Fu Sheng. It was grave news to both the Song family and Song Huaiyan.

No one in the Song family could sleep that night as they were discussing their remedial plan. The priority was no longer about Song Jingyu’s marriage to Fu Chengyan anymore. It was about damage control instead.

Based on Song Huaiyan’s knowledge of the Fu clan, they would definitely blow this out of proportion. By then, it would be a lot more difficult to extricate themselves from the situation.

“I’ve said this before. A leopard doesn’t change its spots – the daughter is no different from her mother. We can all still remember vividly when her mother went hysterical at the Song residence. It’s even worse now that she slashed someone. Who did you think the Fu clan was?”

It was Song Huaiyu who spoke first. He was Song Huaiyan's cousin and was known to be a fast talker. All this while, he had been dissatisfied with the fact that the larger Song family had sided with Song Huaiyan for a long time.

"Shut up!"

Song Huaiyan was already furious and didn't have any more tolerance for such talk. "Jingyu isn't violent, and she's still a member of the Song family. Can you please show some respect?"

"Am I being disrespectful? Hah! She's a member of the Song family? What has she got to do with our family? Now, isn't it wonderful that she has made a mistake and all of us have to pay for it? Huaiyan, your own son is right here! I think you are more concerned about Song Jingyu than him!"

"Enough!" Song Huaiyan pursed his lips. "It's not the time for such talk. We should be thinking about how to explain this to the Fu clan."

Song Huaiyan was in a quandary. His initial plan was to have Fu Chengyan submit to him but did not expect to have the tables turned on him instead. Indeed, it wasn't easy to deal with Fu Chengyan. However, they were already in disarray even before Fu Chengyan did anything to them.

"Enough, I called all of you here to discuss the matter. Why are you arguing with each other instead?" Song Min reprimanded the group in a frustrated tone. He was Song Huaiyan's father and the patriarch of the Song family. He then glared at both Song Huaiyan and Song Huaiyu. "Alright, I don't think any of you can come out with anything concrete. Go home now! As for Huaiyan, you're gonna have to stay back!"

When everyone else had left, Song Min stamped his cane on the floor forcefully. "Look at what you have done. I told you not to involve Song Jingyu in this. There are a lot of ways to improve our relationship with the Fu clan. We're not short of daughters either. Why can't you have chosen someone else?"

“Father!” Song Huaiyan raised his eyebrows and was in an equally foul mood. “This has nothing to do with Jingyu, she...”

“Nothing to do with her? I know you disagreed with what we did to her mother then. Are you feeling guilty now? You have treated her very well over the years and provided her with everything she needed. Who in the Song family received more attention than her? However, there has to be a limit to what you are willing to do for her. I knew that you were agreeable to the decision made three years ago. Although Fu Chengyan is still young, he has proven himself to be ruthless. Mark my words, he is destined for more.”

“I know.” It was for that precise reason that Song Huaiyan wanted to exert his influence over Fu Chengyan via Song Jingyu – so that the relationship between the Song family and Fu clan can be solidified.

It also wasn't the first time he had tried to establish his influence over the Fu clan. During that time, he wanted Song Zhenyan to marry Fu Sheng instead of Fu Heng for that same purpose. Of course, no one else knew about the plan except for Song Huaiyan himself and Song Min. “When I proposed to have Zhenyan marry Fu Sheng then, didn't you approve of it?”

“How is that the same? Zhenyan is my daughter, who is educated and well-versed in etiquette at the same time. More importantly, she is not mentally ill!” Song Min refused to let his daughter be mentioned in the same breath as a lunatic. “Alright then. Go to Jiang City tomorrow first thing in the morning. We have to cover this matter up no matter what. The Fu clan would not act impulsively since Zhenyan is still a member of their family. I understand Fu Sheng well. He won't do anything to harm Zhenyan!”

“Fine, my sentiments are the same.” He had to manage the situation before the matter blew up as he was worried about what Fu Chengyan would do after that. He couldn't let Song Jingyu singlehandedly destroy the Song family. “I'll bring Jingyu back. As for Zhenyan...”

“She’s a member of the Fu clan regardless of what happens. A married daughter belongs to the family she’s wedded to. It was a mistake for us to take her back in the last few years. She should’ve just stayed with the Fu clan!”

Song Min sighed and took the tea that Song Huaiyan had just passed him.

“Huaiyan, you’re my son. You’re the one that understands me the most. You will be the head of the Song family sooner or later. However, you have to keep in mind that Song Jingyu is an outsider. Your heir is Jingyao, alright?”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 287

Song Huaiyan took the earliest flight out to Jiang City. However, he was still a step behind Fu Chengyan. Since this was a private hospital, it wasn't easy for Song Huaiyan to see Song Jingyu.

Earlier that day, Song Huaiyan had considered making a police report, but it would just infuriate Fu Chengyan further. Besides, after filing a police report, they would no longer be able to cover the matter up. Hence, Song Huaiyan's only choice was to meet Fu Chengyan personally. However, Fu Chengyan refused to see him, so he tried to look for Song Zhenyan next.

But at that moment, Song Zhenyan was basically confined within the hospital by the Fu clan. Although she had everything she needed in the hospital, her movement had been restricted and her phone taken away from her. Hence, Song Huaiyan was shut out yet again. It left him no choice but to head to the Fu residence immediately.

Meanwhile, at the Fu residence, Fu Zhengyun was there with Fu Heng and Ning Xin. Initially, Song Huaiyan planned to visit Fu Sheng as he was still his brother-in-law. Besides, he was confident that Fu Sheng still had some feelings for Song Zhenyan, but he didn't expect Fu Sheng to not be at home.

"It appears Mr. Song is here. Please serve him some tea!" The Fu clan remained polite, although their relationship with the Song family was no longer the same as it used to be. Nevertheless, Fu Zhengyun was still obliging toward Song Huaiyan.

Ning Xin did not join them downstairs due to her health. So, only Fu Zhengyun and Fu Heng were there to receive him. Both of them were not to be trifled with,

and their tempers were equally nasty as well. And because of that, Song Huaiyan wasn't confident going into the discussion.

"I'm sure the purpose of your trip is to take Mdm. Song and Ms. Song home?"

Song Huaiyan was stunned at Fu Zhengyun's words. "Uncle Fu, since Zhenyan has married Fu Sheng, she is naturally a member of the Fu clan. She is Fu Sheng's wife, and this is her home!"

Although Song Huaiyan was the head of the Song family, he was still considered junior to the elder Fu Zhengyun. Hence, he had to be respectful when he talked to him. Fu Zhengyun's words had indirectly pointed out that the Song family was the one at fault. The Song family was responsible for it. However, the Fu clan had implicitly consented to their actions as time had passed. Hence, Song Huaiyan didn't think too much about it.

"Actually, I have something to ask of you."

"Oh? What problems have you encountered?" Fu Zhengyun shot a glance at Fu Heng. "You and Heng are of the same generation. Hence, just tell him anything you need. Although he is no longer the head of the household, at least he used to be!"

Song Huaiyan's expression darkened when he heard what Fu Zhengyun said. "To be honest, this isn't a very big issue. But I apologize on behalf of my daughter, as I know she has been a nuisance to your family. Jingyu's grandfather does miss her a lot and wants me to take her home. This doesn't...I'm sorry for not giving you notice before my arrival. Jingyu is..."

"Don't you already know? Ms. Song is sick in the hospital. Her aunt is with her at the hospital owned by the Su family. Heng sent them there earlier. Didn't you manage to see them?"

Fu Zhengyun feigned ignorance and started stonewalling regardless of what Song Huaiyan said. It didn't matter as he was supposed to be an old man who knew nothing.

When Song Huaiyan was about to leave, he tried to act friendly with Fu Zhengyun. However, Fu Zhengyun didn't take the bait, so Song Huaiyan wasn't able to get anything out of him.

“Chengyan, your uncle is trying to tear down my hospital. Aren't you going to do something about it?”

Su Shaoqing was enjoying his rare holiday and really didn't want to be back at the hospital to be used as target practice. Two days had passed, and Song Huaiyan still wasn't able to see Song Jingyu. He had already made a fuss at the hospital a few times. However, due to his status and pride, he had never gone overboard with his complaints, and hence, couldn't do much.

Su Shaoqing was intrigued by how Song Huaiyan was dealing with the problem. “What do you think your uncle's plan is? In reality, he is more closely related to you than Song Jingyu!”

Fu Chengyan shot a glance at Su Shaoqing. “You really are too free. What are you doing at my place on a New Year's Day?”

Su Shaoqing couldn't help but rolled his eyes. “I've seen people burning bridges after crossing them, but no one does it as efficiently as you do. Without me, how could your plan have worked?” Su Shaoqing snorted. “Back to the topic at hand, how big of a dosage did you give her? Based on my calculations, it hasn't worn off yet, and now, we're faced with this issue on New Year's day!”

Ever since Song Jingyu's medication had been switched, Song Zhenyan had consistently been giving her a specially formulated drug by Su Shaoqing. It was one designed specifically for Song Jingyu's condition. It was just that this drug wasn't meant to treat her. Instead, it was something that would cause her to be confused and befuddled.

“I’m risking my reputation for you since it goes against the Hippocratic oath!”

Fu Chengyan snorted softly. “I remembered that you gave her vitamins in the beginning.” Fu Chengyan put down the documents in his hands and rubbed his temple. He grumbled, “How long are you going to stay in my house? You’re just getting in the way of my work!”

“Tsk Tsk! Chengyan, I know you’re just pretending to be serious!” Su Shaoqing walked over and picked up the documents beside Chengyan. He was shocked when he looked at the contents. “You’re planning to take over Song Group?”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. “I’m just taking a look!”

“Oh, please!” He knew Fu Chengyan very well. Once he had decided on something, he wasn’t going to give it up easily. The proposal that he saw wasn’t just browsing material.

Fu Chengyan closed the file in his hand and stared calmly at Su Shaoqing. “If you’re so free, why don’t you back to the Su residence or learn how to do business from your brother!”

“Hey, take a chill pill!” Su Shaoqing raised his hands to surrender. “I came here because I find those at home to be a nuisance. Since I’m here, I might as well freeload on a meal and hope for some luck for the New Year!” Su Shaoqing saw Shi Nuan coming down as he spoke. She was dressed beautifully in a grey jacket, which accentuated her figure. “Hey, Mrs. Fu, are you going out today?”

“Yes!” Shi Nuan laughed. “It’s the third day of the New Year, and there’s a lot going on outside. I’m meeting Rongrong and Yian.” Shi Nuan walked towards Fu Chengyan as she spoke and saw a bunch of documents beside him. “Are you still busy even during the New Year?”

“You should go early and be back early!” Fu Chengyan reached out his hand to caress Shi Nuan’s cheek. “There’s a lot of people outside, so please be careful!”

“I know!” Shi Nuan couldn’t help but laugh. She looked at Su Shaoqing and greeted him. “You boys continue your chat. I’m off now!”

“Alright!”

After Shi Nuan left, Fu Chengyan returned his gaze towards Su Shaoqing. “You’re really not welcomed here!”

“I must say, Chengyan, you’re not being polite! By the way, since Mrs. Fu is not at home, why don’t we go out?” Su Shaoqing said as he rubbed his hands in glee. “It has been some time since we gathered, and coincidentally, Pei is in Jiang City too!”

Fu Chengyan looked up with a surprised expression. “Pei is here?”

“Yes, why? Don’t you know?” Su Shaoqing looked at him oddly. “You are the one that’s closest to Pei among us. How can you not know that he is in Jiang City?” Su Shaoqing couldn’t help but tsk-tsked Fu Chengyan. “It appears that someone is putting hoes before bros now.”

Fu Chengyan glared at Su Shaoqing. “I thought that he would be at Sheen City since he hasn’t returned for a long time.” The Ning family was based in Sheen City, and there was where Pei Jingxiu grew up. He was the adopted son of the Ning family’s head, Ning Guofu. That’s odd. Fu Chengyan thought to himself quietly.

“I must say, you should stop trying to guess what Pei is thinking. Since when did he ever tell us his plans?” Su Shaoqing stood up as he spoke. “Let’s go to Prosperous Dynasty. I think both you and Li Heng have been working too hard recently. We all need a break!”

Fu Chengyan closed the file he was holding and nodded. “Fine!”

There was no point in him staying at home as Shi Nuan had gone out with her friends too. Besides, Su Shaoqing was right. The three of them had not seen each other in a while.

Although they didn't gather very often, they would still occasionally meet up a few times a year. However, ever since Pei Jingxiu went overseas, their gatherings had become less frequent. And after Pei Huan and Fu Ling's departure three years ago, they had met even less.

In recent years, it was Su Shaoqing that had been actively catching up with Fu Chengyan and Li Heng. Although he always pretended not to care, Fu Chengyan knew that it was only just for show.

"I'll give Pei a call and ask him to bring that feisty girl of his along!"

"Feisty girl?" Fu Chengyan squinted his eyes as an image of a calm and collected girl appeared in his mind. Her eyes were just as cold as that of Pei Jingxiu's. It was hard for him to connect that face with the term feisty together.

"Yes, that's what I call her. Her name is Ning Xi, she belongs to the Ning family!" Su Shaoqing tsk-tsked again. "But then again, I wonder why didn't the Ning family acknowledge her? How could they allow a girl like her to run around with Pei?"

Fu Chengyan's gaze turned serious and remained silent in thought after hearing what Su Shaoqing said. "What did you just say?"

Su Shaoqing was just changing into his shoes when he was stunned by Fu Chengyan's question. "What did I say?" He had a realization immediately. "Ning Xi; I mentioned Ning Xi."

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows and felt that something wasn't right. However, he couldn't put his finger on what it was.

“What is it?” Just then, Su Shaoqing noticed that Fu Chengyan acting strangely.
“Why did your expression change when I mentioned Ning Xi?”

Fu Chengyan frowned, and something flashed through his mind. He then shook his head. “It’s nothing. Let’s go!”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 288

Since it was Su Shaoqing that invited the gang, Li Heng and Pei Jingxiu came. Pei Jingxiu even brought Ning Xi along.

Although Su Shaoqing called her a feisty girl, no one had seen her behave that way. Every time they saw her, she looked calm and collected. It would be more appropriate to describe her as lady-like rather than feisty.

Since Ning Xi was the only female among them, she sat quietly by one side as the four men played cards. She was just like a statue that didn't move the whole time. If they didn't know she was beside Pei Jingxiu, they would likely have forgotten about her.

"I thought that you would have gone back for the New Year!" Fu Chengyan put out a card, and his gaze fell upon Pei Jingxiu. He added, "How did the matter with Aunt Ning go?"

Pei Jingxiu's eyes gleamed. Fu Chengyan was sitting across him, so their gaze met that instant. Pei Jingxiu had a card in hand and seemed to be thinking about something when he said, "Why? Am I being in your way by staying in Jiang City?"

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows as his gaze fell upon Ning Xi. "Isn't Ms. Ning going home too?"

Ning Xi was sitting quietly when she heard her name being mentioned. She then recovered her senses and looked up. She stared at Fu Chengyan and felt that his gaze was somewhat different than that of Pei Jingxiu's.

Pei Jingxiu's gaze felt like a frosty abyss, while Fu Chengyan's was more inquisitive and had a tinge of light within its ruthlessness. She lowered her gaze and took a deep breath. While rubbing her hands, she frowned. "The Ning family and I have not acknowledged each other. The only family member that I have met is my aunt."

Ning Xi's voice wasn't really the kind that was gentle. In fact, it sounded a little squeaky.

Fu Chengyan knitted his brows a little and smirked. "You aren't the kind that let things drag on for this long. Wasn't the Ning family looking for her for the past twenty years?"

Pei Jingxiu's hand trembled for a second. "The time isn't ripe yet!" He put down the card in his hand. "Chengyan, are you really that free? Don't you have lots to do already?"

Fu Chengyan knew that Pei Jingxiu didn't want him to meddle in his business. Hence, he shrugged his shoulders as if he didn't care. He added, "Aunt Ning..."

"I know what I'm doing!" Pei Jingxiu then turned towards Ning Xi, "Are you bored?"

Ning Xi shook her head. "I'm fine. Honestly, I wouldn't know where else to go."

What Ning Xi said was true. She had no friends in Jiang City. Other than following Pei Jingxiu, there was no other place for her to go.

Pei Jingxiu was surprised. "Isn't it the New Year? You should know Chengyan's wife. You can invite her out when you're bored!"

Fu Chengyan laughed when he heard that. "You're right. May is indeed bored when she's home alone, so she went out with two of her good friends today!"

“With regards to this matter, I have something to say. Do you know that today’s gathering was only made possible because Chengyan’s wife abandoned him? He only thought of all of you when he was bored just now, Pei!” Su Shaoqing then turned to Li Heng. “I must say, Li Heng, shouldn’t you say something?”

“And be as irritating as you are?” Li Heng put down a card too. At that moment, Fu Chengyan placed all his cards on the table. “Hah, I win!”

“Chengyan, there no point playing anymore. You keep winning. Can’t you let us win for once?” Su Shaoqing complained as he reached his hand out and rapped the table with his knuckles. “Are you frustrated because your wife left you alone today?”

Fu Chengyan’s fearsome gaze aimed itself at Su Shaoqing. “Are you itching for a fight?”

“Pay up!” Fu Chengyan reached out his hand and looked at Li Heng, who pursed his lips as his gaze flashed with a tinge of danger. “Chengyan, are you picking on me today?”

Fu Chengyan had won almost every round. And the one he beat repeatedly was Li Heng.

Fu Chengyan smiled, “I just had a lucky hand. When one is lucky, there’s no stopping him. Can’t blame me!”

Fu Chengyan’s words triggered a lot of discontent from the group, especially Su Shaoqing, who had zero tolerance for that kind of trash talk. Since he was often with Fu Chengyan, he was already used to the bachelor jokes. But he didn’t expect Fu Chengyan to be so arrogant to crack such a joke even when Shi Nuan wasn’t around.

Fu Chengyan chuckled. “You guys invited it upon yourselves!”

Pei Jingxiu didn't really feel anything. He was already thirty-plus and didn't really have anyone. Let alone talk about being in love. Besides, he wasn't really keen on having a relationship either. However, it was different for Li Heng and Su Shaoqing. Li Heng had married before but separated in less than a year. Three years had passed since Pei Huan left, and Li Heng didn't seem to have gotten over it until now. It was the same for Su Shaoqing. Because of what happened between Fu Ling and him then, he had remained single until today. Although he had never said it out loud, everyone knew how much guilt he felt over Fu Ling.

The partners that both of them yearned for were from the Fu clan. They were both Fu Chengyan's sisters. Over the years, only Su Shaoqing kept in close contact with Fu Chengyan, while Li Heng would avoid meeting Fu Chengyan if he could. It wasn't because something had happened between them; it was just that Fu Chengyan reminded Li Heng of someone he missed dearly.

Li Heng was the first to stand up. "I'm going out for a puff. You guys go ahead!"

After Li Heng left, Pei Jingxiu smiled. He held his cards with one hand while the other was placed lazily on his lap and said, "I'm afraid Li Heng must have had it rough over the last three years!" He then turned to Fu Chengyan. "Are you still unwilling to tell him where Pei Huan is?"

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows in surprise. "What do you mean?"

"With Li Heng's capabilities, it would certainly be possible for him to find Pei Huan. Unless someone deliberately covered up her tracks." Pei Jingxiu turned his gaze over to Fu Chengyan. "The only person who could frustrate Li Heng is you, as I can't think of anyone else!"

With the cards still held in his hands, Fu Chengyan froze for a second, but his expression did not change. He smiled, "Pei, I'm afraid you have got it wrong this time." He faced Pei Jingxiu's gaze calmly. "What do I have to gain from doing that?"

"Pei Huan doesn't want to see him?"

Fu Chengyan lowered his gaze. "You should believe me."

Pei Jingxiu shook his head. "A three-year punishment is more than enough. Let Pei Huan come back! Even if you aren't concerned with Li Heng, think about your uncle and aunt! They have been waiting for so long to finally find their daughter, and now, she has left them again." Pei Jingxiu looked at Fu Chengyan as he spoke. "You were brought up by your aunt. I'm sure you won't be able to forget how well they treated you!"

"Whether you believe it or now, Huan's disappearance had nothing to do with me."

During that time, he wasn't really sure what happened between Li Heng and Pei Huan. Although Pei Huan had reunited with the Fu clan, she was still headstrong. She would do whatever that she felt was right for her.

And though Fu Chengyan knew Pei Huan, they didn't see each other much. He would help her with small things from time to time. That was all that happened between them and nothing else.

Fu Chengyan only intervened when Pei Huan and Li Heng's relationship started to have problems. Yet, he did not expect Pei Huan to leave either, and three years had passed since then.

Besides, it wasn't that Fu Chengyan didn't send men to search for her. But it seemed that all her tracks had been well covered. It was as if she vanished without a trace. Over the last two years, Ning Xin's health had gradually deteriorated. Hence, other than Li Heng, Fu Chengyan had also sent men to look for Pei Huan.

Pei Jingxiu's narrow eyes gleamed. "If not you, who else?" There weren't many that could have helped Pei Huan. There were even lesser men with capabilities to make her trail disappear like that.

“I don’t know. It likely wasn’t anyone from the Fu clan. Other than his sister, did Li Heng have any other enemies?”

Pei Jingxiu’s words had piqued Fu Chengyan’s curiosity. He couldn’t believe how Pei Huan was able to disappear without a trace.

Just then, the private room’s door was pushed open by Li Heng, who stood at the entrance. Those obsidian black eyes of his locked onto Fu Chengyan. “It really wasn’t you?”

“How long have you been eavesdropping?” Fu Chengyan put down his card and tapped on it. “Do you think there was a need for me to do that?”

Li Heng’s expression darkened. “Li Group was attacked!”

“What did you say?” Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows in shock. “When did this happen?”

“A year ago!” Li Heng’s gaze started to feel strange. He had one hand in his pocket while the other held onto half a stick of cigarette. “He is coming back!”

“Who?”

“My uncle.”

Li Cenbei?

Fu Chengyan didn’t have much of an impression of Li Cenbei. He had seen him once before when he was a kid. At that time, Li Cenbei was about twelve to thirteen years older than him.

It was just that Li Cenbei had left the Li family early on. He disappeared from Jiang City and had never appeared since then.

“Are you trying to say that Huan’s disappearance had something to do with your uncle?”

Li Heng’s expression turned into surprise as the hand in his pocket clenched into a fist. “Other than him, I can’t think of anyone else. Li Min and Li Xufan are not threatened by me so that only leaves him. At that time, he was chosen to lead the family by my grandfather. However, he left without a reason, and he hasn’t come back since then!”

Upon hearing what Li Heng said, Fu Chengyan started to worry. “Are you worried that Li Cenbei did something to Huan because of you?”

“I thought that you were the one that did it, although I didn’t say it out explicitly. Since I knew that you wouldn’t harm her, I was willing to accept it as long as she was doing fine. Now that it isn’t you, he is the only other person that I can think of.” Li Heng looked at Fu Chengyan. “We must get Huan back as soon as possible!”

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows in frustration. “The Fu clan is in a complicated situation, so it isn’t necessarily wise for her to return now. Besides, it’s not going to be easy to find her in the first place!”

To be honest, Fu Chengyan wasn’t keen on having Pei Huan return at that moment. The Fu clan wasn’t yet stable, and his plans were still a work in progress. Not to mention that Ning Xin’s health wasn’t doing well...Fu Chengyan raised his head. “Do you really want to get Huan back?”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 289

Li Heng stared at Fu Chengyan solemnly. “Do I look like I’m joking to you?”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. “If you really want Huan back, Aunt Ning might be able to provide you a with lead!” Fu Chengyan tapped on the table as he provided a path forward for Li Heng.

Li Heng was a smart man and quickly understood what Fu Chengyan meant.

Although Pei Huan did not grow up with the Fu clan or wasn’t close to her biological parents, she was still a filial child. She had a good heart too. When the Fu clan first brought her home, she hardly expressed any excitement. However, those in the know knew that the reason Pei Huan acted that way just to make her adopted father feel better.

Li Heng remained silent in thought before he said, “I understand now.”

“But you have to be wary of my uncle. He is holding a grudge against you over what happened to Huan. Although he hasn’t held you accountable for it, it doesn’t mean that he will easily forgive you!”

Fu Chengyan had pointed out the crux of the matter. Pei Huan was Fu Heng and Ning Xin’s daughter. And all this while, Fu Heng felt guilty over not being able to be there for her and had wanted to make up for it. However, it was then that Li Heng and Pei Huan’s relationship became so problematic that Pei Huan decided to leave. Hence, it was understandable that Fu Heng blamed Li Heng for it.

“However, my uncle always listens to my aunt, so it would be better if you see her alone!” Fu Chengyan stopped there, and Li Heng understood that it was the most he could do to help. “Thank you!”

“It’s still too early to thank me. We’ll come to it when Huan is back!” Fu Chengyan took a glance at his watch. “It’s getting late.”

Su Shaoqing raised his eyebrows. “I think it’s more like you are missing Mrs. Fu! We haven’t been out long, so she likely hasn’t finished shopping yet!”

As for Shi Nuan, she hadn’t seen Song Rongrong and Su Yian in a long time. They were all busy with work except for Su Yian. She had only a teahouse to run so wasn’t as busy as the other two. However, it was different for Song Rongrong. She was a reporter and needed to travel all over the country.

She was also not the kind that could tolerate doing nothing. Hence, she’d been to many places for work over the last few months. She only returned to Jiang City on New Year’s Eve. Hence, her family was a little upset, given that she only came home at the very last minute.

Song Rongrong came out for today’s outing despite her mother’s protests. She couldn’t help but sigh. “Do you think my mom is in menopause? I was working. Working, for God’s sake. I was doing something respectable, and do you know what she said? She said that my job doesn’t pay well, and I constantly have to overwork myself. I should just let the men do it. Hmph, why can’t women do it? Why can’t I be a reporter just because I’m a woman?”

She was always proud of her career and never felt there was anything wrong with it. However, her mother was worried for her since she was getting older. She had made no progress on the relationship front as she was constantly busy working outside.

Actually, her mother had called Shi Nuan and Su Yian behind her back to ask them about Song Rongrong’s relationship status.

After Song Rongrong graduated, she went to Africa to work as a reporter. Her mother was devastated then and constantly worried about her safety. She also knew that Song Rongrong took that path because she had just broken up with her boyfriend. Hence, she was constantly upset by Song Rongrong's headstrong character. Although she finally got Song Rongrong home, she was still worried as Song Rongrong kept going out instead.

Shi Nuan and Su Yian exchanged glances as they couldn't help but shake their heads. When Song Rongrong saw that they didn't respond, she turned to look at them. "What happened to the both of you?"

Shi Nuan shrugged. "Nothing much, didn't you say that it was cold today? Let's go get some new clothes!" Shi Nuan and Su Yian each held onto one side of her arms and walked towards the ladies' department. "Both Yian and I feel that your outfit today is just horrendous!"

"Horrendous?" Song Rongrong replied in shock and scrutinized her own outfit. "Which part of it is horrendous? I think I look fine this way."

Shi Nuan smirked as she examined what Song Rongrong meant by fine.

She wore her hair short, and her clothes were minimalistic. It made her look very...boyish. Song Rongrong was actually quite pretty; it was just that she doesn't look feminine enough. She didn't like to have fun either and was always prepared to work.

As someone who was so easy-going, her outfit suited her personality well. However, her mother had given Shi Nuan a call, so Shi Nuan had to do something about it. "Isn't your birthday coming up soon? Come, I'll get you a present!"

When Song Rongrong heard that she was getting a present, she happily followed Shi Nuan's lead. However, she couldn't help but say. "By the way, did a lot happen while I was gone? When I got back, the first thing I heard was the rumor about Fu Chengyan and Shi Wei being together. Damn it. How could those

people be so blind? Fu Chengyan's taste can't be that bad to fancy someone like Shi Wei?"

Shi Nuan found it hilarious when she saw Song Rongrong's outraged expression. "The matter happened a long time ago, and yet you're only bringing it up now?"

"I just got back, so what happened?"

"Nothing much!" Shi Nuan shook her head. "It has almost been resolved."

"Yes indeed, you shouldn't worry about that." Su Yian stepped in to help Shi Nuan out of the spot. "Let's go. We're already here. Let go in and check out the clothes!"

"F***!" Song Rongrong realized that they had arrived at St. Dee unconsciously and can't help but look at Shi Nuan. "Wow, are you really going to get me a present?"

"Of course!" However, she didn't consider herself as St. Dee's boss as no one knew about her marriage with Fu Chengyan. "Let's go!"

Everywhere they went, they saw the whole place heavily decorated with New Year ornaments. It was the same with this mall. Although it was the New Year, the mall was already packed with shoppers. When the St. Dee salesperson saw the three of them enter, she welcomed them immediately. The salesperson's sharp eye had noticed that Shi Nuan was wearing St. Dee clothing, so she approached her and started introducing their products.

Although Song Rongrong was chatty herself, she didn't like being around other chatty people, so she waved her hands and said, "Thanks. We'll take a look ourselves."

Song Rongrong caught Shi Nuan's arm. "I don't think the clothes here suit me. Why don't we go someplace else."

Although Song Rongrong didn't say it loudly, it was enough for all the other staff to hear it. They then stopped attending to the three ladies and went on to serve other customers.

Shi Nuan couldn't help but sigh. "Rongrong, how are we going to shop with you behaving like that?"

"Erm..." Before Song Rongrong could finish, she saw someone approach them from inside the shop. She instantly frowned and said, "What an unlucky day!"

Shi Nuan followed Song Rongrong's gaze and immediately felt what Song Rongrong said was correct. It was an unlucky day indeed. They had not expected to bump into Shi Wei.

In the meantime, Shi Wei herself did not expect to bump into Shi Nuan either. Especially since she came together with a bunch of rich housewives, of which one of them was Fu Xicheng's mother, Liu Minjun.

Liu Minjun had no issues with Shi Nuan and was previously nice to her too. However, ever since Shi Wei got together with Fu Xicheng, Liu Minjun was influenced by her husband, and her impression of Shi Nuan started to deteriorate.

Nevertheless, Liu Minjun started to feel that it was Shi Wei, who was the troublemaker, after all the recent events. She had started to see the good in Shi Nuan.

When Shi Nuan was still with Fu Xicheng, she had treated Liu Minjun as if she was her own mother. This was despite the fact that they were still just dating then. Although Fu Xicheng had married Shi Wei, who was now a famous actress, her attitude towards her mother-in-law still wasn't that good. Liu Minjun's impression of Shi Wei worsened significantly after recent events.

Initially, she had planned to go shopping with her friends today. But Shi Wei wanted to come along and even promised to help her carry her bags.

Liu Minjun agreed as she thought that it was natural for Shi Wei to get on her good side since she was her mother-in-law anyway. However, Shi Wei brought her assistant, Su Su along and acted like the diva she was. She only paid lip service to Liu Minjun in her offer earlier.

Shi Wei had grown impatient after just shopping for a while. When they arrived at St. Dee, she offered to buy them each a new set of clothes from the store. When Liu Minjun's friends heard Shi Wei's offer, they were overjoyed. Only Liu Minjun herself felt uncomfortable with the idea.

And little did they expect to bump into Shi Nuan at St. Dee. When Shi Nuan saw them, she didn't look glad either.

It was Shi Wei who was the first to react. "Mother, look, it's my sister Shi Nuan. Do you still remember her?"

Liu Minjun looked at Shi Wei with mixed feelings and was shocked at how she could actually say such a thing. She replied awkwardly, "Yes, your sister. We've met before!"

"I'll go and say hi to her then!" Shi Wei walked towards Shi Nuan. "Nuan, are you shopping too?"

Shi Nuan shot Shi Wei a glance. "Yes. Are you here with Mdm. Liu?" Shi Nuan looked towards Liu Minjun and saw a group of them numbering about five to six.

She could not remember a time when Shi Wei was patient enough to be able to accompany a bunch of old ladies shopping.

"That's right. They're my mother-in-law's friends. They were so bored at home that they decided to go shopping. I just told them that I was going to buy them a gift each. Since you're here, why don't you join me? Both of us have not gone shopping together in a long time. If you see anything you like, just tell me, and I'll get it for you." Shi Wei's words seemed to be very considerate, when in fact, she was just showing off.

Shi Nuan's expression didn't change as she stared at her inquisitively.

She grew up with Shi Wei and easily knew what she was thinking about. It was obvious to her that Shi Wei was just showing off to Shi Nuan that she married into a rich family. Besides, she could even gloat that she had snatched it all away from Shi Nuan.

However, Shi Wei didn't know Shi Nuan that well. Little did she know that Shi Nuan had long gotten over the incident as she felt that it just wasn't meant to be.

Shi Nuan smiled and nodded. "Alright!" She added, "Since my friends are here, why don't you buy them a gift too?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 290

“That’s right, please buy a set for us too!” Song Rongrong jumped in when she heard what Shi Nuan had said. Even Su Yian, who was usually more reserved, didn’t want to miss out. “Ms. Shi, thanks in advance!”

Shi Wei smirked as she tried to maintain her smile. “Fine, since you’re Nuan’s friends, that means you’re my friends too.” Shi Wei glanced at Song Rongrong and commented with contempt, “Rongrong, why haven’t you changed a bit after so many years? Look at your taste!”

“That’s right, that’s why I need you to rescue me!” Song Rongrong always had thick skin – even thicker than that of Shi Wei. She was just a small-time reporter while Shi Wei was a big star, so she wasn’t worried about feeling embarrassed at all.

Shi Wei was infuriated by Song Rongrong’s response. However, she had to maintain her composure as there were many people around, and that they were in St. Dee.

She didn’t forget the fact that she was now a brand spokesperson for St. Dee. Hence, her true purpose of bringing the whole group of ladies there was to show off.

Although Liu Minjun wasn’t happy with Shi Wei, she was still her mother-in-law and was obligated to come to her defense from outsiders. She approached them and glanced at Shi Nuan’s two friends. “Since Wei has agreed to buy them for you, you should go pick what you want. Given that she is the brand spokesperson for St. Dee, she can still afford to buy them.”

Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows in surprise as she looked at Liu Minjun.

The staff at St. Dee had also recognized Shi Wei earlier on, but they were afraid to have greeted the wrong person. When they heard what Liu Minjun said, they immediately greeted Shi Wei. One of them served her tea while another showed her some magazines. They were all fawning over her and nudged Shi Nuan and her companions away.

“Ms. Shi, please tell us which one you fancy? We will get one for you to try immediately!”

When Shi Wei heard that, she gave Shi Nuan a look of contempt as she smirked. “Alright, I’ll take a look at the catalog first.” The few salespersons then scrambled to pass Shi Wei St. Dee’s latest fashion catalog. “Ms. Shi, here it is. Please have a look.”

The few staff were also very attentive. They brought chairs for Shi Wei and her companions to sit and completely ignored Shi Nuan’s group.

At that moment, Shi Wei purposely called out to Shi Nuan. “Nuan, don’t just stand there, come and have a seat. Or you can browse around to see what you fancy and then give it a try?”

Shi Nuan replied with a smile. “Alright!”

Then she picked up a catalog and stood aside with her friends to take a look.

Song Rongrong had always despised people who put on an act. “I don’t know why Shi Wei is so proud of herself. She’s just the brand spokesperson of St. Dee, while you’re the owner of the company itself!” Song Rongrong was angry at Shi Wei’s attempt at trying to put them down. “Why did you pull me aside? Didn’t you see her just now? She was obviously trying to act as if she owns the place. Does it mean that she wants St. Dee to give the clothes to them for free?”

Shi Nuan squinted her eyes and shook her head. “Don’t worry. She won’t be able to!”

Maintaining her calm composure, Shi Nuan browsed through the catalog patiently with Song Rongrong. “Yian, do you think if this would look good on Rongrong?”

Su Yian took over the catalog, and her eyes sparkled when she saw it. “Looks great. I think Rongrong will look wonderful in it. It more or less matches her own style. Rongrong, what do you think?”

“How can it be more or less. St. Dee is a ladies’ brand for those who are more feminine. While I am...” Song Rongrong protested. However, when her gaze fell on the picture of the outfit, she couldn’t help but be attracted to it.

From the look on Song Rongrong’s face, Shi Nuan knew that she liked the outfit a lot. She waved her hands. “Please bring this for us to try!” Shi Nuan held up the catalog and pointed to the outfit in the picture.

Although the salesperson was reluctant, she still attended to Shi Nuan as she guessed that she was likely Shi Wei’s sister. However, when she saw which outfit it was, her expression changed. “I’m sorry, Miss. We don’t sell this here.”

“You’re not selling it?”

Shi Nuan raised an eyebrow, “Why?”

“We just don’t. Why do you have so many questions?”

“Oh?” Shi Nuan smirked, “Is this what St. Dee’s service is all about?”

“What’s wrong?” Shi Wei heard approached them when she heard Shi Nuan’s conversation. “Nuan, which one did you pick? Let me have a look?”

When Shi Wei saw it, her expression turned awkward. “Nuan, I’m sorry, I already chose this as a gift for...”

“Oh? Didn’t the salesperson say that it’s not for sale?” Song Rongrong couldn’t help but say it out. “Wei, didn’t you say that you wanted to buy it for us? Why are you changing your mind now that I have picked what I like?”

Song Rongrong continued to pressure Shi Wei, who was put in the spot. She raised an eyebrow. “That...I didn’t change my mind. Why don’t you pick another one?” Shi Wei sighed. “There are still a lot of other choices here. Just get a different one!”

“But I like that one!”

“But...Since I’m the one giving you the present, shouldn’t I be the one to choose? I really can’t give you this outfit!” Shi Wei made an awkward face and looked towards Liu Minjun.

Liu Minjun was upset too and felt that Shi Nuan and her friends were being rude. Shi Wei was already kind enough to offer to buy them something. “Miss, my daughter-in-law offered to buy you something out of kindness. It’s not for you to take advantage of her!”

“That’s right, why is she behaving that way!”

“Tsk-tsk, she looks poor. I don’t think she can afford it at all!”

“Yeah! She’s just not appreciative of the fact that Shi Wei is a brand spokesperson for St. Dee. Although we can all receive something for free, it doesn’t mean that everyone here deserves it.”

Shi Nuan and her friends were dumbfounded.

They exchanged glances with each other. Just then, Song Rongrong burst out laughing. “Haha! I can’t afford it? Nuan, your sister’s elderly companions are

really funny!" I can't afford it? "Isn't everyone getting something for free because Shi Wei is the brand spokesperson?"

"About that...I'm sorry everyone. Although Ms. Shi is our brand spokesperson, it's not stated within our rules that she can give out any outfits at will." One of the staff interrupted Song Rongrong when she heard what they were talking about.

Everyone was stunned. Even Shi Wei's expression had darkened. It was Su Su that broke the stalemate, "Wasn't it stated that Ms. Shi could pick any outfit she liked from any of your stores?"

"She can. But it's limited to her own personal use, and only she can wear it. She's our brand spokesperson, so of course, she can take whichever outfit she likes!"

Shi Wei's whole face was flushing red just then when Song Rongrong came to a realization. "Oh, if that's the case, Wei would be paying for a bomb when the bill comes! That's easily more than ten outfits altogether here! And even if everyone just picked one or two, it would still add up to a lot of money! Let's just forget it. I can still afford to pay by myself if I see something I like. Besides, money can't buy affection!"

Song Rongrong turned towards the salesgirl who just spoke to them. "Miss, do you have this in my size? I'm an 'S'. Please wrap it up for me because I'm buying it!"

Shi Wei interrupted her again. "But I chose it first."

"Oh? Have you paid for it then?" Song Rongrong smirked. She opened the catalog and casually pointed to a few more items. "I'll take all these too since I'm in the mood today. It certainly feels wonderful to be spending money during the New Year."

Shi Wei got even angrier as all the outfits that Song Rongrong had picked out were all chosen by Liu Minjun's friends.

Meanwhile, the salesperson was happy to oblige the sales. “I’ll wrap them up at once. Do you want all of them in ‘S’?”

Song Rongrong nodded. “Of course. Look at our three slender figures. It definitely had to be a smaller size!” She glanced at the rich housewives behind Shi Wei as she spoke. “Madams, don’t worry. Our sizes won’t be the same. However, these outfits do look very young. It appears that all of you are young at heart still.”

“Pppffttt!” Su Yian couldn’t hold it in any longer but was quickly silenced by Shi Nuan. Yet, even Shi Nuan was smirking. The salesperson then packed everything up. “May I know if you’re paying by cash or card?”

“Card!” Song Rongrong took out her card, but deep down inside, she felt really guilty. St. Dee’s prices were not for the faint-hearted. She had bought a lot just to put her money where her mouth was. However, it cost her half a year’s worth of savings!

Just when Song Rongrong took out her card, someone stopped her instead. It was Shi Nuan, and she had taken out her own card and said to the salesperson cheerfully, “Use mine! I promised all of you that I would be buying you a New Year’s gift!”

When the salesperson saw Shi Nuan’s card, she looked surprised. When she was about to say something, Shi Nuan quickly shook her head at her. “Take it!”

The salesperson quickly swiped the card. “Erm...Do...Do you still need anything else?” The salesperson’s attitude became more polite that instant.

Song Rongrong and Su Yian couldn’t help but look at Shi Nuan’s card. They were curious as to what made it so special. Regardless of the reason, it must have been something great.

Shi Wei and her companions were equally intrigued when they saw the tremendous change in attitude in the sales staff. They also saw the clothes they

have chosen being sold to Shi Nuan instead. Even though Shi Wei was St. Dee's brand spokesperson, she became upset when she felt that Shi Nuan outdid her.

"Nuan, didn't I say that I'll be buying? Why are you paying instead? All these clothes aren't cheap. With your salary..." Shi Wei stopped halfway and looked at Shi Nuan awkwardly.

Everyone came to a realization and saw Shi Nuan's expression darken.

She smirked as she kept her card. "There's no need. Although I make less than you, Shengyuan treats their employees well. I'm not at the stage where I can't even afford this small amount!"

"That's right. I forgot that you work at Shengyuan. In that case, we're actually colleagues since I'm with Xinhuang. And that's a subsidiary of Shengyuan, right Nuan?"

"I know." Shi Nuan's eyes crept up into a smile. "I even saw you during the annual meeting. You were performing on stage, and it was impressive!"