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Shi Nuan nodded. "I won't say it, of course, but..." She was still a little worried. "What if Li Heng and Huan don't get back together? Huan implied that she won't stay here for long."

"You don't have to worry about this." Fu Chengyan flashed her a smile and walked out of the study holding her hand. "Since Huan has returned, Li Heng won't let her go so easily." How could he let her go so easily after having waited for three years?

On the following day, Fu Chengyan had to go to work so Shi Nuan took Pei Huan to the hospital. As Ning Xin's condition didn't allow any more delays, Pei Huan went directly to Su Shaoqing. "Dr. Su!"

"Mrs. Li!" Seeing Pei Huan, Su Shaoqing flashed her an innocent grin as he moved a chair over. "Have a seat, Mrs. Li!"

Pei Huan glanced at Su Shaoqing. "Dr. Su, I have now divorced from Li Heng, so don't call me Mrs. Li. You should just call me Pei Huan or Fu Jiazhen!"

Su Shaoqing squinted at Pei Huan. Instead of feeling embarrassed, he burst into laughter. "Oh well, it's good that you dumped a man like Li Heng. You can easily find someone younger and richer than Li Heng anyway." Su Shaoqing waved his hand nonchalantly. "I'll stick to Pei Huan then. I feel awkward when I call you by your other name."

"Okay!" Pei Huan was fine with it——it was just a name. She then added, "I came here today to ask you about my mom's condition. I didn't find it appropriate to ask too many questions yesterday."

Su Shaoqing nodded and assumed a serious look again. "Wait a minute. I'll call someone in!" Su Shaoqing got up and walked to the desk to make a phone call. "Dr. Li, please come to the office!"

After Su Shaoqing hung up the phone, he looked at Pei Huan. "Dr. Li is the attending doctor of Aunt Ning."

"The same doctor as three years ago?"

Su Shaoqing gave a slight nod. "Aunt Ning's health is no longer as good as before. It's a relief that you can come back."

"I want my mom to go through surgery as soon as possible." This matter couldn't be delayed anymore. Pei Huan felt guilty for Ning Xin as she did not know that so many things had happened to the latter during her three-year absence.

"Huan, we can't rush things. Besides, we haven't seen each other for three years. We aren't clear on your current health condition, nor do we have a good idea of Aunt Ning's health. I'm just worried that your aunt's body will reject it!"

"How could it be? I thought three years ago-"

"You also said that it was three years ago. We can't rush things. We still have to do some examinations and wait for the results before we can make the decision."

As soon as Su Shaoqing finished speaking, there was a knock on the door. After he gave the person permission to come in, Dr. Li was seen rushing inside. "What can I do for you, Director?"

"Dr. Li, please have a seat. This is Ning Xin's daughter." Su Shaoqing pointed at Pei Huan.

Dr. Li looked at Pei Huan. "Hi, Ms. Pei, it's been a while."

"Hi, Dr. Li, as you're my mom's attending doctor, I'd like to know her condition!"

Ever since Pei Huan came out of Su Shaoqing's office, she had been looking ghastly. She pinched the space between her eyebrows and checked the time before walking toward Ning Xin's ward.

Pei Huan walked to the door of the ward and heard laughter coming from inside—Bao sounded very happy. However, Pei Huan stood outside the ward with mixed feelings.

Bao was already more than three years old. In fact, there was no problem with him when he was just born. It was just that something happened a year ago, after which he started to resent communicating with others.

She originally didn't plan to bring him back with her, but He Beiting was not at home. If she left on her own, no one would take care of Bao. Thus, she could only bring him along. At first, she was worried that he would feel scared because he was in an unfamiliar environment, but it turned out she did not need to worry about this as he seemed to be quite happy here.

Shi Nuan was peeling an apple for Ning Xin, and when she looked up she saw Pei Huan standing at the door. Shi Nuan said with a smile, "You're back, Huan."

Only then did the ward quiet down, with Bao taking the lead. He got off Li Heng's lap and ran to Pei Huan to wrap his arms around her thigh. "Mommy, the uncle just said that he will take me to the amusement park."

Amusement park?

Pei Huan looked up at Li Heng in dismay.

"Why are you here?" Pei Huan's tone was harsh. She was too focused on Bao just now and didn't realize that Li Heng was present as well. Noticing that Bao seemed to like Li Heng, a look of worry crept onto her face.

Meanwhile, Li Heng was worried that Bao would fall while the latter jumped off his lap. Li Heng had a gentle smile as he watched Bao run up to Pei Huan.

Sensing the tension in the atmosphere, Shi Nuan hurriedly said, "Li Heng is here to visit Aunt Ning. Umm, what did the doctor say, Huan?"

After getting Li Heng to peel an apple, Shi Nuan stood up and carried Bao. "Bao seems to like Li Heng very much!"

After Shi Nuan finished speaking, Pei Huan's entire face turned pale. She carried Bao over in a hurry as if she were worried that he would be stolen from her. With Bao in her arms, she said, "Let me carry him, Nuan!"

After that, she walked up to Li Heng. "Mr. Li, given you have visited my mom, please leave now if there's nothing else."

Li Heng pursed his lips. He didn't listen to Pei Huan and continued to peel the apple with his head down. If one were to pay close attention, one would feel as if a storm were brewing. Li Heng knitted his brows, but he didn't get angry even after a long time had passed.

He finally looked up after he finished peeling an apple and glanced at Pei Huan indifferently. "I came to visit Mom, not you!"

"She's my mom." I have not seen such a shameless person.

"Yeah, our mom!" Li Heng handed the peeled apple to Ning Xin. "For you, Mom!"

"Ah, yes." Ning Xin looked at them and sighed inwardly without saying anything. She decided to stay out of the affairs between the two.

Seeing that Ning Xin didn't reject him, Li Heng smiled, whereas Pei Huan wore a long face. But she couldn't say anything terrible to Li Heng considering Ning Xin and Bao were both present.

When Bao saw Ning Xin eating the apple, he wanted some as well. "Grandma has an apple, but why don't I have one? It's not fair, Uncle Li!"

"You wanna eat too, Bao?" Li Heng's countenance brightened as he looked at Bao. "Shall I peel one for you?"

"Okay!" Bao clapped his hands. "Mommy, you can put me down. I want Uncle Li to hold me."

"Why?" Pei Huan was displeased. "Don't you like being held by me?"

"No, I like it, but you'll feel tired and Uncle won't!" Bao then touched Pei Huan's face to comfort her. "Don't be jealous, Mommy. I love you the most."

Pei Huan was so touched that she almost shed tears. Meanwhile, Li Heng looked up to glance at the mother and son.

A closer look showed that Bao's eyebrows were similar to Pei Huan's.

Li Heng rose to his feet. "Let me hold him!" he said as he carried Bao over from Pei Huan's arms.

Pei Huan spaced out for a while. By the time she came back to her senses, Bao was already sitting on Li Heng's lap. Li Heng started to peel an apple with a fruit knife.

Bao widened his eyes in surprise as he looked at Li Heng peeling the apple. "Uncle, you're so cool. The skin breaks every time my mommy peels an apple." Bao applauded as he urged Li Heng, "Don't let it break, Uncle!"

"Okay!" Li Heng nodded with a smile. "I won't let it break!"

Shi Nuan looked at the interaction between Li Heng and Bao, then glanced at Pei Huan.

Perhaps bystanders do see things more clearly.

Pei Huan said that Bao was not Li Heng's son, but the affection was apparent between them, judging from Bao's attitude toward Li Heng as well as the latter's liking for the boy. The fact that Li Heng could treat Bao so well despite being such a proud man showed that he must be crazy in love with Pei Huan.

Although Shi Nuan didn't know what happened between them, she hoped they could start all over again.

Yet, the thought of Pei Huan being a married woman made Shi Nuan feel that Li Heng might have a tough time ahead.

Looking at the heartwarming scene before her, Shi Nuan could not help but record it with her phone. She then sent the video to Fu Chengyan with a text that read: Look, Yan. Don't they look like a family? How blissful!

Fu Chengyan was having a meeting with senior management. During meetings, phones were either forbidden or they must be set to silent mode.

However, when a senior manager was presenting a report, a ringtone was suddenly heard. It rang for a full thirty seconds. Everyone froze as though they had turned into sculptures; they were too afraid to move. A while later they glanced around, trying to see who was so bold to actually use the phone during a meeting.

Fu Chengyan was seen calmly taking out the phone from his pocket with one hand while propping his face with the other. Holding the phone in his hand, he swiped to unlock the screen. When he saw the short video and text sent by Shi Nuan, a gentle smile crept across his face.

Is Fu Chengyan smiling? Is he actually smiling after taking a mere look at his phone?

The looks on the faces of the senior management team changed. Everyone was deeply intrigued. It was hard for them to imagine that the head of Shengyuan Group, who had always been decisive and cold and whose stony stares could kill, would actually smile after looking at the phone.

Everyone looked at Fu Chengyan as if he were a freak while the latter moved his fingers on the screen to reply a 'Yes' to Shi Nuan after reading her text.

Afterward, he put away the phone and glanced at everyone. "Go on. Where were we just now?"

The senior manager who stood rooted to the spot felt like a century had passed before he came back to his senses. "Umm... our department this year..."

Shi Nuan had no idea that her one message had set off a shock wave in a senior management meeting.

Seeing Fu Chengyan's succinct reply, Shi Nuan checked the time and a realization struck her.

He's having a morning meeting, isn't he? Shi Nuan slapped her forehead before putting her phone away and looking at Li Heng and the others.

Li Heng was chatting and joking with Bao, who was in his arms. Bao really enjoyed Li Heng's company as the little one kept urging Li Heng to tell stories. Although Pei Huan furrowed her brows the whole time, she couldn't bear to disturb their good time together.

With a smile, Shi Nuan retreated from the ward to look for Su Shaoqing.

Su Shaoqing was talking to Dr. Li about Ning Xin's condition. When he saw Shi Nuan from afar, he motioned for Dr. Li to leave first. "Don't you need to work, Mrs. Fu?"

"Yeah, Yan asked me to keep Huan and Bao company for these few days." Shi Nuan glanced at Su Shaoqing and asked with a smile, "What about you? Aren't you busy?"

"Oh, I'm swamped!" Su Shaoqing answered with a pitiful look on his face. "Uh... you're looking for me?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "I want to know what exactly is going on with Aunt Ning's condition."

"Oh, I was talking about this with Dr. Li too just now. Pei Huan had her bone marrow extracted once, three years ago. Although it was very successful, we still dare not to simply try it again now."

"So we still need to wait for test results?"

Su Shaoqing gave her a nod of agreement. "Theoretically speaking, yes. Why do you ask?"

"Oh, it's nothing. Pei Huan seems to be in a hurry to leave. But given what you just said, she will stay here for a longer time, which means that there'll be more opportunities for Li Heng!"

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Su Shaoqing couldn't help but laugh. "How considerate." He then headed into the office with Shi Nuan following him. "Of course. Li Heng is Yan's brother and Huan is Yan's sister. Naturally, I hope they will have their happily ever after. Besides, Bao..."

"What about Bao?" Even though Su Shaoqing had only caught a glimpse of Bao just now, he found the boy adorable. "You mean he looks like Li Heng?"

"You think so too?" Shi Nuan's eyes gleamed. "Look, this is the video I took when they were not aware."

Shi Nuan passed her phone over to Su Shaoqing. After watching it, Su Shaoqing glanced at her. "Mrs. Fu, you're incredible. Don't worry. Even if Huan leaves now, Li Heng will still find a way to make her come back."

Li Heng had always been very patient with Pei Huan.

Back then, Su Shaoqing had evidenced the relationship between the two and knew that Li Heng was not someone who would give up easily.

"Let's go back to Aunt Ning's condition. Huan plans to arrange for a checkup for her, followed by surgery. She's discussed this with Dr. Li and he thinks it's a good idea, too."

"Since it is so, then she should go ahead!" As long as it was beneficial for Ning Xin, it must be done.

"Is Pei Huan staying at Wutong Residence now?" Su Shaoqing suddenly asked Shi Nuan as she was about to leave. Shi Nuan paused for a moment, then nodded. "That's right. She's accompanying Bao. What's the matter?"

Su Shaoqing stroked his chin and smiled innocently. Shi Nuan sensed that something was not quite right, particularly the way Su Shaoqing was smiling. It actually looked quite horrifying.

Shi Nuan had known Su Shaoqing for a rather long time, but whenever Su Shaoqing smiled, Shi Nuan would somehow develop a bad feeling. "Dr. Su, what are you thinking about?"

"Oh, nothing much!" Su Shaoqing gave a friendly smile. "Mrs. Fu, we haven't had hotpot in a very long time. It's good weather to go for hotpot. Why don't we go to your house for hotpot today?"

Shi Nuan knitted her brows. "Mr. Su..."

"What's wrong? You're unwilling?"

Shi Nuan couldn't help but roll her eyes. "Of course you can come, but you seem to be up to something."

"Don't say that! I only feel like the group of us haven't caught up in a very long time. And now Pei Huan is back, too!"

Shi Nuan's mouth twitched. "So Li Heng will be there, too?"

Su Shaoqing nodded. "Of course!"

"Okay then. I'll inform Yan about it."

Fu Chengyan was just coming down from a meeting when Shi Nuan called him. "May."

"Yan, are you busy now?"

"I just ended a meeting." Fu Chengyan replied, glancing at Zhou Zheng and Mai Qi. Tacitly, the two left the room.

Fu Chengyan then headed to a quieter area. "What's the matter?"

"Oh, Mr. Su suggests that we have hotpot at Wutong Residence tonight. Are you free?" As Shi Nuan spoke, she caught sight of Su Shaoqing looking at her intently. Rolling her eyes, she continued, "Li Heng will be there too!"

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. "Okay!"

"Alright then. Since I have nothing on now, and Huan and Li Heng are with Aunt Ning, I'll go to the supermarket to buy the ingredients."

"Okay. Let Shaoqing go with you!" Fu Chengyan rested against the window. "I'd be worried if you go there alone."

"Why are you worried? Mr. Su is busy right now. I can go there by myself!"

"No!" Fu Chengyan objected. "I'm not okay with you going alone. How about you ask Li Heng to go with you?"

"I..." Shi Nuan was taken aback. She didn't understand why Fu Chengyan was being so protective. But noting Fu Chengyan's tone, she reluctantly nodded. "Alright then. I'll go to the ward to find Li Heng later."

After Shi Nuan hung up, she glanced at Su Shaoqing. "Yan agreed. I'll go prepare the ingredients now. See you tonight at Wutong Residence!"

As soon as Fu Chengyan hung up, he immediately called Li Heng. Li Heng was talking to Bao at the time, with Pei Huan watching them anxiously from the side as though Li Heng might kidnap Bao at any moment.

Li Heng narrowed his eyes. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Give Bao back to me!"

Li Heng curled his lips into a smile. "Alright. Why don't you come and carry him?"

"You..." Pei Huan glared at Li Heng furiously.

He knew that she wouldn't get angry in front of Ning Xin. Since Bao liked him, Pei Huan couldn't possibly snatch Bao away from Li Heng. "The child isn't yours. Don't you look so smug!"

"I like everything of yours!"

"You..."

Pei Huan's heart shuddered. Turning around, she saw that Ning Xin had fallen asleep. She gritted her teeth and glared fiercely at Li Heng. "Li Heng, don't forget that we're over. Can you stop living in the past? We should look toward the future. I'm already married and have a kid. We can't go back to how we used to be."

Li Heng's gaze suddenly turned cold. Raising his head, he stared at Pei Huan. "I haven't signed the divorce papers yet, so our divorce isn't valid. Pei Huan, you are still my wife. Wait, did you re-marry?"

"You..." Pei Huan gritted her teeth. "We have lived apart for three years now. I'll go and apply to the courts for a divorce."

"Is that so?" Li Heng said coldly, "Pei Huan, as long as I say we're not divorced, who'd dare to say otherwise?"

"Li Heng, is that all you can say?"

"I know how to do many other things as well. Haven't you witnessed them before?" Li Heng said. Just then, his phone rang. With Bao in one hand, he picked up his phone with the other hand. "Hello?"

"Li Heng, please go to the supermarket with my wife."

"Fu Chengyan, that is your wife, not mine." Li Heng knitted his brows tightly. "You should be the one accompanying her! I want to accompany my wife."

"Hmph!" Through the phone, Fu Chengyan heard how annoyed Li Heng was. Raising an eyebrow, he scoffed, "Li Heng, someone annoyed you?"

"If you're bored, go entertain yourself. I have no time to entertain you!" Just as Li Heng was about to hang up the phone, Fu Chengyan said softly, "Su Shaoqing wants us to gather for hotpot at Wutong Residence tonight. Huan and Bao are both at Wutong Residence. Do you want to go?"

"Chengyan, you're so cunning!" Li Heng clenched his teeth. "Where is Shi Nuan now?"

"Oh, at the hospital, with Shaoqing." Fu Chengyan grinned. "Remember to pay for her!"

Fu Chengyan!

Clasping his phone, Li Heng's eyes were filled with a murderous gaze. But when he hung up and saw the child sitting on his lap, Li Heng's gaze softened and his lips curled into a smile. "Bao, how about I bring you out to play?"

"Yay!" Bao clapped his hands. "Are you going to bring me to the amusement park?"

"No!" Pei Huan objected. "Bao is still not in good health; he shouldn't go to crowded places."

Li Heng raised an eyebrow. "What's wrong with him? He looks very healthy!" Li Heng felt that Pei Huan was just deliberately making things up so that Bao would not go with him, while Pei Huan thought Li Heng was being inappropriate.

"Bao would like to go, too," said the boy himself.

You..."

Just then, Shi Nuan knocked on the door. "Li Heng, could you please come with me?"

Seeing that Shi Nuan was here, his mood improved slightly. He nodded. "Chengyan has already called me."

"I'll have to trouble you then. Yan is worried that something might happen if I go alone. Mr. Su is busy, so you're the only one available."

Li Heng nodded and passed Bao back to Pei Huan. "Let's go, then!"

Suddenly, a small child flew into his arms. Bao started crying. "Why aren't you bringing me out to play? You're a bad person."

As Li Heng walked towards the door, he heard Bao cry and stopped. He glanced sideways at Pei Huan.

Pei Huan pursed her lips. She never thought that Bao liked Li Heng so much that he would dash out of Pei Huan's arms and run to Li Heng. Hugging his leg, Bao cried, "Uncle, bring me with you!" The boy looked up at him with teary eyes, making Li Heng feel extremely bad.

He looked into Bao's eyes and reached out his hand to gently pat Bao's head. "Bao, behave and stay here with your mother. I...I need to go out with Aunt Nuan for a while!"

"Why can't you bring me and Mommy along?" Bao asked innocently.

Li Heng glanced at Pei Huan from the corner of his eye. Seeing Pei Huan's conflicted expression, he frowned at her. "Bao is still a kid. Can't you just let him do what he wants?"

"[..."

"Mommy, I want to play with Uncle!"

Caught in a dilemma, Pei Huan looked at Bao.

Bao was her flesh and blood. How could she bear for him to be upset? But that man was Li Heng! *If Bao ends up.*.

Thinking of this possibility, Pei Huan suddenly felt breathless. "No. If you want to play, I can play with you."

"Boo-hoo... Mommy doesn't love me anymore."

"Bao, don't cry!" Hearing Bao cry, Shi Nuan felt her heart ache slightly and immediately bent down to coax Bao. "Bao, you want to go out?"

Bao nodded.

Shi Nuan smiled. "Then I'll bring you out, alright? Uncle will come along, too." As she spoke, Shi Nuan glanced at Pei Huan. "Huan, you can come along, too, if you want."

"But I don't want to leave my mother alone."

"Huan, I'm alright. Your dad is coming soon anyway." Ning Xin woke up amid the argument. Seeing Bao crying, she said tenderly, "Bao is still so young. How can you make him cry like that?"

"Mom..."

"Alright, why don't you both go out? I want to rest. I can't rest properly if you're here!" Ning Xin chased them out. Pei Huan couldn't bear to see Bao cry, either, and said to her mother, "Fine, we'll bring Bao out. But if anything comes up, you must call me at once."

"What issue could I possibly have? Besides, this is Shaoqing's hospital. As long as Shaoqing is here, why are you still worried? Go quickly! Don't make Bao cry anymore!"

"Alright then." Pei Huan gave in. "I'll bring Bao out for a walk."

"Yay! Bao, Mommy, and Uncle are going out to play!"

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"Without me?" Shi Nuan looked rather upset. "Bao, you only want Mommy and Uncle, but not me?"

"Of course I want you, too!" Bao ran over and tugged at Shi Nuan's hand to comfort her. "I love you the most! Let's go now!"

"You're such a good boy!" Shi Nuan couldn't help but pinch Bao's adorable cheeks. "Let's go together!" Holding Bao's hand, Shi Nuan walked off with Pei Huan following close behind.

As Li Heng reached out his hand and held Pei Huan's hand, she shuddered slightly. Pushing his hand away, she glared at Li Heng. "Mr. Li, please don't behave inappropriately!"

Li Heng raised an eyebrow. "I am behaving appropriately by not throwing myself at you. Huan, I'm already trying my best."

"In that case, thank you so very much!" Pei Huan's eyes twitched as she gritted her teeth. "Mr. Li, I didn't know you are so shameless!"

"I ikewise."

"You're crazy!"

Pei Huan pushed his hand away and walked off. Narrowing his eyes, Li Heng's gaze fell on the woman in front of him.

When he held her hand just now, his restless heart felt extremely settled. If it weren't the wrong time, he would have forced her to stay by his side. But he knew that Pei Huan wasn't just anyone. If he treated her like that, she would just run further away from him.

Shi Nuan deliberately wanted Li Heng and Pei Huan to walk together, so she walked ahead with Bao. "Bao, do you like Uncle Li?"

"Yes!" Bao nodded. "I really like Uncle Li!"

"How much do you like him?" Shi Nuan pinched Bao's cheek. "Who is your father?"

"You're talking about Daddy He?" Bao raised his head and smiled innocently. "Daddy He treats me very well. He goes to work every day and makes money for me and Mommy. Mommy says that Daddy He is very tired and asks me not to bother him!"

"Then do you like Daddy He?" Shi Nuan bent down and wiped Bao's face with a handkerchief. "Are you tired? Do you want me to carry you?"

"No, I can walk myself. Mommy says that I'm a big boy now. I can't let other women carry me." Bao blushed. "Aunt Nuan, am I a good boy?"

"Yes, you're a very good boy!" Shi Nuan smiled. "You're my favorite!"

"You're my favorite, too!"

Li Heng followed Pei Huan from a distance. He would speed up or slow down according to her pace.

Pei Huan felt that every step she took was extremely torturous. Even though their walk through the hospital was not very long, it seemed to have taken forever.

When they reached downstairs, Shi Nuan had already brought Bao over to a flower patch. It seemed like Shi Nuan really liked Bao as she often tried to make him laugh.

When Pei Huan saw Shi Nuan interacting with Bao, her expression grew gentler.

Coming back this time, she never expected that Bao would willingly become close to someone else. "Bao!"

"Mommy! Aunt Nuan says she'll bring me to the amusement park tomorrow!" Bao jumped down and ran over to his mother. "She says that Uncle Li will be going, too. She says that there'll be slides, and..."

"Bao!" Pei Huan interrupted Bao hesitantly, "Bao, your body is still weak. You can't go to the amusement park."

"But I want to go!" Bao pouted, looking as if he was going to cry.

"If Bao wants to go, then let him go. Why must you make him cry?" Li Heng was distressed when he saw Bao in tears and went to hold his hand. "Why don't I bring you there tomorrow?"

"Yay!" Bao immediately smiled through his tears. "I want to go with Uncle! Uncle is so nice to me."

"But..." Pei Huan was still worried. "Bao is..."

"Huan, it'll be okay. We'll all go along and look after Bao!" Shi Nuan felt that Pei Huan was being overly anxious. "Did... did anything happen to Bao before?"

"No, nothing." Pei Huan shook her head. "Did you say you want to go the supermarket?"

"That's right." Shi Nuan grinned and nodded. "Li Heng, my car is too small. Where's your car?"

"Give me a moment!" Carrying Bao, Li Heng went to the car park to drive the car out. He placed Bao on the child seat and buckled his safety belt. Seeing Bao's curious expression, he pinched Bao's cheek and asked, "Bao, why doesn't Mommy want you to go to the amusement park?"

Bao said timidly, "There are bad guys at the playground who want to snatch me away. Mommy cried!"

Li Heng was instantly filled with rage. Only when he saw Bao did he suppress his emotions. "When I bring you there, no one will snatch you away, alright?"

After Li Heng made sure Bao was alright, he drove the car out of the carpark. Just then, Liang Lin called him. "Mr. Li, I have already sent you the information about He Beiting. Over the years, he often traveled to various countries, especially C Country. He is indeed married to your wife, but they don't live together. And I just found out that four years ago, He Beiting was in Jiang City!"

Li Heng's grip on the steering wheel tightened and there was a steely look in his eyes. "And?"

"That's all for now. I haven't investigated the rest yet. Mr. Li, do you want to take a look?"

"Continue investigating."

He was at Jiang City four years ago? He felt it was too coincidental, given that Pei Huan left Jiang City three years and seven months ago.

As Li Heng and Bao went to get the car, Shi Nuan and Pei Huan waited at the entrance of the hospital. Seeing that Pei Huan was fixated on the direction which Li Heng had headed, Shi Nuan said, "Huan, don't worry. Li Heng won't do anything to Bao."

"You're not him, how would... how would... I'm sorry." In an agitated state, Pei Huan suddenly realized that there were certain things she shouldn't be saying. "I was just...just too nervous."

"It's alright!" Shi Nuan shook her head. The more nervous Pei Huan was, the more it proved that Li Heng's relationship with the child wasn't as simple as it looked.

"Jiazhen?" A surprised voice drifted over, interrupting Shi Nuan and Pei Huan's conversation.

When Pei Huan heard this voice, she frowned and turned around to see Fu Jiaqi and Lai Jingdong.

Fu Jiaqi seemed to be injured and was limping. When she saw Pei Huan, she lit up. "Jiazhen, I am Jiaqi. Don't you remember me anymore?"

Narrowing her eyes, Pei Huan sneered, "Of course I remember you. After all, you've left such a deep impression on me!" As Pei Huan spoke, her gaze fell on the man beside Fu Jiaqi. "Mr. Lai, long time no see!"

"Pei Huan, it's been a while!"

Pei Huan's lips curled up. "Mr. Lai, this is?"

"Jiaqi and I are married." Lai Jingdong said as his gaze fell on Pei Huan, scanning her from head to toe as if he's assessing a precious jade.

Pei Huan knitted her brows slightly. "Congratulations. I was abroad for a while and didn't get the chance to attend your wedding."

"Jiazhen, since you're back, we will have plenty of opportunities to meet in the future. We can still meet for a meal in the future and treat it like a wedding banquet."

"Really? Do you plan to have another wedding?

Fu Jiaqi stiffened and looked at Pei Huan in embarrassment, "Jiazhen, I didn't mean that. I was just..."

"Ms. Fu, you'd better call me Pei Huan. After all, this was the name your mother gave me."

"You..." Fu Jiaqi pulled a long face.

The biggest blemish in Pei Huan's life was having a shameless mother like Lin Yunjia. If it weren't for Lin Yunjia, she would be the Young Madam of the Fu family and would never have landed in this current state. "Jiazhen, I know you dislike me because I took away your status as the Young Madam. But that was out of my control. Back then, I was so young. I didn't know anything."

"Oh, you're so innocent." Pei Huan sneered, "You're so innocent that even though you knew I was the daughter of the Fu family, you still tried to kill me?" Pei Huan was already in a bad mood, and now that she had met Fu Jiaqi, she was in an even worse mood. "Ms. Fu, you're still using my family's surname? Don't you find it annoying? Why don't you ask your mother who your father is?"

"[..."

"Pei Huan, Jiaqi isn't feeling well. I'll bring her to see a doctor now!" Lai Jingdong interrupted Pei Huan and prepared to leave together with Fu Jiaqi. But Fu Jiaqi was still upset.

She was in such a sorry state at the moment. Turning to look at Lai Jingdong, she noticed that from the moment he saw Pei Huan, his gaze never shifted from her.

"Jingdong, Jiazhen and I are sisters. Now that she's back, how can we not have a meal together..."

"Have a meal together? I'm afraid you're not worthy of that!"

Li Heng drove the car over and stopped in front of them.

Rolling down the window, Li Heng's gaze fell onto Fu Jiaqi. When she looked into his ebony eyes, she felt a sense of terror. Even Lai Jingdong could sense her fear.

Fu Jiaqi shuddered and hurriedly grabbed Lai Jingdong's hands.

Li Heng sneered, "Mrs. Li, you shouldn't be out and about if your injury hasn't healed. Mr. Lai, aren't you worried about your wife?"

Li Heng stepped out of the car and stood next to Pei Huan as if he was her bodyguard. He looked at Fu Jiaqi and Lai Jingdong frostily.

By now, Fu Jiaqi was scared out of her wits. She couldn't stop trembling at the sight of Li Heng. And when Lai Jingdong saw Li Heng and Pei Huan standing together, his face was filled with mixed emotions.

"Li Heng, I'll go to Bao first," Shi Nuan said. Li Heng glanced at Shi Nuan and nodded. "Thank you."

When Shi Nuan opened the car door and went in, she saw Bao sitting on the child seat looking curiously out of the window. "Bao!"

"Aunt, why aren't Mommy and Uncle in the car yet?"

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"They're coming!" Shi Nuan coaxed Bao while keeping an eye on the situation outside.

She didn't know what Li Heng said, but then she saw Lai Jingdong leaving, showing a long face, along with Fu Jiaqi. As they passed by they looked inside the car and saw Bao. At that moment, their expressions changed.

Only after Fu Jiaqi and Lai Jingdong left did Pei Huan get in the car.

Li Heng looked intently at Pei Huan before he finally went into the car as well.

Pei Huan was slightly surprised when she saw Bao sitting in a child seat. Shi Nuan said, "Li Heng, you're really thoughtful. Tomorrow, I'll buy a child seat for my car as well so that Bao will be safe!"

Li Heng's lips curled into a smile. "Liang Lin says that it's safer for Bao to be in the car seat."

Pei Huan bowed her head as if she were deep in thought.

When they reached the supermarket, Bao ran ahead enthusiastically while pulling Shi Nuan's hand; he wanted to buy everything. And Shi Nuan was a huge softie, giving in to all of Bao's requests. In the end, Shi Nuan bought everything that Bao wanted while Li Heng and Pei Huan walked behind them and paid for the items.

Pei Huan had never seen Bao so happy before. She had been busy with work back in C Country. Similarly, He Beiting rarely came back due to his busy schedule. The two of them were not living together anymore. Even though Bao didn't mention it, Pei Huan knew he was rather lonely and needed a companion.

But even one year after that incident, Pei Huan was still afraid and didn't dare to bring Bao out. Since then Bao had become increasingly withdrawn, which made Pei Huan extremely worried.

When she saw how happy Bao was together with Shi Nuan, she started to question if her parenting style might have been wrong. Was it really not good for Bao?

She didn't want to hang around Li Heng. Seeing Bao so happy, however, Pei Huan did not have the heart to take him away.

Walking with Pei Huan, Li Heng noticed that she would be happy for a moment and dispirited in the next. But whenever Bao laughed, she would smile as well. There was a strange feeling in Li Heng's heart as he observed Pei Huan.

After they returned from shopping, Bao was so tired that he fell asleep in Shi Nuan's arms, grabbing onto her clothes. Shi Nuan's heart melted upon seeing Bao in deep sleep.

When Pei Huan saw how carefully Shi Nuan was carrying Bao, she couldn't help but ask, "Mrs. Fu, when are you going to have kids with my brother?"

Shi Nuan froze and looked up at Pei Huan. She blinked and felt her face turning red.

Pei Huan laughed. "I can see that you really like Bao."

"Bao is very cute." Shi Nuan rubbed Bao's face. "He's so adorable."

"Since you like kids so much, why don't you have one with my brother?"

Shi Nuan smiled. "I haven't discussed this with Yan before! I think we shouldn't rush into having kids. We'll let nature take its course!" Since she didn't get any love from her parents when she was a child, Shi Nuan treasured the relationships around her even more.

And being together with Fu Chengyan was the happiest part of her life. If they had a baby, she would of course be happy. Without one, they would just keep trying.

"You're right!" Pei Huan nodded. "I'll carry him now. You must be tired."

"It's alright. I'll pass him to you later. I don't want to wake him up." Shi Nuan whispered, "It must be tough for you to raise him alone."

Hearing this, Pei Huan's expression changed suddenly. She glanced at Shi Nuan, not sure if she had deliberately said that. "Mrs. Fu, you really like to joke around. I'm married. Why would I raise the child alone? Even though my husband...is rather busy, he still cares about Bao!"

Li Heng's grasp on the steering wheel tightened slightly when he heard Pei Huan talk about her husband.

After knowing Li Heng for so long, Pei Huan was well aware of his temper. From the way he was breathing, Pei Huan knew Li Heng was getting angry.

Clenching her fists, she took in a deep breath and said, "Beiting really loves me and Bao."

Just as Pei Huan finished her sentence, the car suddenly screeched to a stop. Hugging Bao, Shi Nuan almost flew forward.

Shi Nuan turned pale in fright and quickly checked whether Bao was alright.

"Is Bao alright?" Pei Huan hurriedly turned back. "Li Heng, are you crazy? If you don't want to drive us, you can just tell us. Mrs. Fu and I will bring Bao back ourselves."

By then, Bao was awoken by the noise. "Mommy!"

"Don't worry, Mommy is here. Let Mommy carry you!"

Pei Huan looked at Bao anxiously, "Are you hurt anywhere?"

"Huan, I'm sorry. I didn't carry Bao properly," Shi Nuan said guiltily.

"Mrs. Fu, it's alright. This has nothing to do with you," Pei Huan said as she glared at Li Heng, "I want to get off now!"

Li Heng knitted his brows and gripped the steering wheel tightly. He became hostile after having heard what Pei Huan said. Pursing his lips, Li Heng looked at Pei Huan, who was also fuming mad. She tried to open the door, only to find that it was locked. "Li Heng, open the door."

Frowning, Li Heng glanced at Bao, who was in Pei Huan's embrace.

Bao blinked and reached out his small hand towards Li Heng. "Uncle, don't be angry. It's scary."

In that instant, Li Heng restrained himself and held Bao's hand. "I'm not angry!" He then looked at Pei Huan. "I'm sorry."

Pei Huan was stunned. She never expected Li Heng to apologize to her.

Someone so high-and-mighty actually apologized to me?

"Huan, don't be angry. I promise you that I will be careful and not let any harm come to Bao or you!"

"Huan, that's right. Li Heng didn't do it intentionally. It must have been a mistake. Li Heng, why don't you go back first? I still need to prepare the ingredients!"

Since Shi Nuan was there, they didn't argue on the spot. For Shi Nuan's sake, Pei Huan didn't explode into a rage, either.

Seeing that they didn't argue, Shi Nuan let out a sigh of relief and immediately texted Fu Chengyan: *I almost got a scare just now. Li Heng is really scary when he doesn't talk.*

Is that so? When Fu Chengyan saw Shi Nuan's message, his eyes twinkled and he wrote back: If he dares to scare you, you should hit him.

How can I do that? What if he hits me back? The more Shi Nuan thought about it, the more intimidated she became. Pei Huan is the only person Li Heng wouldn't dare to hit. And I'm not Pei Huan!

Fu Chengyan texted again: No. Li Heng doesn't hit women. He won't dare to hit you.

Why? Today, I saw Li Heng threaten Fu Jiaqi. She looked so afraid of him!

Fu Jiaqi? Fu Chengyan's eyes narrowed slightly. Pei Huan is my sister, and you are my wife. Li Heng should be fawning over you; he definitely won't hit you!

Shi Nuan couldn't help but chuckle when she read Fu Chengyan's message.

Pei Huan and Li Heng glanced at Shi Nuan. Raising an eyebrow, Pei Huan asked, "Mrs. Fu, why are you laughing?"

"Ah? It's nothing. Your brother just sent me a funny joke." Shi Nuan kept her phone and looked out the window at the scenery.

Pei Huan remarked curiously, "My brother tells jokes? What a joke!" Pei Huan never associated Fu Chengyan with being humorous.

But she didn't pursue the matter any further. Soon, they reached Wutong Residence. Bao was still asleep, so Pei Huan carried him upstairs.

While Shi Nuan prepared the food in the kitchen, Li Heng was idle. He decided to go upstairs after sitting in the living room for a while.

Pei Huan was coaxing Bao to sleep by singing him a lullaby. "Twinkle twinkle little star, how I wonder how you are..."

As she did so, Li Heng saw her removing her jacket. Her knitted sweater did little to hide her alluring figure. Pei Huan sang and patted Bao's shoulders until he fell sound asleep before gently covering him with a blanket.

Just as Pei Huan walked out of the room, she saw Li Heng standing by the doorway. Knitting her brows, she asked, "Why haven't you left?"

Li Heng looked at Pei Huan for a moment before speaking. "Come back to stay with me."

Pei Huan's face flushed with rage. "Li Heng, don't you understand what I'm saying? I divorced you three years ago, so stop bothering me."

"And Pei Huan, I've told you, too. As long as I don't sign the divorce papers and as long as we don't go through the divorce procedure, you are still my wife." Li Heng walked closer to Pei Huan.

Pei Huan retreated until Li Heng cornered her at the wall. Sighing, Pei Huan looked up at Li Heng. "Why are you doing this? When I was in trouble, where were you? When I called you for help, where were you? When I begged you to save me and our child, what were you doing? What did you say?"

Pei Huan glared at Li Heng. "Since you made that choice three years ago, you shouldn't keep bothering me now."

"What choice did I make? I never made any choice. I..." Li Heng stared at Pei Huan wanting to analyze her facial expressions, but Pei Huan didn't give him this opportunity. "It's been so many years. Do you think I'll give you the answer you want?"

"Huan..."

"Don't call me that!" Pei Huan lost control of her volume for a second; she then recalled Bao was in the room and quickly lowered her voice. She turned toward Li Heng. "Must you be so persistent? Can't we go on our own paths? I have my husband, and you will eventually find a woman you love. We..."

"Do you think anyone can come between us?" Li Heng pressed one hand against the wall and lifted Pei Huan's chin with the other hand. "Pei Huan, no one else can come between us. I only care about you. Now that you've come back, you should know that I'll never let you go. Even if I die, you're still mine!"

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When Li Heng tilted Pei Huan's chin up and bored his burning gaze into her eyes, she was overwhelmed by a wave of emotions.

The past three years were hard for her too. The fact that he wasn't there for her every time she needed him when she jolted awake from a nightmare made her feel resentful of him as days passed. When the last straw broke the camel's back, she finally left him.

Sensing that Pei Huan was hurting, Li Heng whispered, "Huan, are you okay?"

Pei Huan shoved him away as soon as Li Heng called out to her. As she regained her senses, she glared coldly at him and warned, "Things between us are long over. If you think you can reconcile with me, you are so wrong. Over my dead body!"

Not able to bear his presence without remembering her sorrowful past, Pei Huan ran out. Li Heng could only watch her leave. After staring wistfully after her for a long time, he went in to see Bao.

His mind was whirling with ideas on how to get Pei Huan back, but it was impossible to solve the massive amount of misunderstandings between them.

The frown on his face turned into a smile at the sight of Bao in deep sleep. Despite Pei Huan denying that Bao was his child, he knew she was lying.

As for He Beiting...

Li Heng narrowed his eyes. He thought that He Beiting was familiar, but he couldn't remember who he was.

Shi Nuan was preparing the ingredients for the hotpot when Pei Huan made her way to the kitchen as if she had seen a ghost.

"What is it, Huan?"

Pei Huan took a deep breath to calm herself down. She watched in awe as Shi Nuan chopped the vegetables skillfully. Ignoring Shi Nuan's question, Pei Huan exclaimed, "I didn't know you are good at cooking!"

"Well, you know now." Shi Nuan nodded her head and searched her eyes while continuing with the food preparation. "Is Bao asleep?"

Pei Huan nodded and went over to Shi Nuan's side. "Let me help you."

"Sure." Shi Nuan shifted aside to make room for Pei Huan. "Do you know how to cook too?"

"Yes. I had to take care of my own meals back when I was in Jiang City. After giving birth to Bao, I usually prepare his meals to make sure that he's getting the nutrition he needs for his growth." Rinsing the vegetables, Pei Huan continued, "You and my brother seem to be quite chummy together!"

Shi Nuan smiled at the remark. "So, that time when you didn't allow Bao to go to the amusement park... Is it because something bad happened to him before?"

Pei Huan shuddered as the sudden change of conversation brought back unpleasant memories. She remained still and quiet for a moment before giving Shi Nuan a slight nod. "Bao was nearly kidnapped when he was two. After that, he became less talkative and more fearful of other people."

"Is that so?" Shi Nuan was surprised. "Bao doesn't seem to be afraid around us and Li Heng."

Noticing Pei Huan tense up when she mentioned Li Heng, Shi Nuan pursed her lips and apologized, "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to upset you by mentioning him, but..."

"I know." Pei Huan smiled helplessly. "I didn't come back here and expect anything less, but..."

"But what?"

"I thought he would have already been married, you know, since he had... He had someone else before."

"Did he?" Shi Nuan was perplexed by the notion. "Are you sure? Li Heng has been waiting for you all these years! From what I know, he has never stopped looking for you! I may not know what happened to both of you in the past, but there's one thing that I can be sure of, and that is that you are the only one he loves."

Shi Nuan could tell that Li Heng was deeply in love with Pei Huan, or he wouldn't have waited so many years for her.

Not wanting to delve deeper into the topic, Pei Huan hurriedly changed the conversation and asked, "How did you and my brother know each other? Does the Fu clan know about you?"

Shi Nuan hesitated before replying, "Our encounter wasn't exactly romantic... To be honest, it was quite a rollercoaster ride, but he treats me well. We were married secretly at first, but now that the Fu clan know about me, they aren't exactly pleased with my existence."

Pei Huan snorted. "It doesn't matter. It's not as if you married the whole Fu clan! As long as my brother loves you, everything will be fine."

Li Heng overheard Pei Huan and Shi Nuan talking when he came down from upstairs. He listened for a long while before making his way to the living room.

Su Shaoqing was the first to arrive that night. He didn't even bother to change his uniform after ending his shift at the hospital. Upon entering the living room, he exclaimed, "This smells really good, Mrs. Fu!"

Shi Nuan came out from the kitchen. Seeing that Su Shaoqing was alone, she asked, "Where's Li Heng?"

"Yes?" Li Heng appeared at the entrance to the backyard.

"Speak of the devil. I thought you've gone somewhere else. Please wait for a moment, as we will be starting dinner as soon as Yan is back."

"Hey, what about me?" Su Shaoqing demanded. "I'm here too! Why aren't you informing me to wait?"

Shi Nuan smirked. "I don't have to. You are the sort of person who shows up at dinner without an invitation." After making the sarcastic remark, she went back to the kitchen.

Su Shaoqing raised his eyebrows and looked back and forth between the kitchen and Li Heng. Finally, he asked, "Where's Pei Huan?"

"In the kitchen."

Su Shaoqing nodded and walked toward Li Heng. Nudging him with his arm, he whispered, "I can help schedule a DNA test with Bao..."

Li Heng's expression darkened as he turned to face Su Shaoqing. "No!"

Puzzled by Li Heng's defiance, Su Shaoqing blurted, "Really? Aren't you curious if Bao is your son? Isn't Pei Huan married to someone else..."

"I said no!" Li Heng snapped impatiently, "Don't you have anything else to do?"

Su Shaoqing shrugged. "I'm only offering to help because you're my friend." In fact, he didn't have any doubts about Bao being Li Heng's son because Bao looked identical to Li Heng when he was the kid's age. It wasn't apparent until they bonded over the past few days. Bao seemed to be very fond of Li Heng as well.

Since Pei Huan wouldn't admit that Bao was Li Heng's son, the best that Su Shaoqing could do was to suggest a DNA test to clear Li Heng of his doubts. Surely Pei Huan can't deny the results of the DNA test!

As if guessing Su Shaoqing's thoughts, Li Heng glanced at him and warned, "You're not going to do it without my permission!"

Rolling his eyes, Su Shaoqing quipped, "Fine. You're such a boring person."

Then, hearing the distant sound of a car engine, he announced, "Chengyan's back!"

Having heard the knock on the door, Su Shaoqing moved toward it lazily and grumbled, "Chengyan, why can't you open the door yourself... Jingxiu?" Su Shaoqing widened his eyes in surprise when he saw Pei Jingxiu and the woman beside him. "Firecracker?"

Pei Jingxiu glanced at him. "What? Am I not welcomed here?"

Aware of Pei Jingxiu's dangerous glare, Su Shaoqing shook his head and gulped, "No, of course, you're welcome! Come in!" He turned to Ning Xi and asked, "Firecracker, why are you here?"

Ning Xi ignored him and entered the living room with Pei Jingxiu.

Su Shaoqing smiled innocently and followed Ning Xi. "Well, Firecracker, you could have given me an acknowledging smile at least! After all, we've known each other for so long. Aren't you happy to see me?"

"You're making such a fuss." Ning Xi cast him a sideways glance and snapped, "No wonder you're still single. I don't think anybody can stand you!"

Su Shaoqing choked at her sarcastic remark. He glared at her and retorted, "I'm single because I don't care, alright? Women are always at my beck and call. Are you having a crush on me, Firecracker?"

When Su Shaoging said that, the living room fell silent.

He froze when he sensed Pei Jingxiu glaring at him as if he had done something gravely wrong. Pei Jingxiu looked like he was about to kill him on the spot.

Ning Xi rolled her eyes and muttered something that had to do with Su Shaoqing's childishness before walking toward Pei Jingxiu, who glanced at her. "Have a seat."

Su Shaoqing felt hurt when he saw Ning Xi obeying Pei Jingxiu. "I'm not the only one single here, Firecracker. Jingxiu is also single, and he's older than me!"

Pei Jingxiu looked up at him. "Got a problem with that?"

"No! Of course not." Su Shaoqing didn't dare provoke Pei Jingxiu. "I'm going to the kitchen to help Nuan!"

Helping out in the kitchen was the best solution to avoid getting into trouble with Pei Jingxiu or Li Heng.

Pei Jingxiu glared after Su Shaoqing until he disappeared into the kitchen. He returned his gaze to Ning Xi and asked, "Do you like him?"

Appalled, Ning Xi shook her head vigorously.

"Alright." Pei Jingxiu gave her a curt nod and crossed his slender fingers before turning to Li Heng, who was opposite him. "Now that Pei Huan's back, what are you going to do?"

There was a long silence before Li Heng sighed. "It's been three years. Maybe some things are never meant to be." Levelling his gaze with Pei Jingxiu, he asked, "Aren't you supposed to go back to Sheen City?"

Pei Jingxiu frowned and replied, "Something happened to Aunt Ning Xin. I'm worried."

It was natural for Pei Jingxiu to feel attached to Ning Xin because she took care of him and Fu Chengyan when they were kids.

"Now that Huan's back, I'm sure she'll be fine." Li Heng was determined to look after her as well. "Did you do the DNA test?"

Li Heng knew the answer to his question as soon as he saw Pei Jingxiu's slight frown. "What's with the sloppiness?" Li Heng asked skeptically.