## I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 361

"Huh? Hey, Nuan!" Su Shaoqing came to his senses and smiled goofily at Shi Nuan. "Don't worry; I'm just fooling around with Chengyan a bit. As Bancheng's gone, I should get going too." He shot Fu Chengyan a knowing look before making a hasty departure.

Eyeing both of them suspiciously, Shi Nuan asked Fu Chengyan, "What's the matter with Mr. Su?"

"He's gone mad!" Fu Chengyan blurted. "Do you need help?"

"Nope. I saw Mr. Su's cousin leaving just now, so I decided to come upstairs and check if everything's alright." Wearing a pleasant smile, she cast an inquisitive glance at the inside of the study. "What were you guys talking about just now? What's the thing Mr. Su asked you to tell me?"

A hint of alarm flickered in Fu Chengyan's eyes. His face stiffened before he sighed. "It's nothing important. In fact..." He continued after a short pause, "There's indeed something I need to tell you."

"Oh?" Shi Nuan raised his brows and stared at him in amusement. "This certainly sounds very mysterious to me." Looking at the ominous expression on his face, she prompted, "Shoot."

Fu Chengyan reached for her hand and held it as he dragged her out of the study.

He led her to their bedroom. Staring at the back of his head, Shi Nuan could feel that his breathing was growing ragged. Also, she noticed there was something

unusual with the way he behaved too. "Have you been grappling with a tricky issue lately?"

Fu Chengyan let go of her hand and gazed into her eyes. After a long beat, he spoke, "Can you promise me that you will believe in me no matter what rumors people might start feeding you from now on?"

Shi Nuan's heart lurched when she heard those words of his. Her instinct told her that she was about to face something utterly mind-blowing in the near future. On top of that, it could be something capable of undermining her relationship with Fu Chengyan too.

She tilted her head slightly and stared at him skeptically.

He must be facing some difficult situation that prompted him to say something like that to me. However, she could not make a sound guess of it without having him reveal it to her. "Yan, we're married. You shouldn't be held back from sharing things with me."

"Here's the thing – you might bump into a person tomorrow at the office." He stretched out his hands to draw her into an embrace and sighed, "Look, this is one hell of a complicated mess, but... please believe me when I say that I'll be able to solve it, okay?"

"Hold on!" Shi Nuan placed both hands on his chest and pushed him away gently. With her lips pursed, she scrutinized his face. "You seem nervous."

Fu Chengyan shook his head in resignation. "Fine, let me just tell you everything. There's a girl named Shen Qianan who's an old friend of mine. She's been handpicked by my family as my ideal wife!"

Color drained from Shi Nuan's face at once. Clenching her fists tightly, she looked up at him with uneasiness in her eyes. "Is she back in the country now? So, is your family forcing you to marry her instead? Is this the reason why you couldn't make time to go home with me that day?"

As quick-witted as Shi Nuan, she already got a rough idea of things from the small clue Fu Chengyan gave her.

Surprisingly, she flashed him a smile and formed a conclusion herself. "But then again, you did come back to me after you settled your stuff that day. Also, I'm the woman you married. Regardless of your family's approval, all I should care about is what you think because you're the man I married. Am I right to put it this way?"

Fu Chengyan looked up at her in slight astonishment.

At first, he assumed that Shi Nuan would more or less be pissed to hear about Shen Qianan. He thought she would even throw a tantrum at him. No matter how tough and resilient Shi Nuan was, he knew that she was just as sensitive as any other woman in the world.

Seeing how surprised he looked, Shi Nuan looked amused. "So, is that the reason why you've been so moody over the past two days? I guess this is the thing Mr. Su was urging you to tell me just now, am I right?" She took a deep breath before she continued, "Yan, to be honest, I'm pissed. How can I not be? I'm angry because I care about you. But, now that you've decided to come clean with me, I can understand the reasons behind certain decisions you made."

She walked up to him and held his hands. "I'm sure you have got a fair share of past relationships. In fact, I do too, and I've told you all about it." She dragged him to sit down at the edge of the bed as she leaned her head against his chest. "Just like all women in the world, I feel jealous and bothered by the presence of other women around you. However, whatever the two of you used to have is now a thing of the past, isn't it? Since you've chosen me as your wife, it can only mean that you've moved on from your past. I'm the only one on your mind right now. Am I right?"

Fu Chengyan turned to stare right into her clear eyes which were not tainted with doubt. Finally, his lips trembled as he nodded his head. "Yes, you're absolutely right!" However, she was wrong about one thing – she was the first and only woman he had ever dated.

Shi Nuan heaved out a sigh of relief upon hearing what he said. "So, now that I've learned everything I should know, I've shown my reaction to it. There's no more reason for you to be so down anymore." Grinning, she threw herself into his arms. Yet, something suddenly struck her at that moment, prompting her to look up at him worryingly. "By the way, what did you mean when you said that I might bump into her tomorrow?"

Fu Chengyan entwined an arm of his around her body while playing with her hair with another hand.

Pursing her lips, Shi Nuan exclaimed with a crease on her forehead, "Don't tell me she joined our company!"

She knew her guess was right when Fu Chengyan was keeping mum. Frantically, she shoved him away and leaped to her feet. "Was it all arranged by your grandfather?"

Fu Chengyan, too, sat upright, lamenting the tricky situation he found himself in deep down inside. He knew it would not be that easy to make Shi Nuan accept Shen Qianan's presence.

Indeed, Shi Nuan freaked out at once. "Your grandfather is outrageous! I can't believe he arranged a job at the company for your ex though he clearly knows that we're married! Fu Chengyan, please don't tell me he made that woman one of your secretaries!"

Fu Chengyan kept silent.

Shi Nuan's face contorted with bitterness and rage in response to his silence. "Seems like my guess is spot-on! Your grandfather is really..." She was at a loss for words.

I don't think I offended him before to make him resent me this much, have I? Does he think I'm not good enough for his grandson? Yes, I admit that I am not. But, I've been working very hard to be better for Fu Chengyan. People generally deemed destroying a marriage a sin. However, Shi Nuan had no idea what to make of that old man, who clearly did not mind committing such a sin over and over again.

"Did he do that so that Shen Qianan would have more chances to spend time and get closer with you? I don't understand why he did so since you're already mine!" Shi Nuan said with a smirk. Despite feeling troubled by the situation, she couldn't help but feel triumphant. She reached out to stroke Fu Chengyan's jaw to get him to support her argument. "Don't you think so?"

There was a hint of joy in Fu Chengyan's eyes. Before he decided to tell her about Shen Qianan, he had been anticipating all possible reactions he might get from her. However, her actual reaction totally took him by surprise.

"You aren't angry at me? Not even one bit?"

"Of course I am!" His grandfather's attempt to tempt her husband away was the most erratic she had ever seen. Shi Nuan had suffered a similar experience before whereby her ex-boyfriend was snatched away by her sister. Now that Fu Chengyan was her husband, she was not about to let anyone tempt him away without putting up a proper fight.

She let out a sigh in resignation. "Seriously, I can't even describe how mad I am now!" she scowled, looking exasperated. "However, when I think of the fact that the woman was merely your fiancée who did not get to marry you in the end, I stop seeing the reason to stay mad all of a sudden. Clearly, I'm the winner here as I'm your legal wife. Unless you decide to dump me, no one can snatch you away from me!"

With that, she jumped back to the bed and landed squarely on Fu Chengyan's lap.

The man reached out to hold her still with his eyes brimming with delight.

Meanwhile, Shi Nuan rested both hands on his shoulder and demanded, "Tell me that you are mine!"

"I'm yours!" He nodded.

Shi Nuan was pleased with his reaction. "Voilà, problem solved!" She was not going to let Fu Zhengyan's scheme get on her nerves because Fu Chengyan was hers no matter what. Their marriage was recognized by law, and no one would be able to ruin it.

At the same time, she also had enough confidence in Fu Chengyan that he would stay loyal to her. She reached out to pinch his cheeks. "I'm not worthy as your wife if I'm such a petty person."

This time, Fu Chengyan laughed with genuine delight. Stroking her cheeks affectionately, he said, "Indeed."

"However, you'd better watch your behavior too. Although I don't mind her working with you, I can't help but feel irritated whenever I picture you spending any amount of time with her!"

"Don't worry about that. Have you ever seen me even sparing a glance at any of my secretaries?"

"Mai Qi!" Shi Nuan blurted with her brow raised. "I'm sure you must have looked at Mai Qi before!"

Fu Chengyan shook his head resignedly. "Don't worry; I've already let Mai Qi assign some tedious but unimportant tasks to Shen Qianan. For your information, Mai Qi is the only one out of my many secretaries who are allowed access to my office."

Only then did Shi Nuan feel relieved. Tugging the end of his tie, she said, "That's more like it! Yan, you know that I was betrayed before in my previous relationship. Please don't be someone who does the same thing to me."

Fu Chengyan extended his long arms and drew her into his embrace. Then, he flipped over, resting his body on top of her on the bed. In a gentle motion, he stroked her cheeks and muttered, "Darling, I think we've got better things to do now than discussing this." *Don't worry; I will never betray you for as long as I'm alive.* 

When Shi Nuan woke up the next morning, she found Fu Chengyan standing by the bed, watching her. The man was already immaculately dressed and ready to head off to work. She blinked her eyes and let out a weary moan. Fu Chengyan reached out to her and scooped her squishy body up from the bed. "Did I wear you out last night?"

Shi Nuan's face flushed with embarrassment at once. Meanwhile, she let herself snuggle in his arms, nuzzling her face against his chest like a little kitten. Smacking her lips, she slurred, "It's all your fault!" After they had a heart-to-heart talk last night, Shi Nuan was suddenly in the mood to flirt with Fu Chengyan. However, she was not pleased with how differently the night ended for the two of them. While Fu Chengyan looked as energetic as ever, she felt so weak that she could barely open her eyes.

Fu Chengyan dragged her to the bathroom and let her perch on the counter. Then, he squeezed out some toothpaste on her toothbrush and placed it next to her mouth. "Open your mouth, please!"

Only then did she open her mouth as well as her eyes.

Giggling, she slung her arms around his neck and said, "Yan, your voice was so domineering just now. You sounded like my master!"

Fu Chengyan was left speechless.

Upon seeing him remain silent, Shi Nuan raised her brows and grazed her feet against his calves. "Hey there, master!"

Fu Chengyan's eyes immediately darkened with desire. Just as he was about to speak, she reached out to press her hand against his mouth. "Do you like it when I call you that?"

Seeing the slyness in her eyes, Fu Chengyan shook his head helplessly before pushing her hand away from his mouth. "Chop-chop, we're going to be late."

"Oh, you're right!" Shi Nuan nodded. "Why don't you go out first and get ready?"

She pushed him away. The moment she jumped off the counter, she found herself landing straight into his arms. "You aren't wearing slippers, remember? I bet you won't want to feel the tiles in such cold weather."

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24/06/2021 by Novel Heart

Shi Nuan took her own sweet time to get ready, so the two were already late when they set off to the office. However, the man did not criticize her because of the delay.

Although Shi Nuan told him she did not mind Shen Qianan working together with him, Fu Chengyan knew she had only said so because she wanted to be understanding.

Despite that, she couldn't help but throw a little tantrum here and there at him to vent out her frustration. That was her special privilege as anyone else who did the same thing would have been driven out of his life by him a long time ago. In fact, he was more than willing to entertain her complaints and whining on this matter too.

It was because it showed how much she loved and cared about him.

Meanwhile, Shi Nuan grew frustrated when she realized that she was more bothered by Shen Qianan's presence than she would like to admit. After all, Shen Qianan had once been Fu Chengyan's fiancée, and the woman was well-loved by his family. For Shen Qianan's sake, Fu Chengyan's grandfather had actually gone as far as trying to destroy Shi Nuan's marriage.

Although Shi Nuan's personality was mild and not aggressive, that did not mean she was a pushover.

Now that her love rival was right at her doorstep, she would be deemed as a weakling if she did not fight back. She needed to toughen herself up and put an

end to this once and for all so that no one would dare to pull off the same thing on her again.

With that thought in mind, she purposefully took a long time to get ready that morning. Yet, Fu Chengyan looked totally fine with that and showed no sign of losing his patience. Even though they were sure to be late because of her, Fu Chengyan did not criticize her.

Shi Nuan mumbled, "Yan, aren't you angry with me?"

"What?" Fu Chengyan threw a sideways glance at her. "Why should I be?"

"I deliberately took a long time to get ready just now." Instead of driving herself to the office like she usually did, she chose to go with Fu Chengyan that day.

Fu Chengyan broke into a grin in response. In fact, he should only be upset if she acted as nothing had happened. He was actually pleased to see her trying to cause delay to express her dissatisfaction. At least, he could be sure that both of them were working as hard as each other to upkeep their relationship.

When they arrived at the building of Shengyuan Group, Shi Nuan purposefully asked Fu Chengyan to park his car at the entrance. That way, she would be seen getting out of his car in front of all the other employees. The entrance leading to the building was crowded with people at this hour, and most of them noticed it when Shi Nuan got out of Fu Chengyan's car. Immediately, a babble of voices broke out among them.

Shi Nuan put on a smirk, looking unfazed by the voices around her. She waved at Fu Chengyan, who was still sitting in the car before making her way into the building.

"Wait a minute!" Fu Chengyan shouted to get her attention, making her pause in her tracks to listen to him. Then, he opened the door and exited his car with a box of pastries in his hand. "You forgot this!" Shi Nuan frowned. "I prepared them for you!"

She had developed a passion for pastry baking recently. Every now and then, she would make some and keep it as a snack for Fu Chengyan.

After glancing at Fu Chengyan and the people around her, it suddenly dawned upon her what he was trying to do. She immediately took the box of pastries over. "Oh... Okay!"

He caressed her hair and urged, "Go ahead. You're running late!"

"Oh, you're right!" She came to her senses and replied, "I've got to go. You... You'd better hurry up too."

Then, she strode off and made her way toward one of the elevators inside the building at a swift pace. Everyone else walking behind her was left stupefied. The sight of their boss giving Shi Nuan a ride to work came as a huge shock for them.

On top of that, he had prepared snacks for her too. Everyone couldn't help but start to speculate their relationship.

Meanwhile, the hue and cry about Shen Qianan's sudden recruitment as the president's secretary was still ongoing. Things had been dramatic enough because Shen Qianan had been brought to the company by the chairman himself. Now, the president just made the matter even more theatrical by sending Shi Nuan to the office that morning. It was suddenly obvious that a war between the two women was about to break out.

Something was special about it as it involved two women who looked strikingly similar to each other.

Throughout Shi Nuan's entire journey to her office, she received stares from her fellow colleagues. Even though none of them were nosy, their curiosity was piqued because their president was involved in the drama this time.

They couldn't help but wonder what sort of relationship Shi Nuan and Shen Qianan had. They all pondered how the two women were related to Fu Chengyan, respectively.

Surprisingly, Shi Nuan looked fairly unruffled though she knew everyone was talking about her. Still, she couldn't help but be baffled because their reaction was different from how she had expected.

Yuan Jia greeted her as soon as she reached the project management department. "Shi Nuan, you're finally here!"

"What's the matter?" At the sight of the secretive look on Yuan Jia's face, Shi Nuan eyed her suspiciously. "Why are you staring at me that way?"

"I bet you have no idea that our company just got a gorgeous new recruit!"

"I know about it." Shi Nuan chuckled. She was not at all surprised because she had learned it from Fu Chengyan the previous night. "What's so special about that?"

Yuan Jia hesitated before she ventured, "Uhm... Please promise me you won't be mad at me after I tell you this."

"How can I possibly be mad at you? Just shoot." Shi Nuan was perplexed as she stared at the worried expression on Yuan Jia's face. "Does she have some superpowers or something?"

"Uhm, do you have any idea that she..." This time, it was Yuan Jia who was left at a loss. "Look, she has no superpowers, but there's something special about her face. She... She looks exactly like you."

"Say what!" Shi Nuan exclaimed, thinking that she must have heard the woman wrongly. She reached out to grab Yuan Jia's arm apprehensively. "What did you just say?"

At that moment, she felt as though something just exploded in her mind. It was a sensation beyond description and definitely not a pleasant one.

So. Shen Qianan looks... like me?

Running her fingers over her face, her mind went blank, and her eyes lost focus for a moment.

Taken aback by Shi Nuan's reaction, Yuan Jia waved her hands frantically in front of her eyes to get her attention. "Shi Nuan?"

Shi Nuan snapped back to her senses and stared at the other woman dazedly. "Yes?"

"Are you alright? Do you find it unbelievable too? In fact, I refused to believe it too in the very beginning. However, everything changed when I saw her yesterday. I thought it was you, but then I remembered that you had gone out with Mr. Lin at that time. So..." As she was speaking, she kept on glancing at Shi Nuan worryingly. "Are you okay? Your face looks really pale."

Shi Nuan reached out to push her hands back and took a deep breath. "I'm fine." Trying her best to plaster a smile on her face, she continued, "In fact, I'm going out to attend to some work. Please tell Mr. Lin that I will be right back in case he asks to see me."

With that, she dashed out of the office and did not turn back when Yuan Jia tried to stop her.

Yuan Jia had never seen Shi Nuan so flustered before.

Ignoring the watchful eyes of the passers-by, Shi Nuan made a beeline for the elevator reserved for Fu Chengyan's exclusive use. As soon as she was inside, all she could think of was the shocking truth Yuan Jia just told her.

Shen Qianan. Shen Qianan!

She was Fu Chengyan's ex-fiancée. The woman was the best candidate to be Fu Chengyan's wife in the Fu clan's eyes. She had no idea what had happened between Fu Chengyan and Shen Qianan and had no idea what had forced the latter to leave the country back then. All she could think of at the moment was the fact that she was now Fu Chengyan's wife, who looked like Shen Qianan.

Tightening her fists, Shi Nuan suddenly felt slightly sorrowful. A possible, particularly dreadful reason behind Fu Chengyan's decision to marry her kept popping up in her mind. That thought was so appalling that it was pushing her mind to the point of crumbling.

Last night, she still had plenty of confidence to win the battle, considering that Fu Chengyan's relationship with Shen Qianan was nothing but a thing in the past. However, she was forced to view the matter in a new light now.

Why didn't he tell me that Shen Qianan and I look the same last night?

When we first met each other, he was very nice and helpful to me without expecting anything in return. Was he only like that because I had the same face as Shen Qianan?

Shi Nuan was careful not to further that horrible thought, dreading that she might experience a mental breakdown any minute. A voice in her mind urged her to run out of the building and leave everything behind. *Perhaps, everything will remain intact if I avoid meeting Shen Qianan...* 

However, she found it hard to accept the idea of being the replacement of another woman – especially after she had put in so much effort and love in her relationship with Fu Chengyan.

She...

The door of the elevator sprung open with a *ding*. After taking a deep breath, she walked out of the elevator, only to find herself running into a person walking out from another elevator. The box of snacks the woman was holding dropped, and

its contents were scattered all over the floor. Shi Nuan crouched down to help with the mess just as the other woman did the same thing.

Both of them turned petrified the moment they looked up at each other.

Shi Nuan found herself unable to think straight; her mind was jammed with thoughts. She froze with her hands still holding the box of snacks. In the meantime, she couldn't take her eyes off the other woman.

Shen Qianan was gaping at Shi Nuan, too. She saw her own face in Shi Nuan. The longer she stared at Shi Nuan, the sense of repulsion toward her grew more intense. "You..."

An excruciating pain grew in Shi Nuan's heart; her heart felt as though it was shattering into pieces. It was hard to describe the pain. Was it because she was hurt by Fu Chengyan's deception? Or was it because of the sudden realization of how pathetic her life had been?

Clenching her fists, Shi Nuan sharpened her gaze all of a sudden. She then rose to her feet and greeted the woman with a smile, "You must be Ms. Shen!"

Shen Qianan was slightly stunned, but it took her a short time to recover. She stood up and looked at Shi Nuan. "It's nice to meet you. How do you... know my name?"

Shi Nuan broke into a knowing smile. She glanced down at the box of snacks she was holding and put the lid back on nicely. "For your information, not every employee is allowed access to Mr. Fu's office on the twenty-seventh floor. Although Mr. Fu is assisted by a few secretaries, I know every single one of them. I've never seen you before, so I'm assuming that you're new. Someone told me about how you were given a chance to work as a trainee secretary through the recommendation of the chairman. As I was away yesterday, I missed the chance to meet you on your first day of work."

As Shi Nuan talked, she noticed Shen Qianan's face turning pale. "Ms. Shen, are you feeling unwell?"

"I'm alright!" Shen Qianan shook her head, undoubtedly surprised by how shrewd Shi Nuan was. With the use of just a few words, the woman had managed to point out the fact that Shen Qianan had been recruited without going through the normal route. Shi Nuan had also referred to her as a trainee secretary. Although Shen Qianan was not comfortable with such a description, she had no ground to rebut her.

"I'm glad you're okay." Shi Nuan stood straight with confidence as she looked condescendingly at Shen Qianan. Other than looking slightly flustered when she first laid eyes on Shen Qianan, Shi Nuan behaved with admirable composure. To Shen Qianan's disappointment, Shi Nuan did not lose her cool.

"My name is Shi Nuan, and I'm from the project management department!"

Shi Nuan took the initiative to introduce herself to Shen Qianan with a pleasant smile on her face.

Taken aback by her enthusiasm, Shen Qianan responded, "Ms. Shi, it's my pleasure to meet you!" When Shi Nuan offered her hand, Shen Qianan was stunned to see the ring Shi Nuan was wearing. "Ms. Shi, are you married?"

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Shi Nuan's lips curled up as her gaze laid upon the ring. "How did you know, Ms. Shen? Your eyes sure are sharp! No one has ever noticed that I am a married woman." As Shi Nuan spoke, she could see the color on Shen Qianan's face fading out. She then asked, "Ms. Shen, are you sure you're fine? You look very pale. Please don't faint on your first day at work! It will not look good for the company!"

"Oh, I..." Shen Qianan didn't expect Shi Nuan to be such an eloquent speaker. The files on Shi Nuan seemed to have described her as a different person. Shi Nuan has been bullied a lot in the Shi family. Her sister has even stolen her boyfriend from her. How is she still so...

"Ah! I forgot that I came here to ask Mr. Fu for help!" Right after speaking, Shi Nuan walked past Shen Qianan toward Fu Chengyan's office. She knocked on the door gently. A voice came from inside. "Who is it?"

"Mr. Fu, it's me!" Shi Nuan replied. "It's Shi Nuan from the Project Management Department!"

"Come in."

As Shi Nuan entered the room, Fu Chengyan was putting down his pen. He rose from his seat and froze in place for a second when he saw the box of pastries in Shi Nuan's hand. "What's the matter?"

Shi Nuan pressed her lips together and stood motionless at her spot. Her eyes were fluttering at Fu Chengyan. Fu Chengyan couldn't tell whether she was happy or not.

Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows. He ambled over to Shi Nuan's side. Shi Nuan took a small step back when she saw Fu Chengyan getting close to her. She wanted to stay a distance away from him.

Fu Chengyan's torso stiffened up for a second. His arm that was reaching out for Shi Nuan just a second ago hung in midair. If I can't tell what Shi Nuan is feeling at the moment just by looking at her face, then the time we spent together is all wasted.

Fu Chengyan knew Shi Nuan. She would never come looking for him at work for personal matters, unless... "Have you seen her before?" Shi Nuan knew which

'her' Fu Chengyan was referring to.

She didn't reply to him right away. Her bright eyes were fixated on him. A minute later, Fu Chengyan sighed. "Are you here to question me?"

Shi Nuan still kept mum. Fu Chengyan massaged a spot between his brows. "I am the one who's supposedly at fault here. Aren't you going to do anything to me?"

Shi Nuan's expression softened. She remained silent for a while more before passing the box of pastries in her hand to him. "Since I made this for you, then you must eat it."

Fu Chengyan lifted both of his brows in confusion. Still, he took over the box from Shi Nuan's hands. "Is it crushed?"

"Yeah, I accidentally dropped it just now." Shi Nuan nodded and raised her head to look at Fu Chengyan. "Why didn't you tell me that the two of us look exactly the same?"

Fu Chengyan wriggled his brows. To him, the answer to Shi Nuan's question was simple but it could not be verbalized bluntly. To his knowledge of women, they

were very sensitive when it came to other women. Once a man said something wrong, they would zero down on it until they got a satisfactory answer.

"Fu Chengyan, answer me!"

"What kind of response are you expecting from me?" Fu Chengyan raised a finger to point at the rest area in his office. The couple made their way there. "You guys do look alike, but you two are not exactly the same. Understand?"

Shi Nuan wriggled her lips and told herself to keep a cold head no matter what.

"I know what you want to ask me. Did I marry you because of her? Is it because you two look alike that I married you?" said Fu Chengyan

Shi Nuan tightened her fists. Her face did not have much life in them.

She could act tough in front of others, but in front of Fu Chengyan, she did not have the strength to do so.

"Remember what I told you yesterday? I said, don't listen to what other people say."

"Then, should I believe in your words?"

Fu Chengyan's dark eyes met Shi Nuan's gaze. "Do you have faith in me?"

Shi Nuan bit her lip. "I don't know how to answer your question. I just want to know, did you marry me because of me alone, and not anyone else?"

Fu Chengyan chuckled as if he had just heard something ridiculous. He sat down next to Shi Nuan and pinched her nose. "Yes. I love you for who you are."

Shi Nuan laughed. "Alright, I believe in you. If you are lying, please lie to me for the rest of your life." She smiled broadly at Fu Chengyan. "If you can't lie to me forever, then please tell me the truth now. I am not someone who will cling blindly to another man, you hear me?"

"Yes, milady!" Fu Chengyan nodded. As Shi Nuan was about to leave, Fu Chengyan got on his feet and grabbed Shi Nuan's hand. "Do you also think the two of you are alike?"

Fu Chengyan's question caught Shi Nuan by surprise. She shook her head at once. "I am myself and no one else."

Fu Chengyan grinned. "Good that you know that. You should know that I am someone who will never settle for anything. If I really have a thing for Shen Qianan, I wouldn't have married you in the first place because I'll pursue her until she's mine. But that didn't happen. You are mine. She isn't. Thus, you are not a replacement." Fu Chengyan prodded Shi Nuan's cheeks with his knuckles. "It's not like anyone can replace you too."

Shi Nuan's lips curled up into a beautiful crescent. "You better remember what you said."

"Yes! I will remember it for the rest of my life!" Fu Chengyan placed his hand along Shi Nuan's shoulder blade. "I think you have to use your heart to learn what you are to me, and not just by your eyes."

Shi Nuan took a deep breath. "I'll try my best, but I am still a human after all. So don't you dare lie to me, Fu Chengyan!"

Shi Nuan left Fu Chengyan's office. She took another breather before she left the twenty-seventh floor. Meanwhile, in one corner, Shen Qianan was peeping at Shi Nuan as she left. There was an unfathomable expression on her face.

"Ms. Shen, have you made a copy of the files I wanted?"

Mai Qi appeared out of nowhere and queried Shen Qianan, who turned over in an instant. "Oh, I haven't finished it. I'm not very familiar with the photocopy machine."

Shen Qianan was a pampered kid back home. Growing up, she didn't have to do any chores or run any errands. Even when she was with Fu Chengyan and went overseas, she also didn't have to do anything that was trivial, like what Mai Qi asked her to do. Even though she was chased out of her family, the Shen family still treated her well. Every year they would still send her money. She and her son didn't have to worry about not making ends meet at all. The only thing Shen Qianan couldn't accept was the fact that she could not return.

As a result, Shen Qianan couldn't handle the labor she had to do at Shengyuan.

"Yan likes to drink coffee in the morning. How about I go make Yan a cup of coffee?"

"It's okay, Ms. Shen!" Mai Qi stopped Shen Qianan from going to the pantry. She then responded with a smile, "Mr. Fu doesn't drink coffee in the morning."

"Wait, but I remember he used to..."

"Mrs. Fu said coffee doesn't sit well with Mr. Fu's stomach. Now, Mr. Fu doesn't drink coffee anymore." Mai Qi spoke with the smile still on her face. "It is your first day at work, Ms. Shen. It's okay if you don't know about this."

"But I..."

"Also, since we're in the office, it's better if you address Mr. Fu in a more formal manner. If not you could be penalized for being indecorous." Mai Qi took the files from Shen Qianan's hands. "Anyway, you don't have to prepare any food or drinks for Mr. Fu. That's actually my job, haha! By the way, you can only enter Mr. Fu's office if he calls for you. Remember this, alright? Okay, now let's head over to the photocopy machine. I'll show you how to use it."

Mai Qi was a bright employee, which was why Fu Chengyan kept her at his side for so many years.

In fact, Mai Qi knew what kind of attitude Fu Chengyan had toward Shen Qianan. Naturally, she wouldn't let the woman get close to him.

Even if Shen Qianan were displeased, there was nothing she could say. Mai Qi was her superior. If she didn't want her close to Fu Chengyan, then it must be an order from the man himself.

Shen Qianan clenched her fists. The thought of Shi Nuan was unsettling to her. It was natural for anyone to be disturbed by the knowledge that they had a doppelganger. To make things worse for Shen Qianan, Shi Nuan was Fu Chengyan's wife.

Mai Qi could read Shen Qianan's subtle expression from her body movements. She shook her head internally. Just now, when Shi Nuan was talking to Shen Qianan, Mai Qi could see that there was a world of difference between Shi Nuan and Shen Qianan.

After teaching Shen Qianan how to use the photocopy machine, she took the photocopied documents to Fu Chengyan's office right away. "Mr. Fu, just now when Ms. Shi was here, she bumped into Shen Qianan. Because of that, they..." Mai Qi recounted everything she saw to Fu Chengyan. The man didn't say anything when she was done with her words. He only asked her to leave. But right before she stepped out of the room, he gave her an order. "Give her more work. Don't the secretaries have a lot of grunt work to do? Hand anything you guys can't finish to her."

"Alright." Mai Qi tucked her lips in before saying, "If there isn't anything else, I'll get back to my work now."

Fu Chengyan twiddled with his brows after Mai Qi left the room. Then, he took out a set of files from a drawer.

Those files contained the findings of Zhou Zheng. If they were true, Shen Qianan stayed in C Country for a period of time before moving to K Nation to settle down there for the long term. Her social circle was big. She met all sorts of people, but she just couldn't find a job. As for Shen Qianan's source of income, other than the money she received from the Shen family, there was another unknown source Zhou Zheng was unable to track down.

Fu Chengyan pinched his forehead. After a long while of staring at the document, he returned the files to their original position.

Why is it K Nation again?

Knock knock! Someone was at the door. "Mr. Fu!"

"Come in!"

Zhou Zheng entered Fu Chengyan's office. "Mr. Fu, this is the information gathered from K Nation. It's quite similar to the files that I gave you yesterday, but it's still different. According to this file, after returning to her home country, Shen Qianan did visit C Country before going back to K Nation. She then got in touch with Old Master. Old Master also visited Shen Qianan for quite a few times, and all of these took place around the time after your wedding."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. "Then what about Yu?"

"Oh, there isn't a lot of information on Yu too. It is only known that he was born in Santiago Hospital. A female doctor named Taylor was the gynecologist in charge. Even though Ms. Shen was by herself when she was giving birth to Yu, someone was with her during her pregnancy checkups."

"Was it a man?"

"Yes!"

Fu Chengyan's dagger-like eyes were glowing with excitement. His slender fingers picked up a piece of paper and his gaze laid upon a portrait printed on it. It was indeed a picture of Shen Qianan in the hospital. "Who is that guy?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Fu. I wasn't able to find out more about that man." Zhou Zheng lowered his head as if he were awaiting his punishment.

Fu Chengyan waved his hand dismissively. "Just continue with your investigation. Focus on C Country and K Nation. Also, check on Shen Shixiu too while you're at it."

"Shen Shixiu? The brother of Ms. Shen?" Zhou Zheng was flummoxed as Fu Chengyan rarely interacted with anyone from the Shen family. Fu Chengyan did not know Shen Shixiu well. The only time the two of them had something to do with each other was because of Shen Qianan, which was three years ago.

Zhou Zheng had met Shen Shixiu before. He was a dangerous man.

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Shi Nuan bumped into Lin Yu as she was returning to her office. He waved at her. "Shi Nuan, I need to tell you something."

Shi Nuan put down the things in her hands before heading over to Lin Yu. "Yes, Mr. Lin?"

Lin Yu nodded. "You need to concentrate more on your work. Keep your emotions to yourself."

Shi Nuan could instantly understand what Lin Yu meant. She smiled at once. "Mr. Lin, you know what kind of person I am. I will never bring my personal affairs to work."

"That's good!" Lin Yu nodded. "I don't wish to see any of my subordinates slowdown in their progress due to their personal matters." Lin Yu walked into the office with Shi Nuan. "This is the latest proposal we have. It is already finalized since Mr. Fu has already approved it."

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yes!" Shi Nuan actually knew about it since it was brought up in her conversation with Fu Chengyan yesterday night. "Right now, we just have to prepare the documentation, right? After that, we will be heading to the Prosperous Group to discuss with them the terms of this project. Since Li Heng isn't around, Mr. Fu asked us to approach Li Xufan or Li Heng's assistant, Liang Lin instead."

Lin Yu hummed in agreement. "After everything is settled, the construction will start around March to April. The first phase of the construction will take around half a year."

"Yep. What did Mr. George say though?"

"Oh, he's fine with the current arrangement. Right now, we are just waiting for an answer from the Prosperous Group."

Shi Nuan nodded her head. "Give me a few days' time. I have some loose ends to tie up."

"Okay!" Lin Yu nodded. "I think you can leave now."

"Alright!" Shi Nuan closed the folder containing the documents. "I shall return to my work now."

"Shi Nuan!" Before Shi Nuan could leave, Lin Yu halted her at the doorstep. Lin Yu cast a puzzled gaze at Lin Yu, "Mr. Lin, is there anything else?"

Lin Yu quirked his lips. "Don't believe in everything you see."

Shi Nuan was slightly muddled. She froze in her spot for quite some time before reacting. "I think someone told me that just not long ago. Mr. Lin, please be assured that I will be more mindful."

Shi Nuan left Lin Yu's office and took a deep breath before she dove into her work.

Even though Shi Nuan sounded as if she was managing her relationship pretty well, the truth was that there were a lot of questions she needed answers to. Shen Qianan was a big mystery herself Shi Nuan could not wrap her head around. In any case, Shi Nuan could only trust Fu Chengyan's words and not anyone else's.

Shi Nuan's eyes were glued to the documents in front of her but she could not process any of them. There was a messy storm brewing in her mind. After a few minutes of trying to focus, Shi Nuan decided to just rest for a while. She put down her pen and closed her eyes while she lay down on her seat.

Suddenly, she could sense someone approaching her. She opened her eyes and Yuan Jia entered her sight. The latter sized Shi Nuan up before answering, "Shi Nuan, what's wrong? You look off today."

Shi Nuan shook her head lightly. "Ah, it's nothing. I think I slept too late yesterday and I didn't rest well." Shi Nuan pinched her forehead. "Is there anything I can help you with?"

"Oh, Mr. Lin wanted me to hand this to you. It's some data from our most recent calculations. Perhaps you might find it useful!" Yuan Jia dragged a chair over and sat next to Shi Nuan. "You really look like something is wrong with you today. Oh! When I was at the publicity department just now, I overheard some hot gossip!"

"What gossip?" Shi Nuan asked half-heartedly. However, Yuan Jia was still as excited. "Okay, I'm just going to shoot my question point-blank. What is your relationship with Mr. Fu?"

Shi Nuan was stumped. Looking at the anticipation gleaming in Yuan Jia's eyes, she could only laugh helplessly. "It's whatever you think it is."

"Hmm... I think your relationship with Mr. Fu should be... Wait, you are Mr. Fu's relative, right? Also, how are you related to Shen Qianan?"

Shi Nuan raised an arm in an abrupt move. "Stop right there! Let me tell you something. Shen Qianan has nothing to do with me at all," Shi Nuan answered with a sigh. "As for what relationship I have with Mr. Fu, I'll leave it for you to guess." She gave Yuan Jia a meaningful smile. "Okay, I think it's time we get to our work. Are you sure you want to talk to me all day and let your work pile up?"

"Ugh, I forgot all about it already." Yuan Jia got up in a hurry. "I still a bunch of data analysis to make. Shi Nuan, I am not going to let you evade my question. I'm coming back for you later!"

Yuan Jia's plan to look for Shi Nuan after work to get her answers fell through. Right after work, Shi Nuan gave Fu Chengyan a phone call to discuss whether

would they go out to eat that night or prepare dinner at home. But before their discussion was done, Shi Nuan was blocked by someone.

She was on her phone as she tapped out of the company with her employee pass. The moment she stepped out of the building, she was greeted by the sight of Shen Qianan. Shi Nuan smiled at her. "You're looking for me?"

Shen Qianan nodded. Shi Nuan writhed her lips and told the person on the other end of the call, "I'm afraid I may not be able to have dinner with you later. My friend just asked me out for dinner. You just have your dinner by yourself."

Shi Nuan hung up her call and smiled politely at Shen Qianan. "Ms. Shen, right? What are we talking about?"

Shen Qianan also beamed in response. "The call is from Yan?"

Shi Nuan's beautiful eyes were full of smiles, but when she heard Shen Qianan calling her husband so affectionately, there was an additional hint of animosity in them.

Shi Nuan pointed at her phone with her employee pass. She chuckled, "Yeah, it's from my husband!"

As Shi Nuan expected, Shen Qianan winced a bit but the smile on her face was soon restored. "I can't believe he didn't tell me about his marriage! It's such a big life occasion! Grandpa was also ranting to me about how Yan didn't tell him about it too!"

Shi Nuan's face sunk into itself at Shen Qianan's words, but she quickly squeezed out a smile. "Yan said the marriage between a man and a woman is sacred. Thus, we will have to get our blessings from both the bride's and the bridegroom's families. Yan plans to inform our parents once we have set up the wedding banquet. Oh right, Ms. Shen. Are you my husband's sister? Because you said you were talking to Grandpa, and it sounded like you were talking about Yan's grandfather."

She thinks that I am Yan's sister?

Shen Qianan's face stiffened a bit. "My family name is Shen."

"Yeah, which is why I asked. Correct me if I'm wrong, but you were referring to Yan's grandfather just now, right? Haha, I am so confused right now! So you also call Yan's grandfather Grandpa too?"

Shen Qianan didn't want to continue the conversation anymore, as she didn't want to risk revealing the fact that she used to be Fu Chengyan's fiancée, especially since Shi Nuan was now Fu Chengyan's legally wedded wife.

Disquiet was scrambled all over Shen Qianan's face. However, she still appeared calm and collected. "Perhaps Ms. Shi does not know this, but the Shen family and the Fu family have been friends forever. I grew up with Yan. Because I see his grandpa quite a lot, I have gotten used to calling him Grandpa too. It's not too inappropriate, right?"

"Oh, I see. Yeah, it's not a big deal." Shi Nuan felt like there wasn't anything wrong with it now that she heard Shen Qianan's explanation. However, she added, "With that said, I also think it doesn't matter whether you call me by Ms. Shi or Mrs. Fu."

Shen Qianan froze. She didn't expect Shi Nuan to be so good at this. "Oh, so you would prefer me to address you by Mrs. Fu instead? Sorry if I upset you by calling you Ms. Shi! I figured it's better if I call you Ms. Shi since you and Yan haven't announced your engagement to everyone."

Shi Nuan pushed the edge of her lips up and replied, "Bah, it's nothing. I'm actually fine with it if you accidentally spill it to everyone. Oh right, Ms. Shen. Are we going to have dinner or just a drink?"

Right now, Shen Qianan felt like Shi Nuan was having the upper hand in this conversation, which was not what she had expected at all. In fact, Shi Nuan was so composed as if Shen Qianan was invisible.

Shen Qianan remained quiet for almost an entire minute. Shi Nuan took the initiative to continue the conversation. "How about this? Since you haven't been back for such a long time, you probably find many places in Jiang City not familiar anymore. Let me bring you around the city instead! I was born and raised in Jiang City after all."

Shen Qianan was overcome by awkwardness. "That sounds good! Sorry for troubling you, Ms. Shi."

"You're not troubling me at all! Anyway, since I am Yan's wife, I need to know you better too. Yan has been pretty busy these days. Please don't take it personally if he's been distant lately. If you don't mind, you can come and look for me instead!" Shi Nuan gave off the vibe that she was a supportive wife to Fu Chengyan, which made Shen Qianan rather uncomfortable in her place.

Nonetheless, Shi Nuan didn't feel like there was anything wrong with her gesture, "My car is in the parking lot. Wait here for a second, Ms. Shen."

Shi Nuan left and soon returned in an eye-catching red Ferrari.

She parked the car skillfully in front of Shen Qianan and rolled down the window, "Hop on, Ms. Shen!"

Tsk, how flashy you are!

Shen Qianan looked at the woman in the driver seat of the red Ferrari who could pass as her twin. She resembled Shen Qianan herself a lot, but they were two very different people.

Shi Nuan was unaware of the impression Shen Qianan had of her. Once the latter boarded the car, Shi Nuan reminded her to put on the seatbelt. "Do you have any place you'd like to go, Ms. Shen?"

Shen Qianan pondered for a while before replying, "St. Ann Road. Have you heard of it before, Ms. Shi?"

"Yeah," Shi Nuan answered as she stepped on the accelerator. "There's something you like to eat there?"

Shen Qianan hesitated before she replied with a trace of melancholy in her voice, "I used to go there a lot with Ya... with my friend. I want to see how it looks like now."

She added, "I grew up with Yan. We've been to many places before. I remember he used to love..." Every now and then, Shen Qianan would glance at Shi Nuan suggestively. Nonetheless, it didn't affect Shi Nuan's driving at all. The car was moving at a steady speed.

Shi Nuan was puzzled at Shen Qianan's sudden silence. "Ms. Shen, are you feeling okay? Why didn't you continue speaking?"

"Y-You actually don't mind?" Shen Qianan turned a doubtful gaze at Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan guffawed. "Why would I mind?"

"Oh, what I mean is that..."

"To be honest, I do mind it quite a bit. Even though I am very involved in his life right now, I wish that I were also present in his past too. Oh, how I wish I already know him since the day I was born! In that case, those who have an eye on my man won't steal him away from me. He will belong to me once and for all."

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It was obvious that Shi Nuan's words were directed at Shen Qianan, who was suddenly at a loss for words. She didn't expect that Shi Nuan had such a sharp tongue. No matter what Shen Qianan said, Shi Nuan would be able to turn the table around against her. Shen Qianan was at her wits' end.

Three years ago, there were also a lot of women swarming around Fu Chengyan. However, Shen Qianan pruned off all of them. Even the toughest woman had to be wary of Shen Qianan, as she was very committed to get rid of the women who were interested in Fu Chengyan. Shen Qianan assumed that any woman trying to get close to Fu Chengyan must be after his fortune or his power.

At first, Shen Qianan also thought Shi Nuan was like those women she chased out of Fu Chengyan's life before. But she soon found that the woman was quite hard to deal with.

Since Shen Qianan didn't say anything else, Shi Nuan decided to just drop the conversation. In the car, there was only the sound of cool air gushing out of the air conditioner. Shen Qianan was bemused when they reached their destination. "Ms. Shi, are you sure we are at the right place? This doesn't seem like…"

Shi Nuan raised her brows slightly. "Yeah, we're not on St. Ann Road. So sorry! I forgot to tell you earlier that St. Ann Road no longer exists after a series of redevelopments we had in the past three years." Shi Nuan smiled from ear to ear. "Z Nation has been growing pretty fast as of late. Many parts of the country have been redeveloped. It's not surprising at all that you don't know that St. Ann Road is now gone. You haven't come back for such a long time!"

The two of them got off the car. "There's a teahouse over there. The scenery is quite pretty. I think you will like it!"

### A teahouse?

The despondence on Shen Qianan's face disappeared. She turned to face Shi Nuan with a slightly more pleasant expression. "Ms. Shi, you're a tea person?"

"Yeah. But both of my grandfathers love it even more than me!" Shi Nuan led Shen Qianan inside the teahouse. Su Yian was talking to the employees. When she saw Shi Nuan, a big smile broke out on her face. But as her eyes moved to Shen Qianan, she seemed confounded.

Su Yian was about to say something but Shi Nuan was ahead of him. "Ms. Su, nice to meet you!"

Su Yian replied warmly, "Ms. Shi, I haven't seen you in such a long while! By the way, is this lady over here your sister?"

Shi Nuan chuckled a little. "Ms. Shen, this is Ms. Su, the owner of the Ruyi Tea House. Ms. Su, this is my coworker Shen Qianan. Yesterday was her first day at work! I'm bringing her around the city as she is still unfamiliar with a lot of places here."

Shi Nuan then queried, "Is there room for us?"

"Of course, there is! Ms. Shi and Ms. Shen, please follow me!" Su Yian personally led the two women to a table. On their way there, Su Yian commented, "You guys are two peas in a pod! If I didn't know you, I might have thought that Ms. Shen is your sister!"

"Oh really?" Shi Nuan grinned. "When I first met Ms. Shen, I also thought so too! If I didn't know my Mom only gave birth to me and my elder sister, I might have thought Ms. Shen is also my sister!"

Although it was only meant to be small talk, Shi Nuan's words stuck in the minds of both Shi Nuan herself and Shen Qianan.

Earlier on, Shi Nuan knew she was actually not from the Shi family. Coincidentally, Shen Qianan showed up in her life. The resemblance between herself and Shen Qianan made Shi Nuan suspect that she was indeed Shen Qianan's sister.

Meanwhile, Shen Qianan also thought that it couldn't be possible for two people to look so alike. The only possible explanation was that they were either biological twins or sisters. However, she couldn't understand why had she not heard of Shi Nuan before, much less known that her mother had another daughter.

Su Yian pushed apart the doors to a private lounge. "Ms. Shi, Ms. Shen, this way please!"

As the two ladies were about to enter the room, Su Yian tugged on Shi Nuan's hand. "Ms. Shi, we have a new batch of tea leaves. Would you like to have a look at them? Since your friend is here, why don't you try out the latest tea we have with her?"

"That sounds good!" Shi Nuan nodded with anticipation. "Ms. Shen, excuse me for a second."

"No problem!" Shen Qianan sat down and placed her handbag next to her. She was also glad that she had some time alone as she needed to think of a way to deal with Shi Nuan. Until now, it seemed like no matter what Shen Qianan did, Shi Nuan was completely unaffected. Moreover, Shi Nuan was always able to turn the tide right away, which made Shen Qianan uneasy.

Shen Qianan had returned to Z Nation not only for Fu Chengyan but also for herself. She regretted deeply what happened three years ago. If she could go back in time, she would never have left Fu Chengyan.

Su Yian took Shi Nuan to a place where the two of them could not be heard by anyone else. "What's going on? Who's that girl? Why is she with you?"

Shi Nuan shook Su Yian's hands away from her forearm. She said disgruntledly, "Calm down. Don't shoot me so many questions at once. So you also think the two of us look very alike, huh?"

Su Yian nodded earnestly. "If I hadn't known you, I might have thought that she is-"

"Let me tell you who she is! She's Shen Qianan, Fu Chengyan's ex-fiancée!"

"What?" Su Yian's jaw dropped to the ground. Her eyes were bulging as she responded, "You can't be kidding me, right? That girl is Fu Chengyan's ex-fiancée? But the two of you..."

Su Yian's face was lined with worry. "Not like I think that it's a problem, but you sure are very open-minded! Have you never had the thought that Fu Chengyan married you because of..." Su Yian didn't want to continue as the remaining words were not pleasant to the ears. However, she felt that as Shi Nuan's friend, there was a need for her to say what needed to be said. "Wouldn't you think that Fu Chengyan had wanted you because of how you resemble-"

"I know what you mean. Of course, I've thought of that before, but Yan wants me to trust him."

"Then, what about yourself?" Su Yian could feel that Shi Nuan was not voicing out her mind. "You really don't feel like there's something fishy going on?"

"How is it possible for me to not overthink?" Shi Nuan sighed. "But what can I do? I am already engaged to Yan. If Yan really married me because of Shen Qianan, then now that Shen Qianan is back, he can very well divorce me and get back with her. However, he did not do so!"

The fact that Fu Chengyan didn't leave Shi Nuan for Shen Qianan was proof that he had married Shi Nuan for who she was herself. Shi Nuan had confidence in her husband, but not so much in the people from the Fu family.

"Okay, let's say Fu Chengyan did marry you for who you are, how are you so sure that the Fu family is not up to something?" Su Yian was quite smart. She could immediately point out the issue at hand. After all, she was a scholar who had won many scholarships before. "Also, why is Shen Qianan working at Shengyuan? Did the Fu family arrange for it?"

Shi Nuan nodded with a gulp. Su Yian sneered, "Even a good-natured person like me is getting furious. I don't understand how you can be so courteous that you even brought her here."

Shi Nuan smiled at her. "I'm so glad to have a friend who would stick up for me like you." She then shook her head. "It's not that I can bear with her. It's just that if I get angry, then my enemies would have their way!"

Su Yian shook her head, smiling. Meanwhile, the employees at the teahouse brought the new tea to Su Yian. She passed the tea to Shi Nuan and said, "Why are you so nice to her then?"

"I want to know more about her." Shi Nuan was not dumb. "She was the one who asked me out. If I didn't agree to come with her, then doesn't that make me petty? Also, I'm Yan's wife. Why should I be scared of her?"

"That's my girl!" Su Yian patted Shi Nuan on her shoulder. "Alright, don't leave your love rival alone for too long!"

My love rival? Pfft! As if she is worthy of being one!

Shi Nuan brought the tea leaves back to the private lounge. Upon entering the room, she could see Shen Qianan brewing tea in an elegant manner. It was obvious that tea-brewing was something she learned growing up, which spoke volumes of how sophisticated her background was.

Shen Qianan realized Shi Nuan was in the room and beckoned her to sit down. "Ms. Shi, come and have a taste of my tea! It's the one Yan likes the most!"

Shi Nuan smiled faintly. "Is that so? Let me have a try!"

Shi Nuan held the small teacup Shen Qianan passed to her and took a whiff of the aromatic tea. "Ms. Shen, you are so good at brewing tea! This smells amazing!"

"Thank you! Since young, my parents have taught me how to brew tea. They even had teachers over to instruct me on tea-brewing. However, I am only an amateur though."

"Oh really?" Shi Nuan took a sip of the tea and had to admit that Shen Qianan was quite proficient in tea-brewing. In fact, the tea she made surpassed that of an amateur's. "It doesn't matter if you are not a professional. My grandpa always said that as long as we strive to do better, it is enough."

Shen Qianan's face stiffened. "You're talking about your maternal grandfather?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yeah. My grandpa is a professor from Jing University. He was Yan's lecturer back then. Since Ms. Shen knows Yan well, you must know my grandpa too!"

Shen Qianan's face was pale. "I-I don't know your grandpa."

"Really? Oh, Yan used to skip grades when he was studying. When he was at university, I think the two of us were still in elementary school."

Shen Qianan's face was even more rigid now. "Yeah, I guess so. When Yan was in university, I think I was i-in the capital."

"Oh, I see. Anyway, Yan was my grandpa's most favorite student. Grandpa said he was gifted. Even his seniors were not on his level!" Shi Nuan took the tea brewing set from Shen Qianan and started to make tea with the new tea leaves. "My grandpa was the one who taught me how to brew tea. If I'm not wrong, Yan also learned tea-brewing from my grandpa. Have you tried Yan's tea before?"

"Nope, I haven't."

Shen Qianan had never tasted tea made by Fu Chengyan himself. Since the moment she got together with him, he already started working at Shengyuan. He was busy on a daily basis, so there wasn't a chance for him to make tea for Shen Qianan.

Shi Nuan wriggled her lips. "I have tried Yan's tea. It tastes like mine. After all, we were taught by the same person. Why don't you have a try?"

As Shi Nuan brewed the tea, she arranged the dainty teacups on the table. "My grandpa said there are a lot of factors when it comes to the aroma and the taste of the tea. Not only do the tea leaves and the water matter, but even the tea sets used to brew the tea will make a big difference in how the tea turns out. Everything needs to complement each other. The end result won't be pleasant if nothing matches!" Shi Nuan then passed a cup of tea she made to Shen Qianan. "Try this!"