

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 46

Su Shaoqing staggered and nearly fell off the sofa in shock. His eyes widened as he stared at Fu Chengyan. “Are you joking?”

Fu Chengyan merely glanced at Su Shaoqing and smirked. “You should know that I never joke about things like this.”

“You must be crazy!” Su Shaoqing stared at Fu Chengyan in shock. He couldn’t believe the man had already married Shi Nuan. He glanced at the kitchen in disbelief. “Do you know she... She isn’t that person!”

A sharp glint flashed across Fu Chengyan’s smiling eyes as he glared at Su Shaoqing, obviously upset at the person Su Shaoqing was talking about.

Su Shaoqing knew that the person was still a taboo to Fu Chengyan, but he insisted on getting his point across, “No matter what, Shi Nuan is innocent. If she finds out—”

“I am clear on what I want.” Fu Chengyan cut him off icily. “Don’t interfere in my affairs. All you have to know is that Shi Nuan is my wife. That’s all.”

“You make it sound so simple, but will the Fu family accept her?” Su Shaoqing wasn’t that optimistic. “Don’t tell me you have no idea how complicated your family is.”

Fu Chengyan arched his brows icily. When he heard Su Shaoqing’s words, all he did was smile. “Is that the reason you can’t accept her?”

Su Shaoqing's heart quivered in fear and he wisely held his tongue. He didn't want to bring up the person who was a taboo for Fu Chengyan.

All Fu Chengyan did was smile before he patted Su Shaoqing's shoulders. "I won't interfere in your affairs relating to her. I also recall telling you to not interfere in mine!"

Su Shaoqing shrugged in resignation. "Do you think I have nothing better to do? The reason I refused to enter my family's company was because I didn't want to get involved!"

Su Shaoqing's family was powerful in Jiang City too, but Su Shaoqing himself wasn't interested in business at all, so his family was upset at him. Back then, when he had decided to be a doctor, his entire family was against it. But Su Shaoqing went his own way and wouldn't listen to others. He insisted on being a doctor.

Shi Nuan, who was busy in the kitchen, had no idea that the two men in the living room were discussing about her. As she didn't expect Fu Chengyan to bring a friend along, she didn't have enough ingredients to make a fancy meal. Shi Nuan prepared two dishes and carried them into the dining room. Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing were still talking when she called them over, "Let's eat."

Su Shaoqing raised his brows and glanced at the table. The food served looked decent. With a smile in his eyes, he turned back to Fu Chengyan and said, "Chengyan, you're lucky. She can cook well!"

Su Shaoqing bumped shoulders with Fu Chengyan as he said that. A smile appeared in Fu Chengyan's eyes as he swept his gaze across Su Shaoqing. "Come, let's eat!"

"This isn't much, I'm sorry." Shi Nuan shot Su Shaoqing an embarrassed look. She was slightly embarrassed by the simplicity of the dishes. Since Su Shaoqing was Fu Chengyan's friend, he must be rich and powerful too. Her assumptions were further confirmed by his expensive outfit and air of nobility.

Su Shaoqing waved it off. "Don't worry, Shi Nuan. This is good enough. You have no idea how I often skip meals in the hospital. Hospital food isn't as good as your cooking."

Su Shaoqing whiffed the food and praised her cooking. "It smells great! Not many girls know how to cook this well."

"Thanks for the compliment!" Shi Nuan handed them a bowl of rice each. "Eat up!"

When Shi Nuan handed Fu Chengyan his bowl, the man's eyes bore into her. Shi Nuan felt shy under his scorching gaze and gave him a tiny smile, "Why won't you take it? Aren't you hungry?"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes and took the bowl from her. His long fingers deliberately slid across the back of her hand. Shi Nuan's heart skipped a beat as she hurriedly withdrew her hand and scooped a bowl of rice for herself. "Eat up before the food gets cold."

Fu Chengyan's eyes crinkled in a smile when he saw how flustered Shi Nuan was. He was pleased by her reaction and proceeded to brush his leg gently against Shi Nuan's.

Shi Nuan immediately stiffened her back and shot a panicked look at Fu Chengyan. Her eyes widened as she tried to convey her message, Eat your food in peace! Why are you kicking me?

Fu Chengyan's lips curved up in amusement when he saw her reaction.

Su Shaoqing saw everything. His gaze settled on Fu Chengyan as he smiled innocently, "Shi Nuan, Chengyan has long legs. Please bear with that!"

Shi Nuan blushed instantly when she heard his words. It was obvious Su Shaoqing saw what Fu Chengyan did under the table. That was so awkward. But

Fu Chengyan remained calm as he drawled, “Shaoqing, are you done eating? Didn’t you just finish the surgery? Since you’re exhausted—”

“No, I’m not exhausted!” Su Shaoqing immediately stopped smiling innocently as his lips twitched as he fought to keep his laughter in. “Chengyan, I’m not tired at all. Shi Nuan can cook well!” Su Shaoqing praised Shi Nuan while cursing Fu Chengyan silently. Still waters run deep. I never knew he was someone who dared to tease his wife in front of me. This has never happened before.

Su Shaoqing’s eyes were darting around when he met Fu Chengyan’s warning gaze. He immediately stopped and continued eating. But he had decided that he must tell Jingxiu and Heng about how different Chengyan was when he was with his wife.

He thought Chengyan was a reserved man because of his icy demeanor, but Chengyan’s actions today surprised him immensely.

Everyone was lost in their own thoughts as they ate. It was a simple meal, but at least Fu Chengyan and Su Shaoqing got to know Shi Nuan better.

Shi Nuan was different from those rich brats they knew. The women they knew couldn’t cook at all. All they did in their spare time was arrange flowers, drink tea, and go shopping. Not a single one of them were down to earth like Shi Nuan.

When Shi Nuan finally cleared the table and joined them, Su Shaoqing was already about to leave. Before the man left, he said, “Since you’re a married man now, let’s gather with the others one day.”

Shi Nuan stopped in her tracks and flushed a bright red. She stood at the entrance of the kitchen and gripped the door frame without knowing it.

Fu Chengyan glanced at Shi Nuan’s panicked look. He smiled, his corners of his eyes crinkling up. “We’ll see,” he answered ambiguously as he observed Shi Nuan’s reaction. “I can only bring her out after she gets used to the married life.”

Shi Nuan blushed and she glared at Fu Chengyan, feeling a little lost. She turned and left in a huff.

Fu Chengyan couldn't help but shake his head in amusement. Su Shaoqing was stunned and tutted before nodding. "Fine. We have plenty of time. If you can ask Jingxiu and Heng out for a gathering, that will be great."

"Okay."

After Su Shaoqing left, Fu Chengyan went to Shi Nuan and patted her shoulders lightly.

Shi Nuan turned and bit her lips. "By your friends, do you mean Jiang City's Big Four?"

"Jiang City's Big Four?" Fu Chengyan savored the words as his eyes lit up with a smile. "Who told you about that?"

"Do I need others to tell me about that?" Shi Nuan's eyes widened. "Everyone in Jiang City knows about the four of you. Back in school, my classmates often talked about you."

"Oh?" Fu Chengyan raised his brows. How interesting. "We didn't call ourselves that. I became friends with them because we have similar interests."

They weren't that immature to make up that name for themselves, but... "Did you have a crush on me back in school?"

Shi Nuan was speechless. She bit her lips at that thick-skinned man. "Mr. Fu, are you joking? I didn't even know who you were back then. My classmates loved to gossip. They kept praising you and your friends."

She had heard about him and his friends from her classmates, but all Shi Nuan could remember was how her classmates praised Fu Chengyan for advancing

rapidly through school due to his intelligence before going overseas to continue his studies.

Shi Nuan didn't think that much about it, so she didn't put two and two together. Now that she thought about it, Fu Chengyan was indeed clever.

"Oh!" Fu Chengyan nodded, dragging out the exclamation. "It's late. Darling, let's go home."

"I'm not your darling!" Shi Nuan couldn't stop herself from blushing. Fu Chengyan was acting strange today. Before they had gotten married, he seemed cold and cunning, but the man changed abruptly and seemed to enjoy teasing her now.

"Of course you are! We're a lawfully wedded couple, so you must get used to being my wife." Fu Chengyan's smile disappeared as he stopped teasing Shi Nuan.

"I will not introduce you to my friends for now. Do you know why?"

Shi Nuan was taken aback as she raised her head to look at Fu Chengyan.

To be honest, when Fu Chengyan said "We'll see" earlier, she was slightly disappointed. She had no idea why she felt that way. After hearing what Fu Chengyan said, there was a void in her heart.

Perhaps she had already accepted the fact that Fu Chengyan was her husband.

"Why?" She was curious.

"I need Mrs. Fu to come with me, not Shi Nuan. Before you get used to your position and acknowledge our relationship, I won't introduce you to anyone. I hope you can understand."

Shi Nuan was stunned. She glanced at him cluelessly and stammered an apology, "I-I'm sorry!" It wasn't her intention to be awkward around him, but to her, Fu Chengyan was still a complete stranger. "I'll try my best and work hard!"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 47

Fu Chengyan brought Shi Nuan back to his house at Wutong Residence.

Shi Nuan had been here before, so she was familiar with the area. But when his car drove in, Shi Nuan couldn't help but glance around.

She had heard about the soaring property prices in this neighborhood and how someone had spent a fortune to buy the land here. Shi Nuan had wondered who was rich enough to buy almost half of the neighborhood, but it turned out to be Fu Chengyan.

After Fu Chengyan parked his car in the garage, Shi Nuan got out of his car and was astounded by the scene that greeted her. "You have so many cars!" Enough for an auto show!

Fu Chengyan was taken aback by her words. The man merely smiled in amusement. "You have a driving license, right?"

Shi Nuan nodded, "I got it back in college with a friend." She accompanied her friend to get a driving license back then and got one herself since she was already there. However, although she successfully got one, she didn't get to drive that much.

After Shi Nuan graduated, she started working almost immediately. Her family didn't offer to buy her a car and she couldn't afford one herself, so seldom had the chance to drive.

Fu Chengyan pointed at a Ferrari in the corner. "I won that car in a bet with Su Shaoqing last year. I rarely drive it, so you can have it."

Shi Nuan was stunned. She glanced at the red Ferrari before shaking her head. “No need for the trouble. I can just take the cab.”

“It’s just a car. If you don’t drive it, it’ll just be sitting the garage and collecting dust anyway.” Fu Chengyan wasn’t bothered. He took out Shi Nuan’s luggage from the trunk as he continued, “Plus, this area is a bit secluded. You have to walk a distance to the nearest bus station to take a cab. It won’t be convenient for you to commute to work that way.”

Fu Chengyan was right. His house was in a secluded area. That was also the reason he bought all the land here – so no one would come and disturb him.

The man hated noise, so he didn’t hire any stay-in maids. He had to do everything himself. “I didn’t hire any maids, but someone will come over and clean the house every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. We’ll have to cook for ourselves.”

Shi Nuan helped him with the luggage. She was relieved when she heard his words. “It’s fine. I can cook simple dishes. You’ve tried my cooking earlier.” Shi Nuan smiled and touched her head, “I don’t like strangers in my house too.”

“Your house?” Fu Chengyan smiled in delight at her choice of words. “Good, we’ve reached a consensus.”

“Eh?” Shi Nuan glanced at Fu Chengyan in confusion. “What consensus?”

Fu Chengyan shook his head. “It’s nothing. Let’s go!”

He helped her enter her fingerprint into the security system of the main door. “It’ll be easier for you to come and go. The password is my birthday.”

Shi Nuan withdrew her hand and nodded while looking at her finger. “Okay! When is your birthday?” she asked.

Fu Chengyan turned. He narrowed his eyes and settled his gaze on Shi Nuan. The man raised his voice, "Don't you know my birthday?"

Shi Nuan was startled as she stared at his face blankly. Her heart started thumping violently, quivering in fear when he stressed the word "birthday". "How would I know? You never told me," she said on the brink of tears.

Fu Chengyan's gaze darkened dangerously. Shi Nuan licked her lips subconsciously. "Why don't you tell me?"

"Fifth of April!"

"Ah?" Shi Nuan was flabbergasted. "That's my birthday." She did a double-take. "How do you know my birthday? Or do we share the same birthday?"

Her reaction exasperated Fu Chengyan. He flicked her forehead and told her, "Looks like you don't really care about me, huh?"

Shi Nuan was rendered speechless. She really didn't know his birthday. Why would she know a stranger's birthday?

"It's on our marriage certificate, Mrs. Fu. Take note next time!"

Fu Chengyan brought her luggage upstairs and left Shi Nuan standing alone at the entrance. She stared at his back with mixed feelings.

Shi Nuan touched the spot he flicked earlier. It hurt a little. She pursed her lips as an uncomfortable feeling arose in her heart.

Their relationship began suddenly, so she had no time to get used to it. But it was obvious that Fu Chengyan had adapted to it well.

Shi Nuan went upstairs and noticed Fu Chengyan had brought her luggage into the master bedroom. She hurriedly went in. "Actually, you can leave my luggage in the guest room."

Fu Chengyan, who was unpacking the luggage stopped in his tracks abruptly. Shi Nuan looked at him and took a deep breath. "I think we—"

"Shi Nuan." Fu Chengyan put down the item he was holding. "We're married. As your husband, I don't think we should sleep separately."

"B-But we don't know each other that well yet." Shi Nuan couldn't sleep in the same bed as him. "You said you'll give me time."

Fu Chengyan arched his brows. "Yes, I did agree to give you time. But that was for you to get used to our relationship, not to make the gap between us grow bigger."

Fu Chengyan strode over with his long legs. Shi Nuan was terrified and retreated backwards while staring at him in a panic. She didn't know what he wanted to do. "B-But I think we're advancing too quickly. I can't catch up."

"Mm?" Fu Chengyan stood right in front of Shi Nuan as she stumbled and hit the wall behind her. Her hands were propped against the wall as she raised her head to look at the man before her.

Fu Chengyan extended an arm towards the wall as he towered above her. To others, it might seem like she was in his embrace. Shi Nuan was pinned to the wall by Fu Chengyan.

She licked her dry lips subconsciously.

"It's too quick? But I think it's too slow."

"Fu Chengyan, you can't force me!" Shi Nuan was about to cry from his assertiveness. "You can't go back on your word!"

Fu Chengyan's gaze darkened before he finally released her. "Do you think I have to wait till now if I really wanted to hurt you?"

Shi Nuan was dumbfounded, but Fu Chengyan had already turned and continued unpacking her stuff. She swallowed hard before walking towards him. "I know. I'm sorry."

"You don't have to apologize. We're a married couple, so I'll treat you as my wife. You should remember that I'm your husband too." Fu Chengyan's lips curved upwards. "If I really wanted to hurt you, I'd have done so when you were drugged twice back then. I won't take advantage of you."

Shi Nuan's heart tightened and she clenched her fists. "I—"

"I'll give you time, but it won't be forever. You can sleep in the master bedroom. I'll sleep in the guest room."

At night, Shi Nuan lay on the bed alone. She tossed and turned but could not fall asleep. The events that happened during the day kept replaying in her mind. Of all the images that flashed through her thoughts continuously, Fu Chengyan's lean figure appeared most frequently.

Shi Nuan was upset and she rolled around the bed for a while before climbing up.

Fu Chengyan was in the room beside hers. She knocked on the door for a long time, but there wasn't any response. How strange, she thought. When Shi Nuan walked past the study, she realized the lights were on. She stopped at the entrance of his study.

The door to the study was ajar. Fu Chengyan was seated on the sofa with a pile of documents in front of him.

Shi Nuan's footsteps might've startled him as he raised his head and met her gaze. Shi Nuan gave him an awkward smile. "Why are you still up?"

Fu Chengyan raised his brows. There was still a file in his hands. "I have some work to do. Why aren't you asleep yet?"

Shi Nuan was embarrassed as she was caught in the act. She lowered her head and stared at her slippers. "You can't sleep?" Fu Chengyan smiled.

Shi Nuan nodded. "Can I come in?"

"Of course!" Fu Chengyan closed the file. "Come on in!"

Shi Nuan walked into his study and realized it was unexpectedly huge. There were a few shelves full of books. Some were economics books, and some were about literature. "Your study is almost a library. My grandpa loves books too!"

"Yes." Fu Chengyan stood up. "Were you looking for me?"

Shi Nuan nodded awkwardly. She selected a book from the shelf and said, "I couldn't sleep, so I was wandering around. The door to the guest room was closed, and you didn't answer to my knocks. Turns out you're in the study."

"Yes, there was a minor delay today. Some of the files are needed tomorrow so I'll need to go through them before then. Why are you here, anyway?"

"I..." Shi Nuan bit her lips and trailed off. She shot him a sheepish look. "Can you not tell my grandpa about us getting married for now?"

"Mm?" Fu Chengyan raised his brows and asked, "Why?"

"You know how my grandpa is. I had just ended a relationship. Although he wanted to bring us together, I told him it was impossible for us to get together!" Shi Nuan blushed. "Even if I agreed to date you, I didn't expect to get married this soon. Grandpa must think that way too." Shi Nuan was thoughtful as she was worried Jiang Shizheng would be concerned about her. "If he finds out that we got married, he'll demand the reason for our marriage!"

“What else? Is there another reason for two people to get married?”

“The problem is, I told him firmly that we won’t end up together, but here we are – a married couple. He’s no fool, so he’ll definitely get suspicious. We obviously aren’t in love and I don’t want him to get worried.” Shi Nuan gazed at Fu Chengyan hopefully. “You don’t want him to worry too, right?”

Fu Chengyan shook his head and burst out laughing, “So I’m not wanted right now?”

“No, that isn’t it.” Shi Nuan hurriedly explained. “There’s the marriage certificate that binds us together for life anyway. You said you’ll give me time to get used to it, right? Let’s tell our elders when we can truly accept each other. I hope our relationship can be accepted by both sides. Our marriage... Although we don’t love each other for now, getting a divorce never crossed my mind. I hope we can be together forever, so—”

“Okay!”

“Eh?” Shi Nuan was bewildered by his swift reply. “What did you say?”

Fu Chengyan couldn’t but smile at her reaction. “You’re so thoughtful, so I can’t say no!”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 48

After reaching a consensus with Fu Chengyan, Shi Nuan went back to bed with a content heart. Fu Chengyan was left alone as he stared at her retreating back. The feelings he had managed to hold back started coming back again.

He wasn't a gentleman, but he kept giving in whenever it concerned Shi Nuan.

His phone that was left aside started ringing. Fu Chengyan was surprised when he spotted the caller's name, Li Heng. "What is it?"

Li Heng raised his brows when he heard Fu Chengyan's cold voice. "It's been a long night. I'm just calling to say hello."

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes at the deliberate provocation. "Did Shaoqing tell you about it?" That was the only possibility. There was no other reason for Li Heng to call him in the middle of the night.

Li Heng's voice was low as he said, "I didn't expect you'd married her. Have you thought about it carefully?"

"Of course." Fu Chengyan stood up and brushed his finger across the tabletop before tapping lightly. "I know what I am doing, and I know my limits."

"Okay, I won't say another word. You know I hate being a busybody. Anyway, when are you bringing out to see us?" Li Heng was curious about Fu Chengyan's wife, whom he married willingly. Although he wasn't as fond of gossip as Su Shaoqing, he wanted to meet her. "We haven't contacted Jingxiu in a while!"

Fu Chengyan knew what Li Heng meant. The man was using Shi Nuan as an excuse to meet Pei Jingxiu.

He narrowed his eyes. "We'll see about that!" Shi Nuan wasn't ready to meet them. "When it's time, I'll bring her to meet you."

"Okay," Li Heng nodded. "What's wrong? Shaoqing told me you were having trouble sleeping alone. Don't tell me that's true?" Li Heng asked without fear.

Among the four of them, Fu Chengyan and Li Heng weren't the closest friends, but they had a unique of talking to each other. They were both evenly matched, so comparison was inevitable. Li Heng was a devious and sly man with an eclectic spirit. Fu Chengyan, on the other hand, was more level-headed, but he was also a cunning fox.

When Fu Chengyan heard what Li Heng said, he replied icily, "I remember Pei Huan..."

"Fu Chengyan, one day you'll lose to me. Okay, it's getting late. I'm going to bed." Li Heng hung up abruptly.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. He had underestimated the speed at which gossip travels, especially when the informant was Su Shaoqing. Fu Chengyan shook his head in resignation and pocketed his phone. He went to the balcony and lit a cigarette while staring at the dark sky.

Shi Nuan had a good night's sleep. When she woke up, it was already eight in the morning. She hurriedly got out of bed and washed up.

She thought she would have trouble falling asleep, but unexpectedly she fell asleep right after the problem nagging at her heart was solved. Shi Nuan didn't know whether it was because she was relaxed or if there was something unique about Fu Chengyan's bed, but she smelt a light lemony scent laced with a hint of orange as she drifted off.

When she went downstairs, a mouth-watering aroma wafted up to her nose. She saw Fu Chengyan coming out of the kitchen with an apron around his waist. There was also a pan in his hands. Fu Chengyan noticed her and gestured towards the dining room. "You're up? Did you sleep well last night?"

Shi Nuan replied shyly, "Yes, thank you!" She came downstairs and said, "It smells great! Did you cook it yourself?"

"Yes. Have you washed up?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Do you need my help?" Yesterday, she told him there was no need to hire maids as she could cook, but she was the one who woke up late this morning. In the end, Fu Chengyan had to cook himself. "You can wake me up next time. I'll prepare breakfast."

"It's fine. I'm used to it already." Fu Chengyan wasn't bothered. "You can help me set the table."

"Okay!" Shi Nuan went to the drawer containing utensils. Fu Chengyan came in behind her and pointed somewhere. "The bowls and chopsticks are there. Don't forget that."

"Oh, okay!" Shi Nuan replied with a smile. She noticed the kitchen, living room and bedroom were tidied up neatly.

She couldn't help but peek at Fu Chengyan. Well, that was unexpected. He can also cook?

Fu Chengyan arched his brows and leaned against the kitchen door while looking at Shi Nuan. "What is it? Do you have something to say?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "I feel guilty because I promised to cook today."

Fu Chengyan was amused. "Let's eat."

After breakfast, Fu Chengyan handed a key to Shi Nuan. Shi Nuan gaped at him in disbelief. “Why are you giving this to me?”

“I told you yesterday. You can drive that Ferrari to work. The house is quite a distance from the city center. If you take the bus, you won’t make it in time.” Fu Chengyan pointed at his wrist. Shi Nuan lowered her head and saw the time. “Oh no, I’m going to be late!”

She didn’t say no to the man since Wutong Residence was indeed far away from the city center. “What about you?” Right after Shi Nuan asked that question, she regretted uttering those words. There were plenty of cars in Fu Chengyan’s garage. Of course he had plenty of choices!

Fu Chengyan was holding his blazer when he heard Shi Nuan’s question. The man raised his brows and grinned, “Do you want to follow me to work?”

“Ah?” Shi Nuan was astonished. When she realized what he meant, her face flushed red. “That wasn’t what I meant!”

“Let’s go!” Fu Chengyan went to put on his shoes. He was at the door when he told her, “I want to drive you to work so we get to spend more time together, but we’re not heading in the same direction. Plus, you want to keep our relationship a secret.”

There was a hint of wistfulness in Fu Chengyan’s voice as he said that. Paired with his expression, it seemed as though Shi Nuan betrayed him. Shi Nuan was mortified. “I... You said you’ll give me time.”

Fu Chengyan caressed her hair as he watched her cheeks turn a rosy pink. “Okay. If you don’t hurry, you’ll be late for sure.”

Shi Nuan stared at Fu Chengyan’s back, her heart started racing uncontrollably. She patted her chest before trailing behind him/.

Fu Chengyan was right. Her office and his were at opposite ends of the city. After leaving the highway, they went on their separate ways.

Shi Nuan wasn't that good at driving, but she was a stable driver. Although this was her first time driving in a long time, she was slow and steady, hence nothing happened on the way to work. She managed to reach her office in time.

Shi Nuan normally took the bus or subway to work, so this was her first time driving to work.

Shi Nuan had just parked the car in the underground parking lot when she bumped into Fu Xicheng, whom she hadn't met in a few days. Before she could escape, Fu Xicheng had already grabbed her wrist.

"Fu Xicheng, what are you doing? Let me go!"

"Let you go? Shi Nuan, you're so heartless!" Fu Xicheng hadn't met Shi Nuan for days. He thought he'd talk to Shi Nuan at work today, but Shi Nuan showed up in a Ferrari!

Fu Xicheng knew Shi Nuan well, and he was certain that she couldn't afford a car with her current financial ability. Plus, after examining the Ferrari, he realized that it was a new model that had just been released last year. To top that off, the car was also modified and it looked magnificent. He could only imagine how expensive it was.

Shi Nuan wouldn't be able to afford a car as luxurious as this. There could only be one explanation. Shi Nuan had found another man – a man who was rich and generous to Shi Nuan. He remembered that the car parked downstairs of Shi Nuan's house was expensive too.

When Fu Xicheng thought about Shi Nuan's affair and the possibility of it starting ages ago, his fury flared up. The man could not keep his emotions in check.

“Tell me. Who sent you back that day?” Fu Xicheng grabbed her wrist and demanded, “You said Shi Wei and I did you wrong? I think you must’ve been with that man for a long time. Shi Nuan, you disgust me.”

“Nonsense!” Shi Nuan struggled to break free from his grip, but to no avail, so she used her other hand to pry his hand off. Alas, Fu Xicheng was too strong, and she was no match for him. “Fu Xicheng, let me go. Have you gone crazy?”

“I’m crazy? Yes, I am. Back then, I waited so long for you at your door. But what did you do? You called the police to arrest me. Shi Nuan, where’s your conscience? Even if I was wrong, I’ve already apologized. I went to your house because I was really worried about you. But you wouldn’t listen to me and even called the police, saying that I harassed you!”

“Wasn’t it true?” Shi Nuan pinched Fu Xicheng’s arm hard. “Let me go! We’re at work. Do you want others to see this?”

“Let them see it. Everyone knows about our relationship, anyway.”

“What relationship?” Shi Nuan retorted. She nearly laughed in disbelief. “You’re my brother-in-law and I’m your sister-in-law. Why are you grabbing my arm in public?”

“Brother-in-law and sister-in-law? Shi Nuan, don’t forget you’re my girlfriend.” Fu Xicheng replied viciously. “You’re mine.”

“I’m just your ex. Don’t tell me you’ve forgotten about your engagement with my sister, Shi Wei.” Shi Nuan found Fu Xicheng revolting, especially after what he had just said. “Do you want us both to be with you? Fu Xicheng, you’re so disgusting!”

Shi Nuan opened her mouth and clamped her teeth down on Fu Xicheng’s arm. The man immediately released his grip and winced in pain before staggering back. He gingerly covered his arm with a hand. “I’m disgusting? You’re the disgusting one! You must’ve been with the man for a long time, so you were the

one who betrayed me first! Is that man richer than me? He must be, if he's willing to give you the latest Ferrari model."

"You..." Shi Nuan trembled in rage when she heard how Fu Xicheng twisted the truth. "I'm not as shameless as you."

"I'm shameless? You must've agreed to be with that man because he's rich. You lied to me when you said you loved me."

"Yes, I lied to you. Of course I don't love you," Shi Nuan sneered, "I can't care less for a cheater like you! I was blind back then, but now I know everything. Do you think I'll still love you foolishly? Since you're already engaged to Shi Wei, stay faithful to her. She's the one who loves you for real."

Shi Nuan was about to leave, but Fu Xicheng wouldn't let her go and suddenly hugged her from behind. He wrapped his arms tightly around Shi Nuan's waist and placed his chin on her shoulder. "Nuan, I'm sorry. I know you're mad at me, but you're the one I love the most. I got together with Shi Wei because my family wants to form an alliance with the Shi family. You do know that Shi Wei owns Huancheng's shares and will inherit the company later on, right? Wait for me. After I marry Shi Wei, I'll get a divorce right after I acquire her shares. Let's get back together then. Will you wait for me, Nuan?"

"Take your filthy hands off me!" Shi Nuan pried his fingers away and turned to give him a harsh slap. "Fu Xicheng, don't make me hate you!"

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 49

Never in Shi Nuan's wildest dreams did she think Fu Xicheng would be such a scum. He was the one who wronged her for cheating on her with Shi Wei. How dare he blame her for what he did?

Shi Nuan glared at Fu Xicheng. "I'll forget what happened—this once. I won't tell anyone, but I don't want this to happen again." Shi Nuan left after saying that.

Fu Xicheng stared at Shi Nuan's back. The fragrance that he caught when he was hugging Shi Nuan left him in a daze.. He recalled a fragrance that was unique to Shi Nuan. When they were dating, he'd hold her hand for the entire day, and her scent would linger even after she had left.

Fu Xicheng clenched his fists as his eyes reddened with fury.

Shi Nuan belongs to me! She can only belong to me. Even if I don't love her, she's mine!

Shi Nuan went upstairs swiftly. She felt tainted by Fu Xicheng's hug. Hence, after putting her belongings down, she went to the restroom and scrubbed her hands aggressively until her skin almost peeled off. She only stopped when it started to hurt, and she exhaled heavily.

She told herself that Fu Xicheng had nothing to do with her, but she still felt hurt when she recalled the times she spent with him.

Fu Xicheng had been the man of her dreams ever since she was young. Back then, even before she started dating him, she'd always followed him around. Fu

Xicheng was a few years older than her. When she was in junior high, all her attention was on the senior that would walk past her class during recess.

Shi Nuan didn't know what it was like to love someone back then. All she knew was that her heart felt contented whenever she looked at him.

On a fateful day, he had coincidentally saved her, and that was the beginning of their friendship. Before Shi Wei interfered, everything was wonderful.

Even though the Shi family ostracized her, Fu Xicheng gave her warmth. When she was eighteen, he was the first one to celebrate her birthday.

Shi Nuan's eyes reddened as the memories flashed quickly before her eyes. She still remembered everything, but the young man in her memories had changed. Turns out time was their biggest enemy.

Right when Shi Nuan was about to leave the restroom, she heard people talking about her. "Did you know? Someone in the carpark saw Shi Nuan driving an expensive car to work!"

"Expensive car? It's just a Ferrari. What's the fuss about?" Ms. A was jealous when she heard what Ms. B said. "You know nothing about cars. Let me tell you. Rich people won't drive that brand!"

"Really?" Ms. B smiled, "I think you're jealous! I heard that the Ferrari is the latest model and it had been modified. If she isn't rich, why would she spend money to do that?" Ms. B was slightly envious. "Ms. Shi keeps a low profile, huh?"

"Are you sure the car belongs to Shi Nuan? If it belongs to another man—"

"Shh!" Ms. C cut them off. "How dare you talk about this in public?"

"Why are you afraid? Can't we talk about her?"

After they left, Shi Nuan slowly exited her cubicle, smiling dejectedly. She hadn't expected to be the center of the office gossip, let alone overhear it in the restroom.

Shi Nuan checked her appearance before going back to her office. Some of her colleagues were already at work. When they saw her, the chatter died down. "Ms. Shi."

"Ms. Shi, good morning!"

"Good morning!" Shi Nuan smiled and drummed her fingers on the table. "Pei, come with me!"

Pei had been working under Shi Nuan a year ago. However, while Shi Nuan was overseas, Pei was tasked to help other colleagues. Since Shi Nuan was back, she wanted Pei back by her side.

Pei was taken aback when she heard Shi Nuan's order, but she quickly collected herself and tidied the stuff on the table. "Yes."

Pei followed Shi Nuan into her office. "Ms. Shi, is there anything I can help with?"

"Oh, it's nothing. I have something to ask you. Are you willing to come back and work with me?"

Pei was stunned by her question, and her eyes immediately reddened. "I thought you won't want me anymore!"

Shi Nuan arched her brows in amusement. "What happened? Why wouldn't I want you back?" Pei was a meticulous assistant who had helped her a lot. However, since Shi Nuan had not been in the office for over a year, she was afraid that Pei wouldn't want to come back to work with her.

"You came back a while ago but didn't come to me. I was afraid you wouldn't want me anymore. Previously—"

“Shh!” Shi Nuan cut Pei off. “Let’s not dwell on the past. Since that person was your superior, some things should remain a secret.” Shi Nuan smiled and glanced at the files on her table. “I’ve neglected work for a while because of personal reasons, so I didn’t have time to talk to you. I should be the one apologizing!”

“No, I’ve heard all about you, Ms. Shi. I think that those who were spreading the rumors don’t know you well.” Pei had been working under Shi Nuan for a while now, so she trusted Shi Nuan. “Plus, I often saw you together with Mr. Fu, so I know you’re not that kind of person.”

“Okay, let’s not talk about personal matters at work. Since you’ve decided to work with me, we’re in this together.”

“Okay!”

“That’s all. You can leave now. I have a meeting later.”

After dealing with Pei, Shi Nuan skimmed through at her work schedule last week. She frowned when her gaze settled on a set of data.

In the conference hall, most of the senior management staff were prepared for Fucheng’s morning meeting. However, Fu Xicheng was running late.

Fu Yuqing glanced at his watch and said, “Let’s start now!”

“I’m sorry for being late.” Fu Xicheng pushed the door open. When he saw everyone waiting for him, he bowed in apology. “I was held back by something. Sorry to make you wait!”

“Since you’re here, take a seat.” Fu Yuqing shot Fu Xicheng a warning glance before announcing the start of the morning meeting. “Please start reporting your recent work!”

“.....”

The executives started to report their respective department's progress. When it was Shi Nuan's turn, Fu Yuqing glanced at her and said, "Ms. Shi, you must be tired after that business trip. How are you adapting to the change?"

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes and smiled. "Thank you for your concern. I've been back for a while, so I'm doing well now." Shi Nuan flipped the work log open. "I have something to report about our department. For the past month, Fucheng's sales have dropped drastically. Our orders are also decreasing. Have any of you realized this problem?"

Shi Nuan glanced at Mr. Li. "Was this in your report, Mr. Li?"

"Well..." Mr. Li was surprised too. He should be aware of this matter as it was impossible not to notice it. "That's impossible!"

"I'm in disbelief too. But this is what I just discovered this morning. Please take a look at this." Shi Nuan pointed out a few problems. "Shengyuan Group's orders suddenly declined, and the products sent to Shengyuan's departmental stores were returned too."

Shi Nuan paused before continuing, "Actually, it isn't that obvious for now. But if this goes on, I think we'll eventually run into trouble with Shengyuan."

When Shi Nuan mentioned the word "Shengyuan", Fu Yuqing and the other board members' faces fell.

Some present might not know, but the chairman and the board members were well aware of the gravity. All these years, if it wasn't for Shengyuan Group, Fucheng wouldn't be able to grow to this scale. Shengyuan's orders were their lifeline.

Although it was near impossible to discern if Shi Nuan's report rang true as of now, it was a warning to Fu Yuqing, nonetheless. Bringing up this issue in the morning meeting had humiliated Fu Yuqing and the others. "Ms. Shi, stop talking

nonsense. We've been working with Shengyuan happily for years. Okay, let's move on."

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes in confusion. She did not expect Fu Yuqing to react this way. Fu Xicheng shot her an upset look, hinting her to stop talking.

Shi Nuan raised her brows and smiled, "Maybe I saw it wrong."

After the morning meeting ended, Mr. Li approached Shi Nuan. "My dear niece, you can't make irresponsible remarks like what you did earlier!"

"Mr. Li, what do you mean?" Shi Nuan smiled. "I don't get it."

"Ha! You said Fucheng's sales are declining? What do you mean by that?" Mr. Li clenched his teeth and shot her a threatening look with his beady eyes.

Shi Nuan noticed it, but she took things seriously at work. "Mr. Li, you know what I meant. I won't elaborate on that."

Shi Nuan brushed past Mr. Li and left without a backward glance. Mr. Li glared at her back. "Ungrateful young brat!"

Mr. Li despised Shi Nuan, who always interfered in his business. If it wasn't for Shengyuan's issue that diverted their attention, the others would've realized something was amiss.

Mr. Li immediately made a call to someone. "Pay attention to the accounts!"

After returning to her office, Shi Nuan finally heaved a sigh of relief. She only found out today who was behind Fucheng's back.

They were backed up by the most powerful Fu clan in Jiang City, who was also Fu Chengyan's family. Fu Chengyan was Shengyuan's CEO, the heir of his family.

Shi Nuan recalled her conversation with Fu Chengyan. No wonder Fu Chengyan was so unbothered about Fu Xicheng. Turns out, Fu Xicheng's family was only an insignificant branch of Fu Chengyan's clan. Fu Xicheng and his family depended on Fu Chengyan to survive. To put it bluntly, they were actually living on charity and financial help.

Shi Nuan had worked in Fucheng for quite some time, but the surfacing problems showed that their operation wasn't well-established yet. Fucheng would not stand a chance against Shengyuan.

But why did Shengyuan suddenly cancel its orders from Fucheng, thus retracting its support?

Shi Nuan gnawed on her lip cluelessly.

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 50

Fu Yuqing was seated in his office with a dark expression on his face. He had his people investigate the issue Shi Nuan reported in the meeting. Shengyuan's orders had indeed dropped. It wasn't news to him as he had noticed the decline quite some time ago, but the numbers had dropped drastically recently.

Fu Yuqing didn't know what Shengyuan's plan was. Past experience told him that even if their accounts were full of problems, Shengyuan would just ignore it. Fucheng was an independent company and wasn't related to Shengyuan. Shengyuan backed them up because he had saved someone from the Fu clan years ago which prompted the Fu clan to give them preferential treatment.

Fu Yuqing thought he could depend on them forever, but it seemed like Shengyuan was going to stop helping them.

"Dad, what happened?" Fu Xicheng too could not understand Shengyuan's motives. "What is Fu Chengyan trying to achieve?"

Fu Xicheng didn't like Fu Chengyan at all. He was feared and loathed that man.

They had the same surname, but there was a vast gap between them. Fucheng had to depend on Shengyuan to survive, and his father would always remind him to flatter those from the Fu clan. Despite their best efforts, Fu Xicheng could count on one hand the number of times he had met Fu Chengyan in person.

Fu Chengyan had a God-like existence in Jiang City. Back then, Fu Xicheng wanted to use their familial ties to get to know Fu Chengyan, but the man didn't give him the chance to do so.

Going by seniority, Fu Chengyan was Fu Xicheng's uncle. This fact upset Fu Xicheng.

Fu Yuqing frowned when he heard Fu Xicheng's childish remarks. "I told you Fu Chengyan is harder to fool than his father. Didn't I tell you to get to know him? How is it going?"

"What else? You know how hard it is to get to establish a relationship with Fu Chengyan." Fu Xicheng's anger bubbled up when he thought about it. "You saw him at Mr. Shi's birthday, right? When you greeted him, he ignored us." Fu Xicheng spat the words through clenched teeth. "How long do we have to keep flattering him, huh?"

"Do you think I enjoy living like this?" Fu Yuqing frowned. "If it wasn't for Shengyuan Group behind his back, I would've just ignored him!" Fu Yuqing continued, "Find out why Fu Chengyan started reducing their orders. There's also the department store to deal with. If our products can't be sold in Shengyuan's department store..."

Fu Yuqing felt a headache building up. "How will our company go public?"

.....

"Go public?" Fu Chengyan's fingers drummed the table. He swept his gaze over Zhou Zheng before asking, "You mean Fu Yuqing's company is aiming to go public this year?"

"Yes." Zhou Zheng replied seriously. "I received reports about this. Fu Yuqing is indeed greedy. How dare he go public with that tiny company? Plus, they are using Fu clan's name to gain recognition!"

"Interesting." Fu Chengyan closed the file he was holding. There was a hint of laughter in his eyes. "They want to use Shengyuan to advance further?" Fu Chengyan stood and slipped his hands into his pockets while staring at the view

from the 27th floor. “The higher you stand, the more beautiful and magnificent the view is. But, the more dangerous it is too.”

Zhou Zheng raised his brows at Fu Chengyan’s back. “You’re right, Mr. Fu.”

Fu Chengyan curved his lips up in a smile. “Fu Yuqing isn’t that capable.” Go public? “We’ll see what happens.”

“Yes!” Zhou Zheng answered. He hesitated before saying, “Ms. Shi...”

Fu Chengyan turned, his sharp gaze landing on Zhou Zheng.. Zhou Zheng froze and straightened his back before swallowing. “Your wife, well. She went back to work at Fucheng today.”

“Mm?” Fu Chengyan raised his brows. “Say it!”

“Mr. Li gave her a hard time.” Zhou Zheng replied as he glanced at Fu Chengyan cautiously. He mumbled to himself, Mr. Fu is acting strangely recently. Is Ms. Shi his true love?

“Mr. Li?” Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “How did he give her a hard time?”

“There’s something amiss with Fucheng’s accounts. She must’ve realized that something is wrong and mentioned it during the morning meeting. After the meeting, Mr. Li went to her and gave her a hard time!”

Zhou Zheng thought he should inform Mr. Fu about this since he already married Shi Nuan.

“Okay.” Fu Chengyan nodded. “Anything else?”

“Oh, and the Yun family...” Zhou Zheng trailed off before saying, “It’s about Yun Shen.”

Fu Chengyan raised his hand and gestured for him to continue. Zhou Zheng cleared his throat. "I spread the news as you instructed me to, so the Yun family found out that Yun Shen had made a deal with Shi Jingzheng. Yun Mu was terribly upset with Yun Shen, so his family lectured him hard." Zhou Zheng continued, "Yun Shen promised to invest 200 million in Shi Jingzheng's Huancheng. Although Yun Chengzhi didn't agree verbally, he seemed to have consented silently. Even so, he should be unaware of that deal between Yun Shen and Shi Jingzheng."

Fu Chengyan snorted, "Yun Chengzhi? He's cunning. Do you think he's that clueless?" Fu Chengyan waved his hand. "Make it short!"

"Anyway, Yun Shen won't let Shi Jingzheng off easily. I'm certain Shi Jingzheng won't get that 200 million for now." Zhou Zheng smirked at that man's misfortune. "The Yun family took action before you could do anything. But if Yun Shen has a falling out with Shi Jingzheng, then Mrs. Fu..."

"No!" Fu Chengyan cut him off. "She isn't a kid anymore. There are some things that she has to experience for herself so she'll learn the lesson. That way, she won't be fooled again." Fu Chengyan said with a glint in his eyes. He adjusted at his tie before asking, "Anything else?"

"That's all."

After Zhou Zheng left, Fu Chengyan stood in front of the windows for a long time. He stared at the people downstairs. From a distance, they were not more than small specks of black. A smile lit up his face.

When Shi Nuan received Fu Chengyan's call, she was following up on an order. She was stunned when she noticed the caller's name was "Darling".

Biting her lips, she was certain she didn't save his number as "Darling". Was it Fu Chengyan who changed it?

But when did he get the chance to go through her phone and change his name?

Shi Nuan furrowed her brows. When she saw the flashing screen, she did a double-take and hurriedly swiped at the screen to answer it. "Hello?"

"It's me." Fu Chengyan's low voice answered. Why did the man seem pleased?

Shi Nuan bit her lips and said nothing. Fu Chengyan's smile gradually disappeared when Shi Nuan remained silent. "Mm?"

Shi Nuan shuddered and laughed dryly. "Yes. What's up?"

"Can't I call you if nothing's up?" Fu Chengyan raised his voice into something akin to a whine. "Your voice tells me you're reluctant to answer my call!"

Shi Nuan was speechless. She pursed her lips and answer in resignation. "You can't even see me. How would you know I'm reluctant? My voice?" Shi Nuan continued, "I'm working right now. Why are you calling me?"

"You're busy?" Fu Chengyan held his phone in one hand while he signed documents with the other. When he saw the content, his face fell. The man shot a sharp look at his secretary and ordered, "Ask the Head of Finance to come see me!"

His cold voice travelled through the phone. Shi Nuan figured that he had business to deal with and told him, "You must be busy. I'll hang up now!"

"Wait!" Fu Chengyan cut Shi Nuan off. "How do you know I'm busy? Give me a second." Fu Chengyan placed his phone aside and tapped the table with his fingertips while he glared at Secretary Li. "I hired you to solve problems for me, not to create more. What is this?"

Fu Chengyan pointed at the price. "Explain."

"Mr. Fu, I..." Secretary Li was obviously frightened. Fear was written plainly on her face. "I don't know!"

“You don’t know? You’re a Harvard graduate, but can’t read this report well? How dare you ask me to sign this problematic report, hmm?”

Fu Chengyan’s voice was icy as he asked, “Where is the Head of Finance?” He pressed the intercom, and Zhou Zheng came in not long after. “He’s on his way.” Zhou Zheng glanced at the person who was trembling and felt sorry for her. “Mr. Fu, what about her?”

“She can’t even prepare a report well. I don’t think she should continue working here.”

Fu Chengyan’s words signaled Secretary Li’s dismissal. Everyone had been envious when she got the job as a secretary in Shengyuan Group. As the saying goes, ‘the higher you climb, the harder you fall’ – if Shengyuan fires her due to her negligence, she wouldn’t be able to stay in the company. No company in Jiang City would hire her too. No one dared to go against Shengyuan Group.

Secretary Li’s face paled as she slumped to the ground. “Mr. Fu, please listen to my explanation. I didn’t do this. This...”

“Mm?” Fu Chengyan glanced at her. “Say it!”

“It’s the Head of Finance. He told me to do it. He said if I give you the document, you’ll sign it for sure.” Secretary Li revealed everything in fear. “You’ve never personally approved anything from the finance department before, so...”

“So?” Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. There was a dangerous glint in his gaze. “So you think I’m an easy target? You should know what will happen if you leave Shengyuan.”

“Mr. Fu, please give me another chance. I...”

“Zhou Zheng!” Fu Chengyan shot Zhou Zheng a look. The man immediately understood and replied, “Yes, Mr. Fu!” He glanced at Secretary Li. “Stand up. Come with me.”

Fu Chengyan drummed his slender fingers on the table for a while before picking up his phone. "Are you still there?"

"Yes." Shi Nuan was a little shocked. "I'm still here. But you should focus on work. We can talk later."

"Ha!" Fu Chengyan burst out laughing. There was a hint of laughter in his eyes. "Did I scare you?"