

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 386

“What a flirt!” Fu Chengyan pinched Shi Nuan’s nose and looked at her tenderly. “You must want something if you’re treating me so well.”

“You’re so smart!” Shi Nuan laughed, then tiptoed and kissed Fu Chengyan’s chin. “Shen Shixiu.”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “You want me to investigate him?”

Shi Nuan nodded, then sighed softly. “He looks so similar to my uncle. Even though it’s not uncommon for people to look alike...” Shi Nuan paused. “I look rather similar to Shen Qianan. Now, Shen Shixiu looks similar to my uncle, too. Yan, do you still remember my family background?”

“You want me to investigate your relationship with Shen Shixiu and Shen Qianan?”

Shi Nuan nodded. Even though she was still smiling, it was now bittersweet. “I don’t want to believe it is true, either, but don’t you think it is too much of a coincidence?”

“Yes.” Fu Chengyan nodded. Holding Shi Nuan’s hand, he walked inside. “Is that why you wanted to stay there today? To see if Shen Shixiu is really Shi Yu?”

“Yes!”

“I got it. Leave this to me. I’ll definitely find out the truth for you!” Actually, he had the same thoughts as Shi Nuan.

After all, coincidences seldom happened twice. There must be something more to this than meets the eye.

The two of them headed upstairs. From the second-floor balcony, Shen Qianan's gaze fell onto Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan. The glimmer of sadness in her eyes reflected her unbearable pain.

The next day, Fu Chengyan left together with Shi Nuan while Shen Shixiu brought Shen Qianan away with him. Even though Shen Qianan was unwilling, she couldn't disobey Shen Shixiu.

Not many people truly understood Shen Shixiu, but as his sister, Shen Qianan knew his temper well. Shen Shixiu was someone to be feared.

Back then, when Shen Qianan first met Shen Shixiu, he was still a teenager, but he was already very cunning. Even though she was also a teenager then, she was already afraid of Shen Shixiu.

“Sir! Madam!”

Shen Shixiu had come to Jiang City prepared. His deputy, Jiang Zhan, had also come along to be his chauffeur.

When Jiang Zhan saw Shen Qianan carrying Yu, he moved over to take him from her, but she refused. “I can carry him. Yu gets scared easily.”

Jiang Zhan retracted his hands and opened the car door for Shen Shixiu and Shen Qianan. “Sir, I've already settled the hotel arrangements. Based on your schedule, we will need to stay in Jiang City for about a month!”

“Okay!” Shen Shixiu nodded and took the tablet from Jiang Zhan, briefly scanning his schedule. He asked, “Is the headquarters of the Prosperous Group still in Sheen City?”

“Yes. However, there is also a branch in Jiang City. Right now, Li Heng’s nephew Li Xufan is in charge.” Jiang Zhan got into the car. “Sir, shall we go to the hotel now?”

“Alright. Please help to arrange Ms. Qianan’s schedule as well.” As Shen Shixiu spoke, he glanced at Yu, who was lying in Shen Qianan’s arms. “Is he three years old?”

Shen Qianan looked at Shen Shixiu guardedly. Shen Shixiu’s mouth twitched. “After being in Jiang City for so long, haven’t you found a school for him?”

“No need for that. Yu is still young. There’s no need to enroll him into a school yet!” Shen Qianan rejected his idea right away.

Shen Shixiu raised an eyebrow. “Am I your enemy?”

Even though Shen Qianan pursed her lips and remained silent, Shen Shixiu could tell that she didn’t trust or like him.

Shen Shixiu’s lips curled up as he lowered his head and studied the information on his tablet instead. Throughout the ride, he would discuss work matters with Jiang Zhan, but he didn’t bother Shen Qianan anymore.

From their conversation, Shen Qianan guessed that Shen Shixiu must be managing most of Jiangyuan Group’s operations at the moment. Shen Qianan became even warier of Shen Shixiu. She asked, “How is Father’s health like recently?”

Looking up, Shen Shixiu paused. “So you still remember you have a father? Since you’ve returned, why didn’t you go to the capital?”

“I don’t think Father wants to see me, either!” Shen Qianan’s mouth twitched. “Since young, he’s never liked me!”

Shen Shixiu frowned. “No matter what, he is still your father!”

“Isn’t he your father, too?” Shen Qianan’s mouth twitched. “But did he treat you well?”

Shen Shixiu closed his files and passed the tablet back to Jiang Zhan, then looked at Shen Qianan from head to toe. “It seems like there’s another reason you’re not willing to go back home!” He said affirmatively.

Shen Qianan replied angrily, “It’s not that I’m not willing to go back. It’s just that the Shen family is not right for me!” Shen Qianan’s mouth twitched. After hugging Yu for so long, her arms were slightly sore. Just as she prepared to adjust him, a pair of hands shot out; Shen Shixiu took Yu from her arms.

“Yu...”

Shen Shixiu glanced at Shen Qianan. “What? Do you think I’m going to eat him up?”

While Shen Qianan pursed her lips and remained silent, Shen Shixiu laughed. “No matter what, I’m still his uncle!”

When they reached the hotel, Jiang Zhan stopped the car and opened the door for them. “Sir, why don’t you pass him to me?” Jiang Zhan was referring to Yu.

Shen Shixiu gave Jiang Zhan a look and said, “Pass me the room card.”

Jiang Zhan immediately handed it to him. “Sir, both your rooms are on the seventh floor.”

“Okay!” Shen Shixiu nodded and replied, “Go and buy some necessities for the child and investigate Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan!”

Hearing this, Shen Qianan glanced at Shen Shixiu, but he didn’t look at her as he carried Yu into the hotel.

Shen Qianan had no choice but to follow him. “Shixiu, why are you investigating Yan and Shi Nuan?”

Glancing at Shen Qianan, Shen Shixiu smiled grimly. Shen Qianan was unnerved by Shen Shixiu’s expression. “I only...”

“It’s better if you don’t know everything! Next month, follow me back to the capital. I’ll find a good school for Yu. You can then stay and work at Jiangyuan Group with me!”

“But I don’t want to...” Shen Qianan pursed her lips. “You know that I’m not good with business!”

“Then why did you go to Shengyuan?” Shen Shixiu said coldly, “You can force yourself to do something you don’t like for another man. Why can’t you do the same for yourself?”

“You want me to abandon Yan and leave Jiang City? I can’t do that.” Shen Qianan said in a rage. “Three years ago, I already lost Yan once. I can’t lose him again. Yu needs a father!”

“You should know that Yu isn’t Fu Chengyan’s son. If you continue on like this, it won’t end well for you and Jiangyuan Group!”

“In the end, it’s still all about the Group. Three years ago, you and Father made use of me for the sake of the Group. Now, you want to use me again?” Shen Qianan looked at Shen Shixiu in disappointment. “I love Yan. I’ve loved him for so many years. I won’t give up!”

“You made your own decision three years ago.” Frowning, Shen Shixiu carried Yu into the elevator. Seeing that Shen Qianan was still standing outside, he impatiently pulled her in. “Give up on Fu Chengyan. He already has a wife. If he really loved you, he wouldn’t have let you go three years ago. You’re not stupid and I don’t have to spell out everything for you. For now, just stay with me. If you do anything out of line, I’ll get Jiang Zhan to send you back to the capital!”

“Shixiu!”

But Shen Shixiu didn't give Shen Qianan another chance and strode quickly, bringing Yu into the room. Helpless, Shen Qianan could only chase behind Shen Shixiu. “You can't treat me like this. If I stay with Yan, it will be beneficial for Jiangyuan Group. Shengyuan and the Prosperous Group are the biggest companies in Jiang City. If I get married to Yan, it will be easy for the Jiangyuan group to enter Jiang City in the future. Shixiu, you're a businessman. Surely you understand this!”

“Whether Jiangyuan Group can enter Jiang City is a small matter. More importantly, I only know that if you continue on like this, Yu and your life will be at stake!

Shen Qianan's face turned pale. “Shixiu, I don't know what you are talking about!”

“Is that so?” Shen Shixiu's mouth twitched. “Even if you don't understand now, you'll understand eventually.”

Shen Shixiu placed Yu on the bed then put his hands in his pockets. There was a hint of a smile on his face. “Later, I'll ask Jiang Zhan to give you some information about Jiangyuan Group. Since you're going back there, you must understand what's going on!”

Shen Shixiu returned to his adjacent room. Soon, Jiang Zhan came back with necessities for the child and passed some information regarding the Jiangyuan Group to Shen Qianan. Then, he went to report his findings to Shen Shixiu.

“That's all you've found?”

“Yes. Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan got married half a year ago. Back then, Ms. Shi was betrayed by both her sister and her boyfriend. After that, she was seconded abroad for a year. Shi Wei and Fu Xicheng just happened to get engaged the

year she came back. Hurt by this, Ms. Shi married Fu Chengyan soon after. I haven't yet found out why they got married."

Shen Shixiu narrowed his eyes. Glancing at the words on the file, he asked "What is the Shi family like?"

"Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu don't like Shi Nuan. However, Old Master Shi Yunsheng treats her very well; he even transferred his entire Huancheng shareholding to Shi Nuan!"

"Oh?" Shen Shixiu raised an eyebrow. "And then?"

"Ms. Shi then transferred these shares to Fu Chengyan in exchange for shares in Xinhuang Entertainment. So now, the biggest shareholder of Huancheng is Fu Chengyan!" Jiang Zhan said in astonishment, "She's so daring. How could she just transfer all the shares to Fu Chengyan like that?"

Shen Shixiu narrowed his eyes as a hint of a smile appeared on his face. "She isn't daring. She's smart. Don't you know that the entire Huancheng isn't worth even ten percent of Fu Chengyan's Xinhuang Entertainment?"

It seems like Fu Chengyan has really fallen for Shi Nuan.

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Though it seemed like Shi Nuan was being daring by transferring all of Huancheng's shares to Fu Chengyan, a smart person could see that Shi Nuan was not losing out. If Fu Chengyan weren't a willing party, how could she have benefited so much from him?

Just because Jiang Zhan was confused didn't mean Shen Shixiu was confused as well.

"Sir, what should we do next?"

Right now, Jiang Zhan wasn't quite sure what Shen Shixiu was trying to achieve. He claimed he had come for Shen Qianan, but he didn't seem to be helping her. Rather, he wanted to bring her away. And now Shen Shixiu wanted to investigate Shi Nuan. This meant that there had to be more to Shi Nuan than meets the eye!

Shen Shixiu frowned and closed the files in his hands. "We'll just wait. Is there any news from the Prosperous Group? When is Li Heng returning?"

"I'm not too sure about that. Li Heng and his wife are still in C Country, supposedly to treat his wife's illness. For now, the Prosperous Group is being managed by Li Xufan... So we should meet with him next."

Shen Shixiu nodded. "Ask headquarters to send all documents that need my attention to Jiang City. As for the capital...Shen An is there, so there shouldn't be any issues!" Shen Shixiu headed to the bar and poured a glass of wine. "For now, pay close attention to the Prosperous Group."

"Yes, Sir!"

...

Ever since the Shi family found out about Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan's marriage, Shi Jingzheng had been thinking of ways to use Shi Nuan to elevate Huancheng's status, given she had the powerful Fu Chengyan as backing.

Meanwhile, Fu Yuqing thought about the same thing. He wanted Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei to seize this opportunity. He also wanted Shi Nuan to coax Fu Chengyan into giving more businesses to Fucheng and Huancheng.

Since they both thought the same way, they had been trying to get Shi Nuan to bring Fu Chengyan over to their house. Eventually, Jiang Yu thought of making use of Shi Yunsheng.

Shi Nuan was very filial. Even though she might not care about the rest of the family, she would definitely care about Shi Yunsheng.

But Shi Yunsheng was equally stubborn and refused to let Shi Nuan return. In the end, Shi Jingzheng had to claim that he just wanted to test whether Fu Chengyan really loved Shi Nuan. Shi Wei fanned the flames by saying that Fu Chengyan had brought along a fiancée with a child at Fu Zhengyun's birthday banquet, and expressed her fear that Shi Nuan might be treated badly by the Fu family.

Thinking of this, Shi Yunsheng called Shi Nuan, wanting to meet her and Fu Chengyan.

Once Shi Nuan picked up, she immediately knew what the Shi family wanted. They didn't care about her marriage, only what benefits they would get from it.

On her side, Fu Chengyan overheard her conversation with Shi Yunsheng. Shi Nuan hung up and looked at Fu Chengyan. "You heard what he said?"

"Yes." Fu Chengyan nodded and took the phone away from Shi Nuan. He threw it on the bed, then used a towel to dry Shi Nuan's damp hair. "Next time, dry your

hair immediately after bathing. It's not good for you to leave your hair wet hair for such a long time."

"Alright." Shi Nuan looked at Fu Chengyan. "So, what do you think?"

"I didn't expect them to be so slow!" Fu Chengyan's words revealed his thoughts. Raising an eyebrow, Shi Nuan said, "You want them to have acted sooner?"

Fu Chengyan curled his lips. "It's just human nature. Since they know about our relationship, they wouldn't let such a good opportunity pass by." What Fu Chengyan said was true.

Shi Nuan sighed. "I thought about this before. That was why I didn't want to expose our relationship. If they knew about us being together, they'll definitely try to take advantage of it."

"Humans are naturally greedy! In fact, they'll be foolish not to take advantage of our relationship." Fu Chengyan said matter-of-factly. He dried her hair and stroked her face gently as if he were handling a precious gem.

Shi Nuan nodded. "I know, but it's so annoying!"

"You shouldn't be upset because of them. Our marriage is legal and upright. We don't need to hide this from anyone," Fu Chengyan said clearly, "You can't hide this from them forever, can you?"

"Alright then. You make sense. But what should we do now?" Shi Nuan passed the responsibility to Fu Chengyan. "Unless you plan on attending the banquet? You know they're just trying to find any opportunities possible. If not for their scheme, they wouldn't have talked to Granddad!"

"Since this is the case, we must go. As you also know, they're doing this through Granddad, which means they're already at their wits' end. How can you bear to make your Granddad worry?"

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. "You're right. So, should I say 'yes' to them?"

Fu Chengyan nodded. "Since they want to meet, then we will meet them. I'll let you decide on the location!"

Shi Nuan's eyes sparkled as she nodded. "Alright!"

"Okay!" Fu Chengyan nodded, too, stroking Shi Nuan's hair. Then, he paused for a moment. "Shen Shixiu will be staying in Jiang City for a month."

Hearing this, Shi Nuan was shocked. "This whole month?"

Fu Chengyan nodded and fell silent for a second. "I've asked Li Heng. Prosperous Group and Jiangyuan Group are working together. Even if I didn't tell Shen Shixiu about Shen Qianan, he would still have come over. However, something is strange."

"What's so strange?" Shi Nuan raised her head and stared hopefully at Fu Chengyan with her glimmering eyes.

Fu Chengyan helplessly ruffled Shi Nuan's hair. "May, you're so interested in another man. Aren't you afraid that I might get jealous?"

"I know that you won't be!" Shi Nuan chuckled. "Furthermore, that's my uncle!"

"But you're not related by blood!" Fu Chengyan emphasized. "Next time, don't look at me like that again. And don't look at Shen Shixiu like that, either!"

"Why must you be like this?"

Shi Nuan took the towel away from Fu Chengyan and hopped onto the bed. Wrapping her arms around Fu Chengyan, she rested her chin on his shoulder. "You're so domineering!"

“Huh?” Fu Chengyan grunted as Shi Nuan’s chin rubbed against him. He asked with a smile, “I’m domineering?”

“Yes!” Shi Nuan hit Fu Chengyan’s shoulder again. “Shen Shixiu is just like any other person to me. I’m just surprised at how much he looks like my uncle! You can’t tell me not to look at him like that just because of this!”

Raising an eyebrow, Fu Chengyan moved Shi Nuan’s arm away.

Shi Nuan spun around and hugged Fu Chengyan’s muscular body, wrapping her arms around his neck. A grin appeared at the corner of her mouth. “So you’re jealous!”

“Jealous?” Fu Chengyan frowned. “I’m not jealous. You’re mine.” Fu Chengyan swiftly kissed Shi Nuan’s lips.

They were so soft and smooth.

Shi Nuan also immersed herself in Fu Chengyan’s tender kiss and almost let go of Fu Chengyan in the process. Luckily, Fu Chengyan reacted quickly and held on to Shi Nuan’s waist.

“Hey!” Fu Chengyan scratched his nose while Shi Nuan playfully rubbed his waist. Standing up, she planted a kiss on Fu Chengyan’s lips.

By the time she woke up the next day, Fu Chengyan had already prepared breakfast for her. Recently, Shi Nuan had been lethargic and she found it difficult to get out of bed. Finding that there was no one next to her, Shi Nuan gradually got up.

Shi Nuan dawdled for another half an hour before heading downstairs, where a fragrant smell greeted her. Wearing an apron, Fu Chengyan walked out of the kitchen. When he saw how sleepy Shi Nuan was, he pointed at the dining table. “Sit down first. I’ll bring the cutlery over!”

Shi Nuan obediently sat down and saw that the table was full of her favorite foods. “Yan, you’re so thoughtful, like a mother!”

Thoughtful like a mother?

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. He passed the chopsticks to Shi Nuan, then flicked her forehead. “Are you sure that’s a fitting description?”

“Ah!” Shi Nuan rubbed her head and glared at Fu Chengyan. “Why did you hit me? How annoying!”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “Eat quickly. Didn’t you say you were meeting Su Yian and Song Rongrong today? I’ll fetch you.”

“Oh, I almost forgot.” Shi Nuan suddenly recalled her schedule. “I haven’t seen Yian and Rongrong in such a long time. Yan, I’m sorry, you’ll have to entertain yourself today!”

Originally, Shi Nuan had planned to go out with Fu Chengyan. But last night, Song Rongrong had called her for a meetup, since they hadn’t met in a long time. Without much consideration, Shi Nuan agreed. Only after that did she recall that she was supposed to go out with Fu Chengyan.

Smiling, Fu Chengyan shook his head and passed a bowl of porridge to Shi Nuan. “You’d better return what you owe me with interest!”

“Alright, you profiteer!” Shi Nuan stuck out her tongue. But when Fu Chengyan stared at her with his intense gaze, Shi Nuan immediately looked down and gulped down her porridge, pretending she hadn’t said anything. “Yan, I just thought of something. Since we agreed to meet them and I’m choosing the location, who’s paying?”

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As Shi Nuan stepped out from Wutong Residence, she was greeted by a fresh whiff of the spring air. It felt warmer today, but Fu Chengyan still intentionally reminded her to bring a jacket along. He wouldn't risk letting her catch a cold.

Shi Nuan couldn't defy his persistent nagging. She hurriedly grabbed a coat and left to the meeting point.

Su Yian had long waited at the usual place all by herself, while Song Rongrong was nowhere to be seen. As soon as she saw Shi Nuan coming closer from a distance, she waved her hand in the air as she called out to her friend, "Here, Nuan!"

Shi Nuan had actually noticed the familiar face and silhouette of Su Yian at the mall's entrance even from afar. Her friend stood there alone quietly with both hands tucked in her coat's pockets. When she saw Su Yian waving, she picked up her speed and made a light dash towards her. "Sorry, have you been waiting for a long time?"

"Nah, I'm good!" Su Yian greeted back with a smile. Her eyes briefly assessed Shi Nuan from head to toe while she added, "We haven't met up in a while. You seem to have plumped up quite a bit from the last time we saw each other. "

Plumped up?

Shi Nuan immediately felt self-conscious at Su Yian's comments. She glanced down at herself. Oh dear, I think I've really gained weight like what Yian said... She pressed both hands on her own cheeks and then pinched her own waist.

“You’re right... I’ve probably fluffed up over the winter!” She added with a sigh, “I’ve been well fed!”

Su Yian’s narrowed her eyes and grinned teasingly. “Nuan, are you trying to show off how well you’ve been cared for? Are you trying to make us singles jealous of your love life?”

“What is it about?”

Song Rongrong’s voice rose suddenly from behind Shi Nuan, startling her. Shi Nuan shot an angry glare at Song Rongrong. She jokingly slapped Rongrong’s arm and said, “You’re late again! Didn’t we already fix a time to meet up?”

Song Rongrong let out a sigh. “Well, it’s our chief editor’s fault...” she started explaining, but paused for a millisecond and shrugged. “Never mind, enough about my work. Topics like these only kill the mood. Say, is brother-in-law really fine with us inviting you out like this?”

Before Shi Nuan could respond, Song Rongrong suddenly grabbed onto her arm and pulled her aside. “Hey, Nuan... Haven’t you gotten a little fatter recently!”

“...” Shi Nuan was speechless for a moment. She exchanged a glance with Su Yian and the two let out a chuckle.

“Yian’s more thoughtful with her words after all. She said I plumped up slightly, whereas you called me ‘fat’ so directly. That’s not very kind of you!” she scolded jokingly.

Song Rongrong inched closer to her ear and replied with a mischievous grin, “Have you been that much kinder to us on the other hand? You kept bringing up about your husband here and there in our group chat. Who are I and Yian to you?” She wrapped her fingers around Shi Nuan’s neck as she pretended to strangle her.

Shi Nuan couldn't argue anymore. "Alright, alright... I surrender. It's my fault, okay? Let's go do our shopping and then have some tea, shall we?"

"Okay! Let's go!" Song Rongrong raised her brows in delight. She playfully grabbed onto Shi Nuan with one arm and held onto Su Yian with the other. The trio laughed and giggled as they began their shopping journey.

Shi Nuan and her friends were exhausted after a whole morning of strolling around the mall. They began to look around for somewhere to take a break from their shopping spree. It's a huge area to explore on foot, although she had frequented this place since it's a project that belonged under Shengyuan's franchise.

Holding on to a few bags of her shopping haul, A familiar male voice suddenly caught Shi Nuan's attention when they walked past one of the shops. "Yes, I'm in Jiang City now!" That voice was deep, yet clear and gentle.

She paused in her tracks and listened. Song Rongrong and Su Yian didn't notice anything unusual and kept walking on, unaware that their friend was left behind.

With hesitating steps, Shi Nuan followed after the man who seemed to be the source of the voice.

That man sounded so deliberately tender as he spoke. Shi Nuan was convinced that the person he was speaking to must have been a woman. A very important woman, in fact.

She treaded behind the man for a short while until he eventually stopped. Still holding onto his cellphone, he turned around. His eyes fell on the person who had followed him.

Surprised to see Shi Nuan, Shen Shixiu gawked for a moment. He frowned slightly as he tried to finish the conversation with the other person on the other end of the phone. "I might only return after a month or so... Okay, I'll leave the matters in Sheen City in your hands meanwhile!"

Shen Shixiu kept his cellphone away and turned his attention to Shi Nuan. His lips curved into a polite smile as he walked towards her in tall, steady strides. He noticed the shopping bags in her hands. With the composure of a gentleman, he greeted respectfully, "Hello, Ms. Shi!"

"Hello, Mr. Shen!" Shi Nuan returned the smile. "What a coincidence!"

Shen Shixiu nodded. "Indeed. Did you come shopping here alone?" he replied as he took another glance at the bags of clothes in her hands. Shi Nuan widened her eyes slightly in a sudden realization. She shook her head as she answered, "No, I came with my friends... I wonder where'd they gone to?"

Embarrassed at herself, she briefly scratched the side of her head. How did she end up separated away from her friends and not even realizing it after so long? "Perhaps they went browsing in the other shop," she glanced around and turned back to Shen Shixiu as she continued, "I assume you're shopping here on your own as well, Mr. Shen?"

He shook his head. "No, I was just paying a random visit since I rarely have the opportunity to come to Jiang City. I've heard that this mall belongs to Shengyuan?"

Still somewhat perplexed at his presence, Shi Nuan promptly answered, "Yes, that's right."

Shen Shixiu nodded understandingly. "Ms. Shi, are you not going to look for your friends then?"

"Ah, yes I should... But it's fine, I'll search for them later!" Shi Nuan forced an embarrassed smile. Shen Shixiu looked straight at her and replied, "Ms. Shi, would you like to have some coffee?"

"Sure!" Shi Nuan agreed immediately. "I know a café around here that's pretty good."

“In that case, I shall let Ms. Shi lead the way.”

Shen Shixiu kept up a graceful and collected composure at all times, constantly emitting a gentlemanly aura. Noticing multiple shopping bags hanging on both Shi Nuan’s arms, he reached out a hand and offered, “Let me carry them.”

“Oh no, you don’t have to!” Shi Nuan tried to decline, but he acted swiftly and had already taken the bags from her as she spoke. “It’s not a problem,” he replied calmly.

Shi Nuan could only smile at the polite gesture. “We’re almost there. It’s just downstairs.” She pointed as she walked ahead of him.

Just then, Shi Nuan’s phone rang. She looked at Song Rongrong’s name flashing on the screen, unsurprised that her friends would eventually call. She shot Shen Shixiu an apologetic look. “Excuse me for a moment, Mr. Shen.”

Shen Shixiu said nothing but smiled reassuringly. He gestured with a hand for her to proceed with the phone call, then stood aside to wait.

“Nuan, who’s that handsome guy you’re with? How dare you left us so quietly all of a sudden! Also, are you sure brother-in-law would be okay with you meeting up that good-looking dude behind his back?”

Song Rongrong’s nosy tone echoed brightly through the speaker. Shi Nuan shook her head helplessly. “It’s not like that. It’s someone I know. We bumped into each other coincidentally, so we just had a small talk!” She quickly glanced at Shen Shixiu who stood waiting at a distance and felt somewhat guilty.

She didn’t want to come off rude in front of such a seemingly courteous person. “Well, I have something to handle right now. You and Yian go back ahead of me, alright? Sorry I can’t be with you girls any longer for today!”

“What’s the meaning of this, Nuan? Dates before mates, huh? Hmph, you better be careful if I report this to brother-in-law!” Song Rongrong responded with a

slightly annoyed tone. She still cared for her friend nonetheless. “Seriously, be careful while you’re on your own, okay?”

You’ve been walking on eggshells with how the Fu clan views you at this moment. Brother-in-law may trust you, but it doesn’t guarantee that his family won’t have any misunderstandings if you’re meeting with another man like this. Not mentioning that recent drama with your husband’s ex-fiancée... “

“Calm down, Rongrong. This person is Shen Shixiu; he’s Shen Qianan’s older brother! Nothing bad will come out of this meeting. Don’t worry, alright? I’ll explain more later. I really have to go now!” Shi Nuan quickly assured her friend and hung up.

She walked back towards Shen Shixiu with a slightly remorseful smile. “Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Shen.”

He gave a slight nod. “Was it your friends?”

“Yes. They said they’ll go back first,” Shi Nuan answered, “Today’s coffee shall be my treat!”

“Alright!”

They soon arrived at the café which Shi Nuan recommended. A pleasant ambiance welcomed them as they entered. It was out of peak hours, hence there wasn’t too big of a crowd.

Shen Shixiu carefully laid down the shopping bags beside the table, and gracefully pulled out a chair for Shi Nuan. The waiter came up promptly just as Shi Nuan settled into her seat. “May I take your order?”

“An iced cappuccino for me, please. Mr. Shen, what would like to have?” Shi Nuan looked at Shen Shixiu as the waiter penned down her order.

“I’ll have a Jamaican Blue Mountain,” he was quick to decide his order and looked at Shi Nuan. “Are you sure about having an iced coffee in this weather? It’s probably not a good idea for your health. What about a regular cappuccino?”

Shen Shixiu was careful and considerate as he spoke. His deep, gentle voice was like a breath of fresh air. “I hope you don’t mind my suggestion, Ms. Shi.” His gaze remained on her as he waited for her response.

“Of course not.” Shi Nuan smiled as she agreed, and turned to the waiter. “I’ll change to a regular cappuccino then!”

The waiter nodded and proceeded away. Shi Nuan turned her gaze back onto the man sitting opposite her. She couldn’t help but continuously observed Shen Shixiu intently. She had so many questions in her head about him.

Shen Shixiu was equally silent for a brief moment. He then met Shi Nuan’s eyes with a smile and asked, “Is there something you want to talk about, Ms. Shi?”

Shi Nuan hesitantly bit her lip. She pondered for a second before replying softly, “Nothing much, actually. I just thought you seemed very familiar. Mr. Shen, do you really not know Shi Yu?”

Shen Shixiu narrowed his eyes at that name. His brows twitched slightly and a dark expression flashed across his eyes. He shifted his gaze sideways, not returning the keen stare from Shi Nuan.

He rested a hand on the table while the other arm remained on his lap. His lean finger tapped lightly against the tabletop in a slow but consistent rhythm. It was almost as rhythmic as the ticking of a clock. A few silent seconds passed when he finally spoke again, “Ms. Shi, what is it that you’re trying to find out from me?”

Shi Nuan bit her lip again. “You seem so different from Shen Qianan, Mr. Shen.”

These two people are way too different in personality and appearance, Shi Nuan thought to herself.

For some time, she had been troubled by the fact that Shen Shixiu and Shen Qianan barely shared any similarities with each other. On top of that, Shen Qianan looked almost like a doppelganger of herself. She was quite convinced that she wasn't merely overthinking.

Shen Shixiu gave a shallow smile. "Did that come from concerns about your own identity, Ms. Shi?"

Shi Nuan felt a slight shiver at his response, while he continued, "Ms. Shi, it seems like you're interested in knowing if both you and Qianan are related in any way."

Her eyes remained fixed on Shen Shixiu without showing any emotion. She managed to portray a calm stance outwardly, but deep down she could feel a storm gradually stirring up within herself. This man never failed to surprise her with his sharpness.

Shen Shixiu's gaze was so sharp and clear as if his eyes could peer into a person's mind. He met Shi Nuan's eyes directly as he added with a somewhat sober tone, "If you have any doubts about your heritage, why don't you clarify with somebody from the Shi family or your grandfather, Old Master Jiang?"

"You know my grandpa, Mr. Shen?" Shi Nuan asked, once again slightly taken aback by his words.

"No. I don't know him," Shen Shixiu replied in a matter-of-fact manner. "I've only heard a little about him before I came here. If Ms. Shi has any questions about your own background, I suggest you ask those from the Shi family instead. I'm afraid I can't provide the answers you're looking for."

Just as he spoke, the waiter returned to the table with their drinks. Shen Shixiu gracefully held up his cup as he looked straight at Shi Nuan. "Qianan is my half-sister through a different mother. I suppose it's normal that half-siblings share fewer things in common."

Shi Nuan froze a little and felt her chest tighten. Her face paled slightly. She looked down on her freshly brewed drink. As invigorating as the coffee aroma was, it didn't help disperse the faint gloom that had clouded her expression.

She forced the corners of her lips upwards into a weak smile. "I apologize for asking such a difficult question, Mr. Shen." She didn't know what else to say upon hearing his last few sentences. Perhaps he really isn't Shi Yu after all... And maybe... it could be that I'm never truly related to the Shen family at all, including Shen Shixiu and Shen Qianan!

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 389

Looking at how disheartened Shi Nuan looked, Shen Shixiu had a pressing urge to say something but thought better of it in the end. At last, he let his hands down and tried to look nonchalant. “No problem!”

Pursing her lips, Shi Nuan responded, “Since Mr. Shen isn’t the man I’m looking for, I shall not disturb you any longer than I should.” Shi Nuan was not going to prolong her conversation with Shen Shixiu. She decided not to waste her time since she would not get the answer she wanted from him.

Shen Shixiu nodded. As Shi Nuan was getting ready to leave, he followed suit. “Please let me offer you a ride home, Ms. Shi.”

“No need for that because I actually drove here.” Shi Nuan pointed toward somewhere outside the shopping center. “My car is just at the parking lot.”

Shen Shixiu nodded. “Well, let me help you with your shopping bags then!”

Shi Nuan did not reject his kind offer, so they walked out of the shopping center together. They were comfortable in each other’s presence even though no words were exchanged between them along the journey.

Shi Nuan stared straight ahead as she was walked. Surprise flickered in her eyes when she suddenly spotted a man who looked familiar to her, especially when he scrambled toward a woman and tried to pull her back toward himself. The woman, whose face Shi Nuan could not see clearly, seemed reluctant to go with him. Then, Shi Nuan caught a glimpse of the guy’s face to find that he was actually Su Shaoqing.

Su Shaoqing seized the woman by her arm and pulled her hard toward his chest. The next second, he claimed her lips and gave her a passionate smooch. Shi Nuan was so flabbergasted by the sight that she stood rooted to the spot at once.

With her eyes wide open, she observed their interaction. The woman quickly shoved Su Shaoqing away and gave his face a vicious slap. After wiping her mouth clean in disgust, she scurried away.

What the heck is going on?

As far as Shi Nuan knew, Su Shaoqing had never had any trouble with women before. Although he always acted and spoke frivolously, he was a rather decent guy who did not fool around. However, it was obvious just now that Su Shaoqing was forcing a kiss on that woman.

“What’s the matter?”

Shen Shixiu walked up and stood beside Shi Nuan. When he noticed how her eyes were glued on a man standing somewhere not far away from them, he narrowed his eyes in bewilderment. “Do you know that guy?”

Shi Nuan’s mind was pulled back to reality instantly. In a slightly awkward manner, she nodded. “Yes!”

She took a sharp intake of breath when Su Shaoqing turned around to face her. He appeared fairly unfazed as he covered the part of his face that had been slapped by the woman earlier with his hands. To Shi Nuan’s surprise, there was even a glimmer of delight in his eyes.

The corners of her lips twitched in confusion. Am I seeing things, or is Su Shaoqing actually looking quite pleased to be slapped by the woman?

Su Shaoqing finally spotted Shi Nuan, and the faint smile on his face froze. He first fixed his gaze on her and then on Shen Shixiu.

After the burning sensation on his cheeks subsided, he approached Shi Nuan. “Nuan, are you here to do some shopping?”

Raising her brows slightly, Shi Nuan put back on her usual faint smile. “Yes. What about you?” In the meantime, she cast a meaningful glimpse in the direction behind Su Shaoqing. The man narrowed his eyes to follow the direction she was looking at but found no one in sight. He then returned his attention to Shi Nuan and flashed her his typical good-natured smile. “Nuan, I see that you’ve got a companion with you here. Does Chenyan know about this?”

With a smile, Shi Nuan introduced Shen Shixiu to him. “Shaoqing, let me introduce this great guy to you. His name is Mr. Shen Shixiu. Mr. Shen, this is Mr. Su Shaoqing.”

The two men started sizing each other up as Shi Nuan made the introduction. In fact, both of them had heard of each other, but they had not met in person before.

The smile on Su Shaoqing’s face disappeared the moment he learned that it was Shen Shixiu. In the end, it was Shen Shixiu who took the initiative to offer his hand to him. “My name is Shen Shixiu. It’s my pleasure to meet you.”

Raising his brows slightly, Su Shaoqing took his outstretched hand and replied, “I’m Su Shaoqing! Mr. Shen, I’m surprised to see you in Jiang City. I had no idea you’re actually such a good friend of Nuan too!”

Shen Shixiu grinned in response. Without answering him, he handed the shopping bags back to Shi Nuan. “Ms. Shen, I’m afraid I can’t help you with your shopping bags as I’m in a rush to get to another place.”

“Don’t worry about it!” Shi Nuan took the shopping bags and nodded at him. “Thanks for your help, Mr. Shen.”

Only after Shen Shixiu left did Shi Nuan turn to look at Su Shaoqing solemnly. “Shaoqing, I saw you with...”

Su Shaoqing stiffened in response. “Nuan, are you sure you saw anything just now? In fact, I’m pretty sure I witnessed you with another guy here. Do you think Chengyan will get jealous if he knows about this?”

“Yan told me he wasn’t prone to jealousy!” With a knowing smirk, Shi Nuan continued, “It’s fine if you don’t feel like talking about it. However, I must say that I’ve never seen you trying so hard to get a girl after being your friend for such a long time. So... I guess you have yet to win her heart?”

Su Shaoqing’s face hardened. “Nuan, there’re certain things you should refrain from sticking your nose into.”

“Are you threatening me?” Shi Nuan broke into a smile, unruffled by his warning. “Don’t be so uptight. I didn’t get to see her face clearly enough just now. Even if I did, there’s nothing I’d do to that girl!”

Su Shaoqing smirked. “Nuan, you seem to be really interested in my stuff, huh?” While talking, his eyes lingered on the shopping bags she was holding. “Did you shop for clothes together with Shen Shixiu alone?”

“Nope. I came with Song Rongrong and some other girls. I only met Mr. Shen halfway! Did you come here by yourself?” she responded.

“Yup. I have a patient who stays nearby.” After saying that, Su Shaoqing took the shopping bags from her and offered, “Let me drive you home.”

“Alright!”

With that, Su Shaoqing drove Shi Nuan back to Wutong Residence. Halfway through the journey, he gave her a reminder in a grim tone. “Mind you, Shen Shixiu is a very cunning and dangerous guy. You’d better stay away from him in the future.”

“Why do you think so?” Shi Nuan clearly did not sense a dangerous vibe from Shen Shixiu. “Didn’t you meet the guy for the first time just now? Talking bad about someone you just met isn’t your style at all.”

“Just be careful, okay? Have you forgotten the fact that Shen Qianan is your love rival? Shen Shixiu is her brother. I won’t be surprised if he decides to help his sister snatch Chengyan away from you!”

“I’m sure he won’t!” Shi Nuan shook her head, her tone resolute.

Su Shaoqing was intrigued by her confidence. “Nuan, how can you be sure?”

“I have no idea, but my instinct tells me he won’t!” Shi Nuan had always trusted her own instinct, which was telling her that Shen Shixiu was different from his sister. Even though he was Shen Qianan’s brother, she had a feeling that he wouldn’t hurt her for the sake of his sister.

“Nuan, I really find your blind confidence very interesting. Indeed, your relationship with Chengyan is going pretty steady at the moment. However, shouldn’t you be worried that Chengyan might get jealous once he finds out how you trust that guy absolutely and unconditionally? I’m sure he’s lying if he tells you he isn’t jealous.”

“I believe you when you say that. Should Yan be jealous of you and start plotting against you too?” Shi Nuan turned to look at Su Shaoqing with amusement in her eyes.

Su Shaoqing was so shaken upon hearing what she said that his hands slipped from the steering wheel. At the same time, he almost floored the accelerator to bring the car to full speed in shock.

He cast an exasperated look at her. “Fine, forget everything I just told you. It’s up to you to do things as you see fit!”

When they arrived at Wutong Residence, Su Shaoqing left directly after dropping Shi Nuan off.

Shi Nuan had a feeling that something was bothering the man. However, it was not appropriate of her to probe if he did not feel like sharing it with her.

She quickly opened the door to the house. Fu Chengyan was sitting in the living room with his eyes downcast; he was staring at something. She entered the foyer and changed into a pair of slippers. Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan looked up and fixed his gaze on her.

Shi Nuan was exhausted after spending the whole day shopping. Tossing the shopping bags onto the sofa, she trotted off toward Fu Chengyan and clung onto his arm. “Yan, I’m so tired!”

As she was talking, she grazed her face against his arm, only to find him gluing his eyes on a stack of photos in his hands. Her face froze when she saw the photos.

“What are these?”

She glanced at Fu Chengyan and then back at the photos. “Who gave you these?”

Fu Chengyan looked up into her eyes. “A parcel arrived just now. It was from an unknown sender.” Then, he threw the stack of photos onto the coffee table and asked with a smile, “Were you with Shen Shixiu just now?”

“Yes. I bumped into him at the shopping center.” Shi Nuan reached out to pick up the photos and examined them thoroughly. They were all taken from perfectly adjusted angles to make Shen Shixiu and her look like they were having an intimate moment.

A crooked smile emerged on her face. “I’m impressed by how fast these people act!”

With his brows raised, Fu Chengyan took the photos from her. “Don’t you have anything to say in your own defense?”

“I don’t really see the need to offer any explanation. Since my husband is such a clever guy, I’m sure you can figure this out yourself. I’m just wondering who took the photos and sent them here so quickly. You actually received the photos not too long after Mr. Shen and I parted ways. That person must be an impatient one. Can’t he or she wait for a few more days before sending them over?” Shi Nuan grumbled resignedly.

Meanwhile, she edged closer to him and gave him a nudge. “Don’t tell me you’re jealous?”

Fu Chengyan frowned as he massaged the area between his brows. “Jealous? I’ve never experienced jealousy before. Only guys who have no self-confidence will believe what these photos are trying to portray!” Once again, he tossed the photos back to the coffee table. “What did you and Shen Shixiu talk about?”

“Nothing much. We just had a casual chat over coffee, but it was hard to get anything concrete from him. I must give him credit for how great he was at keeping everything so vague.” Shi Nuan couldn’t help but complain, “You know what, I felt like an innocent and gullible kid when I was talking to him.”

Fu Chengyan let out a chuckle in amusement. Then, he drew her toward his arms and let her head rest on his lap carefully. Using his slender fingers, he started massaging her temples. “Do you still think he has something to do with Shi Yu?”

“Even if he doesn’t have anything to do with him, I’d still like to know whether I’m related to the Shen family in any way.” Deep down inside, she really yearned for kinship though she refused to admit it.

Shi Nuan had spent her childhood with the Shi family, but they did not treat her with love and affection. It was something that had made her upset for years. When she later found out that she was not the biological child of her parents, she

started convincing herself to get over the grievance of not being loved. But in the end, she couldn't stop herself from thinking about her origins. She wondered who she really was and where she actually came from.

The existence of Shen Qianan and Shen Shixiu in her life provided her a chance to glean more clues about her family. Therefore, she was eager to find out everything she could through Shen Shixiu. "Yan, do you I think I am being... too persistent?" The truth was that she was very happy with the current life she was living. Other than the few people who hated her, she was glad to have Fu Chengyan by her side; she knew he really loved her with all his heart.

"I don't think you are. Just go for it if you think he's the guy who's going to lead you to your family. I'll help you if you need any help, alright?"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 390

“By the way, has Shaoqing been going out with someone lately?” Shi Nuan turned to look at Fu Chengyan with newfound curiosity in her eyes. She pushed his hands away from her temples and asked after a short beat, “I saw Shaoqing with a lady outside the shopping center just now. You know what, he actually forced a kiss on that lady!”

“He forced a kiss on a lady?” Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes which were tinged with a trace of doubt. “You’re sure you saw him doing that?”

“I’m very sure!” Shi Nuan nodded. “I saw him when Shen Shixiu and I were leaving the shopping center. That lady was a badass one! She slapped him before marching away.”

“Eh?” Fu Chengyan raised his brows, intrigued by the matter. “Did you manage to see the lady’s face?”

When Shi Nuan heard his question, she couldn’t help but sigh. “I’m dying to know who that lady was because I didn’t get to see her face. Otherwise, I wouldn’t have asked you about her.” Shi Nuan sat upright and wrapped her hands around his arm instead. After adjusting her posture, she added, “The way Su Shaoqing reacted after getting slapped was very bizarre too. He actually looked quite pleased to be slapped!”

“Ha!” Fu Chengyan chuckled. “I’ve got it!”

“What do you know about it?” Shi Nuan couldn’t help but raise her brows at him. “Do you know who that lady is? Is she his crush? That doesn’t seem like it. I’ve

known Shaoqing for around six months, but I've never heard him talking about dating any woman before," Shi Nuan commented, feeling doubtful.

It was hard to think of that lady just now as the woman Su Shaoqing was pursuing.

Yet, Fu Chengyan curled his lips into a smile as he answered her, "That lady is his nemesis. She's back to haunt him now!"

"His nemesis?" Shi Nuan blinked her eyes in confusion. "Do you mean that that lady is his ex-girlfriend?"

"No. Do you remember I once told you about my other younger sister?" Fu Chengyan reached out to run his fingers through her tousled hair.

Shi Nuan felt enlightened immediately. With her eyes widened in consternation, she asked, "Do you mean Ling? Fu Ling?"

Fu Chengyan had told her about his two younger sisters before. One of them was his Uncle Heng's daughter, Pei Huan, and the other was his half-sister, Fu Ling. However, Shi Nuan had never met Fu Ling before, and Fu Chengyan did not tell her where she had gone at that time. "Does Shaoqing have a crush on Fu Ling?"

"Maybe?" Fu Chengyan sighed. "When Ling was little, she spent a lot of time with Shaoqing. She was very dependent on him." Fu Chengyan looked lost in reminiscence the more he talked about his sister. "Ling didn't live with me at the Fu Residence at that time, but that didn't affect how she loved spending time with Shaoqing. However, something happened later on, and that made their relationship rather complicated."

Shi Nuan's heart sank a little. "Do you mean Fu Ling has feelings for Shaoqing, but that isn't reciprocal?" After some contemplation, she thought that information did not match the scene she witnessed at the shopping center just now. "But, I think Shaoqing has feelings for her, judging from their interaction just now..."

“He only behaved that way because he felt guilty for her. Okay, enough of talking about that. So, you bumped into Shaoqing when you and Shen Shixiu were leaving the shopping center?” Fu Chengyan did not feel like dwelling on the topic, so he tried to change the subject of their conversation. Shi Nuan nodded. “Yup. In fact, it was Shaoqing who drove me home. I was wondering why he had offered to send me home, but I understand it now.” Laughing, she pointed at the stack of photos. “I think he must have underestimated your ability to handle a blow in your relationship!”

Fu Chengyan raised his brows in response and drew her into his embrace. “You aren’t allowed to hang out with guys other than me in the future!”

“For your information, I didn’t hang out with Shen Shixiu just now!” Shi Nuan clutched his arm and emphasized, “I went out with Rongrong and Yian before I met him. Oh, by the way, I got you this tie!”

Just then, she immediately sprung herself from the sofa and scurried toward the heap of shopping bags. From one of the bags, she took out a small box and handed it to him. “Check it out to see if you like it! I decided to get you this because most of the ties you’re wearing are in dark colors.” Giggling, she opened the box and took out a maroon-colored tie. “Isn’t it nice?”

With his eyes narrowed and his brows slightly furrowed, he took the tie from her. His lukewarm response made her leap to her feet and asked, “What do you think? You don’t think it’s nice?”

In resignation, he flashed her a smile. “It’s nice!”

“I’m so glad to hear that. I was so paranoid that you might not like it. This tie will be a refreshing addition to your collection as most of your ties are dull in color. At first, I even thought of buying one in pink, but I gave that thought up after some consideration.”

She then hopped onto the sofa and twined an arm around his neck. “Yan, why don’t I put it on for you right now?”

He reached out to pinch her nose. “That’s a great idea!”

Just as she was excitedly putting the tie on him, her phone started ringing. Her face fell slightly when she found the call was from Jiang Yu. “Hello?”

“It’s me!” Jiang Yu’s hostile voice came from the other end. “It’s getting harder and harder to reach you nowadays. Have you forgotten about us because you married a loaded guy?”

“Mom, I don’t quite understand what you mean!” She chuckled. “How can I possibly forget about you?”

“You can’t blame me for thinking that way because you seem uninterested to come back home for dinner lately. Have you forgotten the fact that we’re your family too? Don’t forget that you’ll need our help if Fu Chengyan decides to dump you one day!”

Shi Nuan looked grim in an instant at Jiang Yu’s remark. “Mom, what nonsense are you talking about? My relationship with Yan is very steady. There’s no way he’s going to dump me! Even if he does dump me one day, I wouldn’t need the support from you guys either. So, please don’t worry about me and reserve all your support for Wei!”

“You... You’re ridiculous! Is it very demanding of us to ask you to bring Fu Chengyan back for dinner? Why are you so stubborn!”

“That’s not the issue,” Shi Nuan explained with a smile. “We all know how distinguished Yan’s status is, don’t we? I’m afraid a visit to our place will be a humiliating experience for him. Other than you guys, Wei’s in-laws are interested in buying Yan a meal too. To spare him the trouble, I’m thinking of taking everyone to a restaurant. That way, you’ll be spared from the embarrassment of letting him taste your cooking too. How does that sound, Mom?”

“You...” Jiang Yu went livid with rage because of the underlying meaning in Shi Nuan’s remark. The woman was not a fool, so of course, she could see what her daughter was trying to imply.

Obviously, Shi Nuan was trying to point out that Shi residence was too shabby a place to be graced by the presence of someone as elegant and sophisticated as Fu Chengyan.

Just as Jiang Yu was about to lash out at her, Shi Jingzheng shot her a warning look. As he was sitting next to Jiang Yu, he had heard everything Shi Nuan said just now. It made his blood boil too, but he did not let it show. He was fine with any arrangement, as long as he was able to get something from Fu Chengyan, the moneybag.

After receiving the warning from Shi Jingzheng, Jiang Yu took a deep breath to cool herself down. “That’s a great idea. Indeed, eating out will suit Fu Chengyan better. Which one of us will decide where to go?”

“I already have a place in mind. I’ll send you the address later. Please be there on time!” Just like that, Shi Nuan hung up the phone. A trace of impatience flashed in her eyes, but she quickly covered it up.

Despite that, Fu Chengyan was sharp enough to detect it. He reached out to hold her hands. “There’s no need to feel upset because of them!”

“I know.” Pursing her lips, she added, “Since they’re so desperate for a chance to be humiliated by me, there’s no reason for me not to fulfill their wish, right?” With that, she rose to her feet and slowly started sorting out the stuff in the shopping bags. “I made a reservation for a private room at Yun Shui Jian tomorrow night with your name.”

“Okay.” Fu Chengyan nodded as he got up from the sofa to help her.

Her movement came to a sudden halt when she caught a glimpse of the photos left on the table. Fu Chengyan, who noticed her looking at them, asked, "Are you still bothered by those photos?"

"Nope. I'm just really curious to know who took them."

"Who else could have done that, other than our long-time enemies?" In Fu Chengyan's opinion, there was no need to find out who the photographer was at all. "Don't worry; those photos are nothing but pieces of scrap paper to me."

"But, your grandfather might not think of it that way." Shi Nuan was not afraid of anyone or anything. Since she had already gotten married to Fu Chengyan, there were certain things she was obligated to do to upkeep their image.

As much as Fu Zhengyun resented her, he was still Fu Chengyan's grandfather. As Fu Chengyan's wife, she saw him as her own grandfather too.

Yet, she had offended the old man so badly before this making their relationship beyond salvation. If Fu Zhengyun decided to spin an ugly story out of those photos, it would be difficult for her to clear her name.

"I'm the one you married, not my grandfather. So, you don't have to care about what he thinks." Then, Fu Chengyan threw those photos into the dustbin.

...

Shi Nuan reserved the largest private room of Yun Shui Jian at eight under Fu Chengyan's name.

The Shi family and the Fu family arrived at the place way earlier than the set time. They were there before Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan even arrived. They had both agreed to reach there early to leave a good impression on Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan, as they were determined to bond with Fu Chengyan through the dinner. As for Shi Nuan... Although they looked down upon her, it was inevitable to show her some respect because she was now Fu Chengyan's wife. They

certainly hope Shi Nuan would go along with their plan. Even if she refused to do so, Jiang Yu already had a plan to deal with that – she would threaten to disown her on the spot.

Jiang Yu was very sure that would work as she knew family was Shi Nuan's soft spot. Although they had treated her badly over the years, she knew Shi Nuan was still desperate for their love. Whenever they showed her a little shred of love and care, she would immediately jump at it and accept their gesture with a broad smile. Jiang Yu had used the same trick countless times over the past few years, and it had perfectly worked every single time.

In order to make a good impression, the Fu family put in a lot of effort in preparing themselves, too. Before they left for dinner, Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei were repeatedly urged to watch their behavior, and they were warned not to be disrespectful to Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan.

Solemnly, Fu Yuqing rambled on a slew of reminders. He reminded Shi Wei not to get into a fight with Shi Nuan and warned Fu Xicheng not to curb his feelings for the woman.

As Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan had yet to arrive at the restaurant, Fu Yuqing made use of the free time to nag them. Then, he summoned the manager of the restaurant over to order some dishes. Although Fu Yuqing had never attended occasions as grand and important as this, he had knowledge of the unspoken rules to know and the wise things to do, thanks to his vast experience as a businessman.

Not knowing Fu Chengyan's preference in food, he ordered the most expensive dish of each category of the menu. The manager couldn't help but narrow his eyes in consternation when he gave his order. However, he managed to remain professional as he took his order. "Sir, what would you like for drinks?"

"Hmm, let's see..."

Before Fu Yuqing could finish his sentence, the door to the private room was pushed open.

Hand in hand, Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan entered the room with composure.
“We’re sorry to have kept you guys waiting.”