

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 401

Fu Ling denied it immediately, but that only increased Su Shaoqing's suspicions. "I haven't even said anything yet. Why are you already so nervous?"

Fu Ling pursed her lips and replied, "I didn't want you to jump to your own conclusions. It's true that you aren't his biological father—otherwise, I would've come knocking on your door to ask you to be his bone marrow donor, wouldn't I?" Fu Ling retorted. She gazed unblinkingly at Su Shaoqing and continued, "Don't wrack your brains about it anymore. The child for three years ago has already passed away."

Su Shaoqing's hand tightened around the steering wheel, the green veins throbbing beneath his skin.

Fu Ling continued to rattle on, completely ignorant of the effect her words had on Su Shaoqing. The man tried his best to hold in his emotions, but upon hearing Fu Ling's words, the sound of a baby's cry rang in his ears again. His face turned white as sheet, and he took a deep breath to calm himself down.

Fu Ling finally realized the odd expression on Su Shaoqing's face. She turned her head and looked at him, frowning. "What's the matter with you?"

Su Shaoqing pressed his lips together. He looked up and saw Fu Ling's anxious face staring back at his own. Smiling a little, he reached out a hand to caress Fu Ling's face, but she ducked away immediately. Su Shaoqing's hand remained in the air, making him look rather foolish. He gazed at Fu Ling and smiled awkwardly before saying, "Nothing!"

“Nothing’s good.” Fu Ling turned away and started typing furiously away on her phone. Suddenly, she heard the man next to her say, “Ling, I’m sorry!”

A shiver ran down Fu Ling’s spine. Her fingers tightened around her phone momentarily before she raised her head and smiled gently at Su Shaoqing. “Why are you sorry?”

“Back then... I...”

“Actually, Mr. Su, you don’t have to take it to heart. It’s been so many years, after all. Besides, what happened then was never your fault, to begin with. If I hadn’t imagined that you liked me back and put all my heart into loving you, nothing like that would’ve happened. Thus, everything that befell me was my own fault; none of it has anything to do with you!”

Fu Ling turned around and gazed at him. As they stopped and waited at a traffic light, she looked at his eyes and saw that they no longer held any hint of emotion in them. This was what she had hoped for a long time ago, but now that her wish had come true, Fu Ling felt a little depressed.

Fu Ling wasn’t the same woman as before, and this knowledge frightened Su Shaoqing a little. He swallowed, causing his Adam’s apple to bob up and down. Though Fu Ling was right next to him, she seemed worlds away.

“You...”

“Mr. Su, the light has turned green!”

Fu Ling’s words jolted Su Shaoqing out of his reverie. He snapped out his daze and smiled weakly at her. “Where do you live?”

“Mr. Su, didn’t you find out about that when you were busy investigating me? You should know my address by heart!”

Su Shaoqing didn’t reply, simply stepping on the accelerator. The car drove off.

However, next to him, Fu Ling was still mulling over his words. Her heart raced just thinking about what he had said.

She sighed a little on the inside and willed her heart to calm down. Turning her head, she stared out of the window and watched as the scenery passed them by.

Some people, such as Fu Ling and Su Shaoqing, were destined to be apart from the very beginning. Fu Ling had put so much effort into chasing him in the past, but all she had gotten in return was a painful lesson and horrible memories. She would never do something like that ever again. Fu Ling looked down and placed a hand over her stomach, feeling it throb with phantom pain.

Some wounds could never be healed, even after some time.

Fu Ling had only brought along a small suitcase with her because she hadn't expected to remain in Jiang City for long. She had come back with the express reason of finding someone, but she hadn't managed to do so despite spending days searching for them. Fu Ling finally understood that her abilities would never be enough, which was why she had agreed to Su Shaoqing's terms.

"Can you send some of your men to look for Qin Yanzhi?"

"Is he Bai's biological father?" Su Shaoqing took her luggage and placed in it the boot of the car. Seeing Fu Ling stand silently by the door, refusing to answer him, he asked again, "Is Qin Yanzhi Bai's biological father?"

Fu Ling continued to look at him with her lips sealed shut.

"Ling, you should know that I'll be able to find out for myself even if you refuse to tell me now. Aside from me, Fu Chengyan will be able to do that as well."

"Yes, he is Bai's biological father!" Fu Ling burst out. However, her words merely made Su Shaoqing knit his brows into a frown. "Are you and Qin Yanzhi really Bai's parents? But this kid... Wait a minute, when did you even get to know Qin Yanzhi?"

“I don’t think that’s any of your business!”

“Of course, it’s my business—he dumped you!” Su Shaoqing retorted. However, he realized almost immediately that he had misspoken.

Fu Ling bit her lip and let out a bitter laugh. “Isn’t it normal to be dumped by someone? Didn’t you abandon me back then, too?”

“I...”

“Oh wait, my bad. We were never together in the first place, so you couldn’t have abandoned me. I’m not going to bother explaining my relationship with Qin Yanzhi to you. All I want to ask is this—who’s more capable between you and Qin Yanzhi? If you can’t do this for me, I’ll go and ask my brother for help.”

“I’ve already said that I’m going to help you! Don’t trouble your brother. Besides, he can barely take care of himself as it is!” Su Shaoqing said, violently slamming the car boot shut. He opened the door to the passenger seat and bundled Fu Ling into the vehicle. “Where are we going?” Fu Ling suddenly thought of something when she saw Su Shaoqing throw open the door for her. “I’m not going to the Su Residence!”

“Don’t worry. It’s been a while since I moved out of the Su Residence.” Su Shaoqing said as he helped Fu Ling put on her seatbelt. Noting that Fu Ling seemed very put off by the idea of meeting the Su family, he continued, “If my memory serves me right, you used to like coming over to the Su Residence in the past. You...”

“That was in the past! We’re living in the present!” She had been young back then—young and wild. She might not have understood the awkward situation she put the Su family in back then, but what the Su family thought about her was now very clear.

Although Fu Ling was a daughter of the Fu clan, she had been born out of wedlock, and the Fu clan had never acknowledged her as a family member.

When she was born, they had refused outright to put her name on the family register. That was the sad story of her life. To everyone else, a girl with such a horrific life story had no right to have any dealings with the prominent Su family. Fu Ling didn't understand this at first -nor had she wished to understand it- but she understood it now.

"If you don't like them, so be it. After all, I'm not living at the Su Residence now. Li Heng recently built a villa in this city, and all of us own mansions in that area. None of them usually visit the villa, though. That lets me enjoy the entire place by myself. I've planted a few of your favorite maidenhair trees. When we get there later, you can see the entire row of trees for yourself. They're really beautiful. Sometime before this, I even..."

Fu Ling interrupted him before he could continue, "Su Shaoqing, I don't like maidenhair trees!"

Su Shaoqing pressed his lips together. "Oh, you don't?" His eyes glittered with excitement as he said with a smile, "Then I'll get someone to replace them with something else immediately. Tell me—what else do you like? Do you not like the ash varieties, like maidenhair trees? Would you prefer it if I had people put up some flowering bushes instead?"

Su Shaoqing looked expectantly at Fu Ling, awaiting her response. He continued, "The garden is quite huge. Li Heng's house is right next to it. Aren't you close friends with Pei Huan? When Li Heng and Pei Huan return, they can live in that house, and we'll become each other's neighbors. Maybe you can have a discussion with Pei Huan about what sort of plants you want to see in the garden then..."

Fu Ling couldn't stand it anymore. Cutting him off again, she snapped, "Su Shaoqing, that house belongs to you. You can plant whatever the hell you want in the garden. There's no need to ask for my opinion!"

Su Shaoqing gaped at her. "Fine. If you don't want to discuss it, we'll forget about this matter for now."

He then shot Fu Ling a side glance, only to see that the woman had shut her eyes in exasperation. A look of hurt flashed across his eyes, only to disappear after a few seconds.

He took a deep breath, silently reminding himself that he had to take things slow and not be overly eager.

Fu Ling was simply too tired. After a while of having her eyes closed, she started to doze off.

Su Shaoqing drove very slowly. The sky grew dark as night fell upon the city. As he drove, he turned up the temperature in the car. Seeing that Fu Ling's head was positioned in a rather awkward way, he reached out his hand and gently adjusted her head to a more comfortable position. As he leaned into her, he caught a whiff of her perfume, which filled his head with memories instantly. Su Shaoqing's eyes darkened a little. He reached out his hand and caressed her hair softly, the look in his eyes turning a little softer.

They soon arrived in the villa, but Su Shaoqing couldn't bear to wake Fu Ling up, considering how deeply asleep she was. Instead, he gave Liang Lin a call and ordered her to come over immediately.

When Liang Lin arrived at the scene, Fu Ling's head was lolling about rather foolishly, so Su Shaoqing took hold of her head and steadied it, resting his hand on her cheek. His face was overcome with a look of gentleness that Liang Lin had never seen on him before.

As though he had sensed Su Shaoqing's gaze, Liang Lin waved at him and ran over quickly, giggling a little. Su Shaoqing rolled down the window and looked at him coldly. "Move a little more quietly! The luggage is in the boot. Take them up to my room at once."

Liang Lin's mouth curled up at the corners. "Did you call me over here just to make me do this?" Isn't... Isn't this too much?

Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow and smiled innocently at him. “What about it? Is Li Heng the only one who can order you around?”

“Mr. Su, you misunderstand me.” Liang Lin scuttled to the back of the car and opened the boot. He must have moved too loudly and roused Fu Ling from her sleep because Su Shaoqing turned around almost immediately. He glared at Liang Lin, his face full of anger. The latter pouted and shot a disgruntled look back at Su Shaoqing, silently thinking that Li Heng was a much better person to work for.

Ever since Pei Huan returned, Li Heng had been smiling more frequently. His temper had improved tremendously as well. He was even willing to close one eye to the trivial mistakes his subordinates made at the workplace.

“Mr. Su, why didn’t you call Zhou Zheng to come over and help you? He’s pretty free now, isn’t he?”

“Haha! That’s because I like you better!” Su Shaoqing winked at him. He pinched Liang Lin’s nose bridge and continued, “Now hurry up!”

Although his voice was much softer than usual, it still carried its usual amount of threat.

In a flash, Liang Lin had picked up the luggage and made off with it. Su Shaoqing was still cradling Fu Ling’s head in his arms, and he continued to do so even after Liang Lin had disappeared into the house.

Meanwhile, Fu Ling was having a bad dream. In her dream, she felt uneasy as she felt someone staring at her. All sorts of strange scenarios appeared in her dreams, sending shivers down her spine. She turned to run, but she got nowhere no matter how hard she ran. When she turned around, however, she could only see white nothingness all around.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 402

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Fu Ling's eyes shot open in fright, only to find herself staring straight into Su Shaoqing's eyes.

She jumped and shot away from him immediately. She had just had a nightmare, and it had taken an obvious toll on her body—beads of sweat were appearing on her forehead. Fu Ling looked up and wiped her forehead dry. She turned to look at Su Shaoqing and swallowed. "You..." Glancing around her, Fu Ling realized that they were at the villa he was telling her about just now. "Have we arrived?"

Su Shaoqing nodded. "Yes, we have."

Su Shaoqing turned to look at her again. Passing her a few pieces of tissue paper, he joked, "Here, wipe your sweat with this! What were you dreaming about?"

Fu Ling took the tissue paper from him and gripped them tightly. After a short silence, she replied, "I had a nightmare!"

She tried to laugh it off. "It's been going on for a few years. I'm quite used to it by now."

She sounded very nonchalant about it, as though she didn't care at all. "When did we get here?"

"We just arrived!" Su Shaoqing felt his heart break a little as he looked at her. He reached out his hand as though to caress something, but Fu Ling didn't give him that chance. She opened the car door and walked out to the boot of the car. "Hey! Where's my luggage?"

“Liang Lin has brought it into the house for you.”

“Liang Lin? When did he get here?” Fu Ling hadn’t realized it at all.

Su Shaoqing smiled and got out of the car too. “You were sleeping so soundly that I felt a little sorry to wake you up. Right. What do you want to eat for dinner?”

Fu Ling glanced at him suspiciously. “I don’t feel like eating anything. Where’s my room?”

“Follow me!”

Su Shaoqing led her into the house but turning around to look worriedly at Fu Ling, who was trailing behind him. As they made their way to the door, Su Shaoqing told her all about the history of the place. “Li Heng built this place a few years ago. Originally, his plan was to move in here with Pei Huan, but many unfortunate things happened, leading to a delay in those plans. His house is right over there. It’s just next to ours, so in the future...”

Su Shaoqing continued to chatter excitedly, and Fu Ling pretended to listen to him. Truthfully, she couldn’t really understand what he was saying. She kept telling herself not to think nor care about these things. She never thought for a second that Su Shaoqing was doing all this for her sake.

After all, Su Shaoqing’s attitude towards her had been very clear back then. If he had any sort of romantic feelings toward her, Su Shaoqing would never have treated her so horribly.

Since she had experienced all that before, Fu Ling refused to read too much into his advances now. Nevertheless, the scenery in this villa was indeed splendid. The garden on Li Heng’s side of the villa looked especially beautiful. Pei Huan must have decorated it.

Although the garden was only dimly lit by the moonlight, Fu Ling could see how lovely it looked. She felt really happy for Pei Huan. After all, Pei Huan had broken

up with Li Heng around the same time Fu Ling had been dumped by Su Shaoqing. Now that Pei Huan and Li Heng were back together, Fu Ling felt nothing but joy for the happy couple.

Lost in her thought, Fu Ling's steps grew slower as she strolled through the garden, admiring the view. Su Shaoqing slowed down to match her pace. He stood under a tree, watching Fu Ling intently as she looked around the garden, lost in her own thoughts. He couldn't help but think how wonderful it would be if they continued like this with each other.

After a while, Fu Ling turned around and spotted Su Shaoqing standing some distance away from her. Feeling a little shocked, she ran up to him and said, "Come on, let's go! I want to see my room."

"It's upstairs. It's right opposite my bedroom. I've already asked the maids to clean it up for you. Go and have a look—all the toiletries and furniture are new. If they aren't to your liking, I'll have someone come in and change them for you."

Su Shaoqing looked at her, expecting to be praised for his ingenuity. However, Fu Ling shook her head. "That's alright, thanks." After all, she would only be staying here for a short time. Besides, this was Su Shaoqing's house and not hers—it wasn't up to her to impose her own preferences on the decoration of the room.

Fu Ling went upstairs and soon located her room. As Su Shaoqing had promised, everything in it was fresh and new, including the bedsheets on the bed.

Looking rather peculiar, Fu Ling opened her luggage and started putting her clothes away. Thankfully, she hadn't brought many things along with her, and she finished putting them away quickly. Turning around to look at Su Shaoqing, she pursed her lips and said, "Don't worry; I won't sneak off in the middle of the night. Stop following me around."

Su Shaoqing pouted. "You must be hungry! Do you want to order in or go out to a restaurant for dinner? What do you want to eat? I can make dinner for you."

“No thanks. I’ve already ordered takeout for myself,” Fu Ling replied. “Thanks for your offer, Mr. Su, but there will be no need for that. If you’re hungry, you can go out and eat or make dinner for yourself!”

“You...” Su Shaoqing looked extremely awkward. However, the next moment, a smile had appeared on his face again. “What takeout did you order? Is it good? Order a portion for me, too! We can have dinner together.”

Seeing the grin on Su Shaoqing’s face, Fu Ling felt a headache coming on. “No, it tastes like crap. The food I eat is for the masses, so you might not be accustomed to its taste. Out of consideration for you, Mr. Su, I think you should order your own dinner or make your own meal!” As she spoke, Fu Ling went over to shut the door. “Mr. Su, I’d like to rest now. Is that okay with you?”

Su Shaoqing’s lips curved into a smile. Before he could say anything else, Fu Ling stuck out her hand and shoved him out of the room.

When Fu Ling leaned towards him, Su Shaoqing caught another whiff of her flowery perfume. He fell into a daze instantly, and Fu Ling took that opportunity to push him out of the room and slam the door in his face.

Su Shaoqing stood staring at the door, feeling stunned at Fu Ling’s actions. Still a little dazed, he slapped himself across the face. A while later, he finally snapped out of his reverie and walked away from the door. Sighing pitifully, he mumbled, “Have a good rest, then!”

Su Shaoqing headed downstairs, feeling rather despondent. Just then, he received a call from Fu Chengyan. “What’s up?”

“Where did you take Ling?” It was obvious from his tone that Fu Chengyan already knew the answer to his own question. “You should know that Ling is no longer the same Ling from the past. You...”

“Fu Chengyan, I know exactly what I’m doing. I know Ling is your younger sister. I also know that you’re probably afraid I’ll hurt her again, as I did so many years

ago. But what if I tell you I can't live without her? Can't you give me a chance to get her back?"

Su Shaoqing shot a furtive glance at the staircase landing to check if anyone was eavesdropping on his conversation. Gripping the phone tightly in his hand, he said, "I helped you when you were trying to get with Shi Nuan back then. Are you going to stop me from pursuing the love of my life now?"

"You should know that Ling is my sister. I should never have allowed you to toy with her feelings like that so many years ago. Leaving her was the best thing you could do back then. This time, Shaoqing, don't you dare let her down again!"

Su Shaoqing's eyes shifted about furtively. "I know." He had let her down once, and if he did it again, he knew that not only would Fu Chengyan beat him up ferociously, but he would also hate himself for it. "Oh, right. Zhou Zheng should've told you by now. The kid, Bai..."

"You want to ask for Qin Yanzhi's help? If the kid turns out to be Qin Yanzhi and Ling's child, are you sure you'll be able to withstand the shock?"

Su Shaoqing's fingers trembled a little as a look of hurt flashed across his face. "I..."

"Ling has already lost a child once. So..."

"I know that. You don't have to keep bringing that up, you know." Su Shaoqing pursed his lips. "Since I've decided to woo her again, I won't take it so lightly this time. Don't worry about it."

"Don't worry?" Fu Chengyan repeated incredulously. "What about the Su family, then? Do you really think you can get them to accept her? Even the Fu family refuses to acknowledge her as part of our family. Thus, even if she chooses to forgive you, your relationship won't be smooth sailing in the future!"

“I know!” At that moment, Su Shaoqing heard a loud thud coming from upstairs. Panicking slightly, he said, “Let’s talk later. I’m going upstairs to check on something!”

Su Shaoqing hung up immediately and flew upstairs to Fu Ling’s bedroom. Throwing open the door, he found her sitting on the floor with a painful expression on her face. He ran over to her and exclaimed, “Ling, are you alright?”

Fu Ling placed a hand on the floor gingerly and tried to raise herself from the ground. However, she could barely move an inch. Su Shaoqing stretched out his hand and helped her up from the floor. Looking at her worriedly, he said, “Are you alright? Are you hurt? Did you injure yourself?”

“No, I didn’t!” Fu Ling shook her head, gritting her teeth in pain. She tried to shove Su Shaoqing away from her, but he grabbed hold of her hands. “Don’t move!” He bent down to look at Fu Ling’s feet. The moment his finger made contact with her ankle, Fu Ling let out a gasp of pain. “Ouch! Be more gentle, will you?”

“Does it hurt?” Su Shaoqing noted that Fu Ling’s face had gone white with pain. “How could you have fallen so easily? Did you twist your ankle?”

“No, I didn’t! Stop touching me. I told you I’m fine!” Fu Ling tried to push him away again. Her foot had been throbbing with pain this entire time, but Su Shaoqing’s touch made her entire leg tingle with numbness. She had never experienced this sort of feeling before, but she hated the way it paralyzed her entire limb.

She looked down and swatted Su Shaoqing’s arm away impatiently. “Are you deaf? I said I’m fine!”

Fu Ling raised her voice slightly when she spoke and immediately felt guilty about it. Su Shaoqing narrowed his eyes and looked at her disapprovingly.

Before Fu Ling could react, he bent down and carried her up in his arms, bridal style.

Fu Ling screeched in panic, throwing her arms around his neck tightly to stop herself from falling. Without another word, Su Shaoqing left the room and walked downstairs with her in his arms.

When Fu Ling finally snapped out of her daze, she found herself in Su Shaoqing's arms. She struggled a little in protest, but eventually gave in and lay in his arms, looking rather resigned.

Thankfully, the journey to the living room lasted only a few seconds. Su Shaoqing placed Fu Ling onto the sofa gently and gazed softly at her. "Don't move! I'll go get you some towels and ice."

Fu Ling watched as Su Shaoqing walked into the kitchen. For the first time in a long time, she couldn't find the words to describe the conflicted emotions churning within her.

Her hands curled into fists by her side. Fu Ling took a deep breath and forced herself to look anywhere else but at Su Shaoqing.

He returned almost immediately with towels, ice packs, and a first-aid kit. "I'll take a look at your injury. If it isn't too serious, we can take care of this now. If it's a little more serious and you injured your foot, we'll go to the hospital right away to take an X-ray. How could you have been so careless and slipped in your own house?"

As he spoke, Su Shaoqing prodded the sole of her foot and asked, "Does it hurt when I press it?"

Feeling the jolt of pain that shot through her foot, Fu Ling tried to jerk her foot away. However, Su Shaoqing held on tightly to it and gave it a slight pinch. "Seems like your bones are fine. Bear with the pain for a while. I'll help you massage your foot a little."

Su Shaoqing started to massage her foot with added pressure. Fu Ling tried hard not to let her pain show on her face, but the man pressed particularly hard on one spot, making her screech in pain. “Be gentle, will you? It hurts!”

“Su Shaoqing, I said be more gentle!”

Su Shaoqing frowned. “If I don’t press down hard, you’re going to have a blood clot right here! Here, take my arm and bite into it if it hurts so much!” As he spoke, he stuck out his free arm for her. Fu Ling looked at him, aghast.

Su Shaoqing turned his attention back to her swollen foot and started massaging it again. Fu Ling’s face turned green with pain. Without another thought, she grabbed hold of Su Shaoqing’s arm and sank her teeth into it.

She bit into his arm with as much pain as she felt. Su Shaoqing’s face turned red with pain, but he refused to utter a single word of complaint.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 403

For some reason, Fu Ling suddenly felt like crying. She snuck a furtive look at Su Shaoqing's busy hands. After a long while, she turned her eyes away. Su Shaoqing looked up at that moment and gazed tenderly at her. "Do you feel okay? I'll ice your wound for you in a bit. If it still hurts after that, let's go down to the hospital." However, Fu Ling didn't reply. "Ling, you can get mad at me if you wish, but don't throw your health out of the window like that!"

"That's enough!" Fu Ling snapped. Pushing him aside, she said, "You know very well that I don't need your care or your attention. I'm going upstairs!" She stood up to storm off, but the moment her foot touched the ground, a jolt of pain shot through her leg, and she fell back down on the sofa with a look of defeat.

Su Shaoqing acted quickly and steadied her immediately. "Fine. Can I at least help you upstairs?"

Su Shaoqing took a step backward and tried to compromise with her. Just as Fu Ling was about to reply, her phone started to ring—it was her food delivery driver. He had arrived at the door. Delivery drivers and other outsiders weren't allowed to enter the premises without the permission of the owner because Su Shaoqing's villa was located in an upscale neighborhood

Fu Ling picked up the phone and was about to speak when Su Shaoqing snatched the phone away from her. "We don't want the food anymore." He hung up on the call immediately.

"What the hell? Who are you to cancel my food delivery order like that? Su Shaoqing, you're too much. That was the food I ordered!"

Fu Ling screamed at him and lunged for her phone. However, the delivery man called her back first. As soon as she picked up the call, she heard an angry bellow from the other end. “Do you think you’re all that just because you live in an upscale neighborhood? You ordered the food, and you’re canceling on it now? What am I supposed to do with it, then?”

“Oh, no, I want the food!” Fu Ling replied hastily. “A crazy person intercepted my call just now.”

“No, she doesn’t!” Su Shaoqing snatched the phone back and said, “You can enjoy the food. As for the money, I’ll transfer it to you right away.” He hung up the phone immediately after speaking and flung it far away into a corner. Looking solemnly at Fu Ling, he said, “Ling, I’ve told you before that you can get mad at me, but there’s no need for you to disregard your own health to spite me. You’re injured, so just sit down and rest for a bit. I’ll make dinner for you.”

“No, I want my food delivery!” Fu Ling was absolutely furious. Glaring angrily at him, she exploded, “Su Shaoqing, I only agreed to come and live at your place. That doesn’t mean I have to listen to everything you say! I’ll eat whatever the hell I want—what I eat has nothing to do with you. You have no right to restrict my personal freedom like this!”

Fu Ling stormed up to him, glowering. “If you keep doing these sort of things, I’ll move out right now. I never begged you to allow me to live here. Get your facts straight, you madman!”

Su Shaoqing frowned. “Ling, you were never like this before!”

“Before? Don’t talk to me about the past. Time changes everyone. Besides, how much did you really know about me back then? You think you know a lot about me, but you actually know nothing at all!” Fu Ling yelled, refusing to let Su Shaoqing get a word in. “Give me back my phone right now. If not, I’ll leave immediately!”

Su Shaoqing's eyes narrowed. He couldn't talk sense into Fu Ling when she was raging at him like this. He gazed at her, a conflicted look flashing in his eyes. Finally, he decided to compromise with her. "Do you really have to eat takeout?"

"Yes," Fu Ling snapped. "I'd rather eat that greasy, MSG-filled stuff than eat whatever the hell you cook. Understand?"

"Alright. I'll order some takeout for you. But can you please eat something instead of the one you just ordered?"

Fu Ling glared at him for a long time before nodding her head.

Su Shaoqing breathed a quiet sigh of relief. Immediately, he gave Yun Shui Jian a call and ordered a few dishes for her. "Do you want to stay in the living room or go upstairs to your room?" he asked Fu Ling. "I'll give you the TV remote control if you want. There's even a laptop in my room. Do you want to play games on it?"

Su Shaoqing looked expectantly at her. Fu Ling felt extremely uncomfortable under his intense gaze and chose to remain on the sofa without another word.

As soon as she sat down, Su Shaoqing hurried over with a remote control. "You can take a look and see if there are any dramas or movies you're interested in. I'll go upstairs and get the laptop for you."

"Su Shaoqing!" Fu Ling called after him. He stopped in his tracks a few meters away from her. With his back still turned to her, Su Shaoqing heard her ask, "Are you doing this out of guilt?"

Su Shaoqing froze at the question. He clenched his fists and remained silent for a long time. Behind him, Fu Ling continued, "There's no need for you to feel guilty. If I think about it, you were a victim of your own circumstances back then too. You didn't love me, but I continued hanging around you, didn't I? I might have aborted our child, but I did that without consulting you. If I wanted to keep it, you wouldn't have been able to talk me out of it anyway. I stopped blaming you for that a long time ago. If you still feel guilty and want to make it up to me

somehow, you don't have to do all this. If it weren't for Bai, I would have never come back, so you can save it! I don't need your apology.”

Fu Ling gazed at Su Shaoqing's back. Back then, she believed that they were destined to be—after all, he had been the first person she noticed in the vast sea of people around her. No matter where he was, she was always able to find him in a blink of an eye.

His silhouette was a very familiar one to her; it was the most beautiful one. Every night, she continued to see his back view in her dreams. It was firm, solid, and handsome. However, he was slightly hunched over right now—the sight of a defeated-looking Su Shaoqing was one she never thought she would see.

Su Shaoqing took a deep breath and clenched her fists. “If you really want to make it up to me, then help me out with something. Help me save Bai's life.”

“Okay!” Su Shaoqing mustered up all the willpower in his body to utter out that reply.

“Qin Yanzhi is Bai's biological father. I know you can help us look for him.”

“Okay!”

Fu Ling's lips turned up at the corners. “Bai is my life!”

Su Shaoqing balled his hands into fists as the room fell into silence. Tears swam in his eyes, but he moved his lips with difficulty and found his voice eventually. “I'll find him as quickly as I can!”

Initially, Shi Nuan couldn't understand why Fu Chengyan had refused point-blank to let her take on this project. However, the moment she saw Shen Shixiu, Shi Nuan understood his reluctance immediately. Fu Chengyan had merely wanted to reduce the opportunities for them to meet each other.

However, two people who were fated to meet would always meet each other eventually.

Because Yuan Jia had fallen ill and was in the hospital, Lin Yu couldn't find anyone reliable to be her assistant. After agonizing over this for a while, he decided to ask Shi Nuan for help.

Fu Chengyan knew how to keep his work life separate from his private life. Hence, he only realized Shengyuan was going to partner with Shen Shixiu for this project when Shi Nuan returned from the business trip with Lin Yu. The world was a small place, after all.

Shen Shixiu was very stunned when he saw Shi Nuan, but he didn't let the shock show on his face. After nodding slightly at the woman, he jumped straight into the topic of discussion. "Jiangyuan Group doesn't have many conditions, but we'll make sure to abide by Shengyuan's carefully. We hope to develop the best business plan for this project. Mr. Lin, Ms. Shi, do either of you have any ideas regarding this?"

Lin Yu shot a look at Shi Nuan, who hastily took out the blueprints from her bag. She then handed them to Shen Shixiu. "Please have a look at these, Mr. Shen. These blueprints have been developed by Mr. Lin and myself. We've considered the geographical conditions, and we feel that..."

The discussion carried on for quite a while. After she became acquainted with Shen Shixiu, Shi Nuan immediately noted that this man was very detailed when it came to his work. He even managed to bring up some of the issues that the others hadn't managed to pick up on.

Shi Nuan used to think that Fu Chengyan was one of the best in the industry, but Shen Shixiu surpassed him in almost all aspects when it came to work. Shi Nuan felt completely lost—Fu Chengyan probably kept her around in the office only because of her relationship with him.

After the discussion, Shi Nuan felt completely drained.

Lin Yu had to return home because of some family issues, so Shi Nuan issued Shen Shixiu an invitation for lunch. She wanted to bring him to Yun Shui Jian, but Shen Shixiu turned down her offer. "I heard the roadside stalls over at Jing University in Jiang City are pretty good."

Shi Nuan felt a little stunned, but she forced herself to laugh. "Yeah, they're pretty good. I graduated from Jing University, so I basically grew up on the food from those roadside stalls. Why? Do you want to try them too, Mr. Shen?"

Something flashed in Shen Shixiu's eyes. He laughed and said, "I spent my university years overseas, so I never got to experience studying in a local university. If you don't mind, Ms. Shi, could you take me on a stroll around that area?"

"Sure!" Shi Nuan replied cheerily. She kept away the documents on the table before standing up and saying, "Hold on a second, Mr. Shen. I have to settle a few things first, and then we can go for lunch after."

Shen Shixiu nodded and gestured at her to take her time. Shi Nuan quickly put the rest of the documents on the table away.

While she was busy with the documents, Shen Shixiu used the time to make a call. When he hung up, he spotted Shi Nuan walking towards him. She was evidently done putting away the documents. "You've waited long enough!"

"I just finished clearing those files. Would you like to take my car or call your chauffeur to take us there?"

"Could I trouble you, Ms. Shi?"

Shi Nuan agreed. "Sure! However, my car is a little small, so it'll be a tight fit. I hope you don't mind, Mr. Shen!"

Shi Nuan led him downstairs. While in the elevator, she texted Fu Chengyan: I'm going out with Shen Shixiu for a while. He says he wants to head over to Jing University.

Fu Chengyan was in the middle of a meeting when his phone beeped with a new notification. One of the executives, who was giving a presentation at that moment, immediately stopped talking. Fu Chengyan looked up blandly to glance at the new message. When he saw the words 'Shen Shixiu', his eyes darkened slightly. The executives in the room felt the sudden tension in the air, and they all held their breaths. They trained their eyes on Fu Chengyan's phone, waiting for him to explode.

However, Fu Chengyan merely narrowed his eyes. Half a moment later, he opened the message and replied to a single word: Alright! He made sure to add a crying emoji.

Fu Chengyan stared at his message for a long time, looking rather dissatisfied. Quickly, he edited the message to add a pouting emoji at the back as well.

But that didn't seem enough, either. He then added an unhappy expression, too.

Even after sending a few messages, Fu Chengyan still felt dissatisfied. He continued glaring at his phone before sending one last emoji of a wronged face. After this, he finally kept his phone away and looked up at the executive again.

The executives were all staring at him, looking a little peculiar.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. He coughed slightly before he ordered, "Continue!"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 404

The senior manager gasped but continued to report in a dazed state. In fact, he could not recall how and when he had returned to his seat.

At this moment, Shi Nuan sent a message to Fu Chengyan, who replied almost instantly.

She could not help but giggle when she saw the emoticons Fu Chengyan had sent her. Her eyes sparkled with amusement.

This man still claims that he is not jealous! It's so obvious that he's lying! I have only treated Shen Shixiu to a meal! Why is Fu Chengyan so jealous this time? He seemed fine when I treated others last time!

Come to think of it... Since Fu Chengyan started to use WeChat, he has been using all sorts of cute emoticons, which even a girl like me doesn't use!

Suddenly, a word popped up in Shi Nuan's mind, which best described Fu Chengyan's recent behavior, and she blurted out, "Vain!" Fu Chengyan is turning more vain over time!

"What happened?" Shen Shixiu narrowed his eyes at her.

Shi Nuan was jolted back to her senses upon hearing Shen Shixiu's voice. Repressing her smile, she ran her fingers through her hair and replied sheepishly, "It's... nothing!"

“What made you so happy?” Shen Shixiu smiled as he walked over to Shi Nuan’s side. The two actually looked quite good together. Shi Nuan lifted her eyes to meet Shen Shixiu’s gaze. His eyes are so gentle, and he’s so nice! It’s hard to imagine that he’s Shen Qianan’s brother. Furthermore, he bears such a strong resemblance to Shi Yu. It doesn’t matter if he’s Shen Qianan’s brother; it will never affect my opinion of him!

Judging from the warm smile on Shen Shixiu’s face now, one might mistake him as an amiable person. In reality, however, he was usually cold and aloof. Only in the presence of Shi Nuan would he smile so warmly.

Shi Nuan led Shen Shixiu to the car park. “Mr. Shen, I guess you won’t mind me driving this car?”

Li Heng had gifted her this car as her own car had broken down, and Shi Nuan had accepted his offer graciously. Anyway, it’s no big deal to accept a gift from a family member!

Her new car was also a Ferrari, but it was more subtle than the car gifted by Su Shaoqing. Thus, Shi Nuan had been driving her new car to work recently.

Shen Shixiu nodded and got into the passenger seat. It was apparent that Shen Shixiu was not entirely comfortable, though. The car seemed way too small for his tall, broad-shouldered frame which was similar to Fu Chengyan’s.

After Shi Nuan got into the car and noticed Shen Shixiu’s discomfort, she asked in an embarrassed tone, “Should I give Yan a call to borrow a car from him?”

“It’s fine!” Shen Shixiu smiled faintly and asked as he put on the seat belt, “I’m comfortable enough. Can you please show me around? I seldom come to Jiang City.”

Shi Nuan paused for a moment before replying, “Mr. Shen, you have been in Jiang City for so long, but your sister hasn’t shown you around yet?”

Shen Shixiu stiffened upon the mention of Shen Qianan before replying, "She's not from Jiang City either, so she's not familiar here too. Furthermore, Jiang City has changed over the last few years. I'm worried she will get lost, so I have ordered her to stay in the hotel."

Shi Nuan was speechless.

Shen Shixiu cast a glance at her. "Is there any other matter?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. I wonder what his stand is regarding the whole matter? I have assumed that he will help his sister even if they are only step-siblings. But now, he is helping me instead! Maybe he has given up, knowing that he won't get anything out of Fu Chengyan? Otherwise, he would have come to Jiang City to find his sister earlier.

Shen Shixiu pursed his lips. At this moment, his phone rang. It was from his assistant, Jiang Zhan. "Mr. Shen, Ms. Shen is demanding to go out. I can't stop her. Do you think..."

Frowning, Shen Shixiu said, "Wait for me. I'll come over now!" He hung up the call and said to Shi Nuan, "I'm sorry, but do you think you can send me to the hotel?"

"Mr. Shen, do you need to attend to a matter urgently?"

"Yes. It's about my sister!"

Shi Nuan arched a brow but did not say anything as she turned the car around and drove to Shen Shixiu's hotel immediately.

When they arrived at the hotel entrance, Shen Shixiu turned to Shi Nuan and asked, "Ms. Shi, if you don't mind, could you please wait here for a few minutes?"

"Sure. Does this mean that you will still like to visit Jing University?" Shi Nuan was shocked as she had assumed that Shen Shixiu would not have the mood to

visit Jing University after settling whatever important matter involving Shen Qianan. She could not reject his request, so she replied, "Sure. I'll wait here for you."

Shen Shixiu nodded and headed into the hotel.

He went to the level where Shen Qianan's room was on and ran into his sister. She was pulling her luggage out of the room with Yu in her arms. Jiang Zhan was trying his utmost best to stop her by grabbing her hand and pulling her luggage back into the room. It was apparent that the assistant was at his wits' end. "Ms. Shen, Mr. Shen will be returning soon. Can you wait a while for him?"

"How long must I wait for him? I'm not a prisoner. I don't want to stay here! Get out of my way!" Shen Qianan was in a fit of hysteria. She had been locked up by Shen Shixiu for over ten days already and had no wish to stay in the hotel for another second. Her resolve to leave the hotel immediately was further strengthened at the thought of Shen Shixiu returning to the capital after he was done with his work in Jiang City.

She snarled, "Get lost, otherwise don't blame me for hurting you."

"How do you want to hurt him?" Shen Shixiu taunted as he joined them. Staring at her coldly, he asked, "Have you had enough?"

Shen Qianan took a few steps backward the moment she saw him. The look of obstinance on her face was replaced by one of fear. She swallowed hard. "You can't treat me in this way. This is against the law even if you are my brother!"

"Against the law?" Shen Shixiu sneered as his eyes took on a cold, dangerous glint as he stared at the angry yet fearful Shen Qianan. "What do you intend to do? Report me to the police?"

"I... You can't treat me this way! I'm your sister! Why are you helping that slut, Shi Nuan, instead of me?"

“Let me repeat myself. It’s impossible between you and Fu Chengyan. You wouldn’t be reduced to this state if he still has feelings for you! After being by his side for so long, shouldn’t you understand him well enough to know that no one can interfere with his decisions if he is set on protecting someone?”

Shen Qianan’s face turned ghastly white. Her lips were trembling as she failed to come up with a retort.

“Look at yourself. This kid wouldn’t even exist if you really love Fu Chengyan as much as you claim!”

“How.. do you know that Yu...” Shen Qianan’s voice trailed off as she caught a cold, mocking smile on Shen Shixiu’s face.

“Get into the room now. Otherwise, I’ll ask Jiang Zhan to get you a plane ticket for you to return to the capital immediately.”

Shen Qianan’s face darkened, and she was about to protest, but her words were stuck in her throat as her spiteful eyes met his menacingly cold ones. “If you want Yu to grow up in a healthy environment, you should know what to do in the future. Get back into the room now!”

Shen Qianan glared at him but dared not do anything other than follow his instructions and return to her room with Yu, albeit with great reluctance.

After Shen Qianan returned to her room, Shen Shixiu narrowed his eyes into slits and turned to Jiang Zhan. “Watch over her. If she attempts to leave again, send her straight back to the capital. Don’t call me again!” He made sure that his voice was loud enough for Shen Qianan to hear from the other side of the door.

“Understood!”

Shen Shixiu passed the document in his hand to Jiang Zhan. “I’m going out for a while. You take care of the collaboration with Shengyuan. Lin Yu and Shi Nuan from the Project Management Department will be managing the project.”

“Yes. I will get down to it immediately.”

With that, Jiang Zhan took the document and retreated to another bedroom after making sure Shen Shixiu had no further instruction for him.

Shen Shixiu pushed the door open and saw that Shen Qianan had already tucked Yu into bed. After a moment of hesitation, Shen Qianan asked, “Are you collaborating with Shengyuan? Was that why you visited Shi Nuan just now?”

Shen Shixiu lifted a brow but did not reply to her.

Clenching her fists tightly, Shen Qianan demanded, “Why? Why are you standing on Shi Nuan’s side instead of mine? I’m your sister while she merely resembles me!”

“Let me tell you if you really want to know the reason.” Shen Shixiu smiled cruelly. “It is because you are not worthy of Fu Chengyan. He has never loved you before, and his only love is Shi Nuan. Now, do you understand?”

“No. It’s impossible. You... you’re lying. How do you know what Yan really feels towards me? I’ve known him for ages, while Shi Nuan’s only known him for half a year. It’s impossible that they...”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 405

“Impossible?” Shen Shixiu stared at Shen Qianan coldly. “Fu Chengyan knew Shi Nuan long ago! Do you really think his love for her would have grown so much within half a year?” Shen Qianan turned pale upon hearing Shen Shixiu’s words and staggered a step or two back until her legs hit the sofa. Grasping onto the sofa arms for support, she said through clenched teeth. “You are bluffing. How do you know all this? You must be lying to me!”

“Do I have to lie to you? I have done a thorough investigation before coming here. But if Fu Chengyan likes you in the slightest bit, I will spare no effort to help you. After all, it will benefit the Shen family if both of you marry. However, the truth is he does not like you, and that’s the reason why I won’t help you out.”

“I don’t believe you!”

Shen Shixiu knitted his brows and made a call to Jiang Zhan. “Give the information we have gathered to me.”

Jiang Zhan joined them swiftly and gave the document to Shen Shixiu.

Shen Shixiu flipped through the document and passed a page to Shen Qianan. “Take a look yourself. See if I’m lying to you!”

Shen Qianan took the document with trembling hands. Her fists clenched tightly as she skimmed through the contents on the paper. “No... This is impossible!”

“Fu Chengyan is a student of Shi Nuan’s grandpa. I bet you didn’t know that, did you? Do you think that a man like Fu Chengyan will fall in love so easily?”

Shen Qianan's eyes clouded over. "But Yan used to treat me..." Yes, Fu Chengyan used to treat me very well and accede to my request no matter what I asked. And during all those years, he kept quiet whenever I claimed to be his fiancée. I regarded his silence as a tacit admission of his love for me.

Now, Shen Qianan felt like she was the greatest fool on earth.

So it turns out that he has never loved me. He has treated me so well only because I bear a strong resemblance to Shi Nuan.

A gloomy look fell over Shen Qianan's face. She staggered backward in a dazed state and fell onto the sofa. Her entire body was shivering, but she was still grasping the paper in her hands tightly.

I can't accept it. I can't accept the fact that I have been wrong all these years. So it was because of Shi Nuan that Fu Chengyan had treated me so well back then. And he had used me to rid of all the women around him for so many years! So... Fu Chengyan did not ask me anything during that time when I was kidnapped because he did not care about me? To think I have thought that it was because he wanted to protect me!

Shen Shixiu shook his head resignedly at the sight of the desolated Shen Qianan. "Fu Chengyan knew Shi Nuan long ago. So it is not surprising that he has married her. He treated you so well only because you resembled Shi Nuan, and having you around would help deter other women from approaching the single him back in the day. After all, you have saved his life before, hence he has promised to take care of you for your whole life on the condition that you do not break his principles. I guess you have forgotten about that condition?"

So this is it...

Shen Qianan stared at Shen Shixiu in a daze. Her lips trembled before she let out a pathetic laugh while tears rolled down from the corners of her eyes. "Why? Why must you tell me this?"

“Just give up. You can start afresh in life if you give up now. Why insist on something when you know that nothing will come out of it?” Shen Shixiu asked blandly. He placed his hands behind his back as he stared at Shen Qianan unfeelingly. In fact, his stare was so cold that it was as if he felt no brotherly love towards his sister.

“I can get Jiang Zhan to get you a plane ticket if you want to leave now.”

“No! I’m not leaving! Shen Qianan shook her head obstinately. “So what if I’m just her substitute? I don’t believe that all my years at Yan’s side cannot beat the six months that Shi Nuan spent with him! It can’t be true love between them! They only met each other at such a young age!”

“Why are you so stubborn?” Shen Shixiu frowned. “In that case, I won’t let you have your way. Don’t think I don’t know about what you have done in C Country. I have found out whatever Fu Chengyan has discovered too!”

“I...” Shen Qianan bit her lower lip. “Why must all of you treat me in this way? It’s my life. I have the right to make my own decisions!”

“Maybe Fu Chengyan will still marry you if you didn’t do what you did three years ago. But now, you have lost your chance with him. Seeing Yu will always remind you of the choice you have made back then.” Shen Shixiu cast a glance at Yu, who was sleeping on the bed. Resignation flashed across his eyes. “Except for Fu Chengyan, do you not love Yu’s biological father before?”

“I...”

“Who’s outside?”

Shen Shixiu’s eyes darted to the door, which was slightly ajar. He dashed over, opened the door and muttered in shock, “Ms. Shi!”

Shi Nuan rubbed her nose in embarrassment before letting out a dry chuckle. “Sorry. I didn’t mean to eavesdrop. But Mr. Shen, I waited for you in the car for

thirty minutes and realized that you left your phone in my car when I tried to reach you on your phone.”

With that, Shi Nuan waved the phone in her hand. “Have you settled your matter?”

Shi Nuan looked into the room, and her gaze landed on Shen Qianan’s pale face. Pursing her lips, she asked, “Should we visit the university another day instead?”

“It’s not necessary. I have settled the matter here.” Shen Shixiu glanced at Shen Qianan. “Think about what I have told you, and let me know your decision.”

“I…” Seeing that Shen Shixiu was about to leave, Shen Qianan stood up hurriedly. “Shi Nuan, can I talk to you?”

After a moment of hesitation, Shi Nuan asked, “What do you want to talk about?”

Shi Nuan looked inquiringly at Shen Shixiu, who was furrowing his brows but said, “Go ahead, Ms. Shen, if you want to talk to her. But you can’t take long as I have to attend to another matter later in the day.”

Shen Qianan nodded and looked at Shen Shixiu. “Can you please excuse us?”

Shen Shixiu glanced at Shi Nuan, then at Shen Qianan before nodding his head and left the two women alone in the room. Shen Qianan scrutinized Shi Nuan’s face as if she wanted to read her mind, but it was a futile effort. Shi Nuan was only staring back at her blankly.

Shen Qianan pursed her lips. “What would you like to drink?”

“I’m good. Ms. Shen, you can go ahead and say whatever you want to say.”

Suddenly, Shen Qianan smiled and stared at Shi Nuan straight in the eyes. “Did you hear everything just now?”

Embarrassed, Shi Nuan hesitated for a second before nodding her head. "A bit, but not the entire conversation."

Shi Nuan's outright statement caught Shen Qianan off guard. She fell silent for a long while before pointing at the sofa. "Take a seat."

Shi Nuan lifted a brow but still obliged. "Ms. Shen, please speak your mind."

Shen Qianan asked hesitantly, "Don't you have anything to say to me?"

Shi Nuan asked doubtfully, "What should I say?"

"You must be laughing at me right now!" Shen Qianan bit her lower lip. "Are you laughing at me now that you find out Yan has always loved you, and I'm only your substitute? Don't you have anything to say to me?"

"What should I say?" Shi Nuan looked at Shen Qianan in genuine bafflement. "I don't understand what you mean. Actually, I'm not laughing at you because you don't affect the relationship between Yan and me!"

"I don't believe you!" Shen Qianan clenched her fists tightly as an incredulous look crossed her face. "How can you not mind my existence? I don't believe you! I'm Fu Chengyan's ex-fiancée, after all."

"I'm an ordinary woman, so of course, I will mind. But I can think for myself. It's not difficult to realize the truth after thinking it through." Shi Nuan smiled. "Ms. Shen, do you think I'm an idiot?"

Shen Qianan felt embarrassed. "Do you really not mind that Fu Chengyan and I used to be together?"

"You have said it yourself. It's all in the past!" Shi Nuan was an open-minded person. "Ms. Shen, one should embrace the future instead of living in the past. Actually, you have never stood between Yan and me. So it's really not necessary for Old Master Fu to get you to return."

Shi Nuan's graciousness was way classier than Shen Qianan's malice. Even Shen Qianan had to admit that to herself. To think that I have always assumed Shi Nuan would lose to me in all aspects. It turns out that I'm the loser who has been utterly defeated by her!

"But haven't you given him the cold shoulder because of me?"

"Haha!" Shi Nuan burst out into laughter. "Ms. Shen, you're older than me, but why are you so childish? It's not because of you that I have given Yan the cold shoulder. I simply hate the feeling of being deceived. He has told me about you before. So you turning up now is not a problem in my eyes. I'm only angry with him because he has not told me the complete truth." Shi Nuan stood up, suddenly feeling that Shen Qianan was not worth her time. We are simply not on the same wavelength! "Okay. If there is nothing else, I would like to go first."

With that, Shi Nuan left the room.

She did not inform Shen Shixiu about her departure. Given the situation, I don't think it is appropriate for us to visit the university now.

But Shen Shixiu was waiting for her beside the car with his usual calm demeanor.

Seeing his tall, broad-shouldered frame from afar, Shi Nuan sighed. After a moment of hesitation, she walked over and smiled at him brightly.

"Mr. Shen, why did you come down first?"