

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 56

Su Shaoqing stayed for dinner. He kept praising Shi Nuan's cooking, embarrassing her in the process. She went to do the dishes after dinner, while the men went to the study to talk about business. Arnold sat in the corner, looking at the kitchen pitifully, gazing into Shi Nuan, hoping his temporary master would spare him a glance.

Fu Chengyan went upstairs and handed Su Shaoqing a cigarette. "Talk."

Su Shaoqing raised his eyebrow, then he chuckled. "You know me best."

Fu Chengyan looked away and tapped on the chair. "I don't want to even know you." He then continued, "What happened to the Su family again?"

"Thanks to my cousin."

"Jiang Shengfan?" Fu Chengyan smiled. "What did he do this time?"

"Don't talk about that name. Our family does not acknowledge that name." Su Shaoqing sneered. His cousin was an infamous individual whom he could blabber on about for a long time. "He could have stayed in Rong City, but no, he had to come to Jiang City. And for what?"

Su Shaoqing was talking about the eldest young master of the family—Jiang Shengfan, or also Su Bancheng. The Su family had always referred to him as Su Bancheng in Jiang City, for they had never acknowledged the Jiang family.

Fu Chengyan lit up the cigarette. "You don't really care about the Su family's business, so why do you care about him?" He knew a bit about Jiang Shengfan. Two years ago, Fu Chengyan met him during his trip to Rong City. He was a capable person, but quite arrogant.

Su Shaoqing frowned, frustrated that Fu Chengyan seemed not to care about this matter. "You know I'm not interested in taking over the Su family's business, and the family doesn't care about me anymore, but he just keeps trying to control me. He's mad!"

Su Shaoqing ruffled his hair impatiently, while Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow. "So going to the forum is an excuse. The real reason is because you want to hide." He chuckled. "This is the first time I've seen you being so afraid of someone. He's the second one to have you in a pinch after her."

Su Shaoqing looked at him angrily. "I thought we're friends. It's an emergency here, so don't talk about that to me. Don't forget that you played a part in her departure back then." Su Shaoqing pursed his lips. He would be upset every time that woman was mentioned. It was uncomfortable, and he disliked it.

Fu Chengyan looked at him sharply, then he said, "Oh yeah, I would have forgotten that she's a part of my family if you hadn't mentioned it," his voice was even colder as he continued, "I wasn't helping you back then. You were not a suitable match for her."

Su Shaoqing's fingers trembled, sadness welling up within him. "Who is a suitable match then?"

"Not you." Fu Chengyan put out his cigarette. "You promised me you'd let her go. You owe her this much."

Su Shaoqing said nothing, then he smoked, choking himself. Tears almost flowed out. His perpetually bleached hands looked unusually pale, and they trembled. "She might still be blaming you until now. You're her brother, and yet you helped me."

“This has nothing to do with you.” Fu Chengyan looked away. “I didn’t teach you a lesson not because you weren’t a d*ckhead. You were. She wasn’t suitable for you, but she also wasn’t a good descendant of my family.”

Su Shaoqing closed his eyes. “Alright, let’s not talk about this. I’ll be leaving two days later, so I’ll count on you to take care of Arnold.” Su Shaoqing stood up, then he stopped for a moment. “If my cousin were to disturb you or anything, please don’t kill him.”

Fu Chengyan nodded, then he glanced at his friend. “You look out yourself.”

Su Shaoqing forced a smile. “You too. I heard you’re planning to attack Fu Renjiang not long after. He might not be particularly strong, but you should look out for him, since he is also a decent contender too.” Su Shaoqing took the suit from the chair. When he came to the door, the man saw Shi Nuan holding two bowls of lime juice. “Oh, you made these for us, Nuan?”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Have a taste.”

Su Shaoqing smiled. “Thank you, but I have to decline. I need to settle a few things, so I’ll be going to the hospital now. Why don’t you have it with Chengyan?”

“Alright then, see you around.” Shi Nuan smiled at him politely. She saw him off, oblivious to Fu Chengyan’s serious expression behind her. When she turned around, the woman saw him holding a bowl of lime juice. “Have a taste. I made this earlier, but I just remembered I put them in the fridge. It should still be okay.”

Fu Chengyan squinted. Shi Nuan being so nice to him made him decide not to mention what happened earlier. He took a sip and creased his brows.

Shi Nuan relaxed when she saw what he did. “How is it?”

“Delicious,” Fu Chengyan gave his honest opinion. “It’s sweet and sour, but not too sweet, and the temperature is just right.”

“Great to hear that. Have some more if you like it.” Shi Nuan smiled. “I heard you guys talking about something. Did you guys run into some problems?”

Shi Nuan took the bowl when Fu Chengyan had finished the juice. The man paused. “It’s nothing really. Just some trivial matters in the company.”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Alright then, have fun working.”

Fu Chengyan grabbed her hand, and she looked at him in confusion. “What’s wrong?”

“Are you in the project department in Fucheng?”

Shi Nuan nodded. “Yes, I am,” she then paused, “What’s the matter?”

Fu Chengyan shook his head. “Ever thought of leaving that place?”

Shi Nuan was taken aback. To be honest, she had never thought of that question. Now that Fu Chengyan had mentioned it, she gave it a serious thought. “Why though?” She smiled. “I’m not someone who would give up easily, but I won’t go ahead if I know that I can’t get anywhere. It’s not my style to leave the company because of Fu Xicheng alone.” She looked at Fu Chengyan. “But after what happened today, I think I should think about it.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “Fucheng can’t grow anymore. Fu Yuqing doesn’t have any plans to expand. He hasn’t thought of using the resources Shengyuan provided to grow the company, but instead all he thought was trying to get all the money he could from Shengyuan. A company like this is destined to stay small.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. “I don’t really know how bosses like you see things, but Fucheng is problematic, and it’s been a big problem for a long time.”

“Why did you enter it in the first place then?”

Shi Nuan was surprised, then she blushed. "Will you look down on me if I say it was for personal reasons?"

"I won't." Fu Chengyan smiled genuinely. "Everyone will bump into jackasses whom they think are great people once or twice in life." He then continued, "All that matters is that you have an eye for great men now."

Shi Nuan bit her lip. She felt that talking to Fu Chengyan required a broad mind, for he would change the topic all of a sudden and make it look like he was flirting. "I knew I can't get into Huancheng since I was a kid. Even though I didn't know why I thought that, I don't really care about it." She gave it a thought. "Sometimes I would think if this is really important. My sister doesn't get along well with me, and thanks to these reasons, Fu Xicheng chose her."

"It is important." Fu Chengyan tapped his finger. "It's not like you don't care; you do. But you just think the value of this matter only stretched to an extent. Compared to family, it's not important."

Shi Nuan looked up at him in shock. "How did you know?"

Fu Chengyan smiled. "You're a simple woman. I think you should fight for yourself given the circumstance." He then went up and held her hand. "Sometimes, backing off isn't the best way to do something. Peace isn't the option sometimes. It can't solve all the matters."

"But what will I get through fighting?" Shi Nuan shook her head. "I don't want this. I don't want to worsen things."

"Do you think it's not bad enough as of now?" He asked. "Haven't you thought that the more you back off, the more they will take advantage of you?"

Shi Nuan kept quiet, for she knew Fu Chengyan was stating the truth. When they were kids, Shi Wei would snatch her toys and alter her report card, but those were minor matters. Her parents would side with Shi Wei, so she thought those were not big deals either. But after that, Shi Wei would snatch all the things she

loved, and then it culminated with Fu Xicheng being snatched away. Her boyfriend became Shi Wei's fiancé, but still her parents sided with her.

Because of Shi Wei and for Huancheng's capital, her own parents sent her away to someone else as a plaything.

"Nuan, compromising would only make them grow bolder. They will eventually push you back to a cliff." Fu Chengyan held her shoulder and made her look up. "I am not asking you to fight to the death, but at least live with dignity, okay?"

Shi Nuan smiled, then she sighed. "I understand." Even though what he said was cruel, she had to admit that that was the reality. "Don't worry. I won't do the same thing anymore." Now that she had seen through them, the woman wouldn't allow them to do whatever they wanted with her. However, she needed time to think and plan things out.

"Good to hear that." Fu Chengyan looked away, his gaze dark. Even though he knew this was heavy for her, the man chose to break it to her anyway. "Fucheng might get into trouble soon, so look out."

Shi Nuan looked up in shock, but she knew what he was trying to say through a single glance. He wasn't her after all, and Fu Yuqing had nothing to do with the Fu family, so he didn't have to think that much.

She nodded. "Do what you have to. I'm just an employee, so you don't have to care about how I feel." She then paused. "Do you want to have more?"

He smiled. "Sure."

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“Mr. Jiang, Fucheng’s president is waiting for you in the waiting room.” Fu Renjiang’s secretary knocked on his office’s door. “What’s your plan?”

“How long has he been here?” Fu Renjiang put his pen down and looked at the time. “Tell him I’ll be there right away.”

“Yes.”

Fu Renjiang frowned and glanced at the report someone sent today, then he looked at the document on the table. He then took a deep breath before going to the waiting room. Fu Renjiang was a middle-aged gentleman.

Time seemed to have failed to leave its traces on him, for he was still as handsome as ever. Even so, being suppressed by Fu Chengyan in Shengyuan over the years had taken a toll on him.

The moment Fu Renjiang opened the waiting room’s door, Fu Yuqing quickly stood up, as if the former was a big star. “Mr. Jiang,” he greeted.

Fu Renjiang frowned. “Why did you come?”

“U-Um, I came here to ask if something has happened to Shengyuan recently.”

Fu Renjiang raised his eyebrow. “Where did that come from?” He had never heard of that kind of rumors, and besides, Fu Chengyan was in Shengyuan, so there was no need to worry.

Fu Yuqing pursed his lips. So he doesn't know, huh?

"Just speak if you have anything to say." Fu Renjiang looked at the time. "I have a meeting to attend to later."

"Shengyuan has been receiving less collaborations from Fucheng. Do you know about this, Mr. Jiang?"

"Oh, is that so?" Fu Renjiang thought about it, then he looked at him sternly. "That's impossible. You know our company has been taking care of Fucheng these years, so this problem shouldn't exist. Did something happen on your side?"

Fu Yuqing's expression changed at the mention of this. He could accept the loss if Shengyuan noticed what he had done wrong, but the problem was that he didn't know what he did wrong. "Can you talk to Mr. Fu about this, since Fucheng is—"

"Mr. Jiang! Fu Renjiang's secretary came in and quickly went up to him to whisper something into his ear, then the man's expression changed. He held the sofa's armrest tightly. "Is that true?"

The secretary nodded solemnly. "Yes. Someone saw Mr. Liu being taken away by Mr. Zhou yesterday."

"Zhou Zheng?" Fu Chengyan's expression darkened once more. Zhou Zheng was Fu Chengyan right-hand man, so in most situations, he represented Fu Chengyan. Now that Mr. Liu had been taken away, Fu Renjiang knew what was at stake. "Why did you only tell me now?"

"We weren't too sure yesterday, but when we didn't see Mr. Liu today, we knew we were right." The secretary was shocked too, for this could be a serious matter, so she went to verify it quickly. "Also, that person in the department of secretaries isn't here today too."

“Alright, I understand.” Fu Renjiang waved her down, then he looked at Fu Yuqing. “I need to handle a few things today, Yuqing. As for the problems you’ve mentioned, I’ll find some time to ask Chengyan about it.”

Fu Renjiang was already telling him to leave, but Fu Yuqing was still confused. He wanted to say something, but Fu Renjiang didn’t give him any chance, so he asked someone to send him away.

After Fu Yuqing had left, Fu Renjiang’s expression turned stormy, then he called someone. “Get to my office right now and tell me what happened yesterday.”

Fu Yuqing thought this whole matter seemed off after he came out, and then he remembered. Isn’t Mr. Liu the head of Shengyuan Group’s financial department? Then he was shocked, for if Mr. Liu was in trouble, then Fu Renjiang would be dragged into it too.

That meant that the problem regarding Shengyuan was no coincidence, so he quickly called Fu Xicheng. “Stop all the work on the stock for Fu Renjiang and destroy them if you can. Don’t leave any traces in the accounts either.”

Unbeknownst to Fu Yuqing, this was just the beginning. After Fu Renjiang’s secretary told him what happened last night, he looked livid. “What were you doing?! Why didn’t you tell me yesterday?! Where is Liu Jiang right now?!”

“W-We don’t know.”

“What do you mean you don’t know? He disappeared out of thin air! Did you even search for him?!” Fu Renjiang was angry. “He holds a lot of sensitive information. If Fu Chengyan finds out about it, we’re doomed!”

On the other hand, Mr. Liu was nicely treated, though he was kept under confinement. Liu Jiang knew he couldn’t run away from this. He had made that resolve since the day he started working for Fu Renjiang, but he didn’t expect it to come so soon.

“Mr. Fu.” Zhou Zheng opened the door when he saw Fu Chengyan’s car coming.
“He’s in here.”

Fu Chengyan got out from the car, nonchalance in his eyes. Then he looked up at Zhou Zheng. “What did he say?”

“Nothing. He said he wants to meet you.”

Fu Chengyan lifted his eyebrow, then he tapped on the door. “Let’s go. I want to take a look.”

Liu Jiang quickly stood up when he saw Fu Chengyan. “I know what I did was wrong, Mr. Fu. I can tell you anything you want to know about Mr. Jiang, but please let me live. I have a family to feed, so I can’t go to jail!”

Fu Chengyan looked at Zhou Zheng, then the latter looked at the bodyguards behind him. A moment later, they pulled Liu Jiang down.

“Men should live with pride. I’m not your ancestor, so why are you kneeling to me?” Fu Chengyan said cryptically, then he kicked the chair away and sat down.

On the other hand, Liu Jiang was as panicked as Fu Chengyan was calm. Fu Chengyan was notorious for his cruelty in the circle. Compared to Li Heng, Fu Chengyan preferred setting people up.

If anyone were to cross him in Jiang City, the man could set that person up how he wanted, and he didn’t even need to do it himself. The bodyguards were holding Liu Jiang’s hands. He couldn’t move, though he was sweating now.

Fu Chengyan squinted, then he chuckled. “Let him go.”

The bodyguards let him go, and Liu Jiang plopped down to the ground, as if his body had turned to jelly. “Mr. Fu, I have records about Mr. Jiang’s corruption over the years, as well as Mr. Jiang opening two companies out there with Shengyuan’s capital.”

Fu Chengyan's eyes gleamed. "Continue."

"Every six months, Mr. Jiang would transfer funds from Shengyuan with all kinds of excuses into his own company, then he would make money and then cycle the funds he transferred out back in."

"I see," Fu Chengyan held his chin and lifted his eyebrow at this point, "Continue."

"He was almost found out a couple of years ago due to an overlook, but fortunately, Shengyuan had invested in Fucheng back then, so..."

"So Fu Renjiang used Fucheng as his excuse?"

"Yes." Liu Jiang wiped his sweat. "That's all I know. He won't let me into all the other business, but every business I was in involved money, so..."

Fu Chengyan waved his hand. "I've found a suitable replacement for your mother's heart."

"Really?" Liu Jiang looked up in delight. Even though he was rich, it would take a long time to find a suitable heart.

It was only possible if he had the manpower and logistics, but he was just a company's financial department's head, so he had no such connections. Even though he was working under Fu Renjiang, he wouldn't help him. "Thank you, Mr. Fu. If you can save my mother, I will give you all the evidence I have."

Fu Chengyan smiled. "You can't stay in Jiang City any longer."

"I understand. All I want is for you to let me go."

Fu Chengyan looked at Zhou Zheng, then the latter nodded. "Follow me."

Liu Jiang heaved a sigh of relief when Fu Chengyan left. "The account is in the company."

"Oh?" Zhou Zheng raised his eyebrow. "You're smart."

Liu Jiang smiled bitterly. "The most dangerous spot is the safest one, but Fu Renjiang is a cautious man, so—"

"Don't worry. He can't be this fast," Zhou Zheng called Fu Chengyan. Meanwhile, a group of men in black barged into Liu Jiang's house. Ignoring Liu Jiang's wife's protests, they searched every square inch of his house, but still they found nothing. "Nothing here, Mr. Zhang."

Fu Renjiang's secretary didn't look good when he received the call. "Mr. Jiang, Liu Jiang's house is... Mr. Fu!" Mr. Zhang was stunned to see the person in the office, for he was Fu Chengyan. The secretary's hand shivered, but he could say nothing.

Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows, then he brushed the teacup's brim before tapping on it. "I hope I am not intruding, Uncle Jiang."

"N-No, of course not." Fu Renjiang glared at his secretary. "I'm discussing matters with Mr. Fu, so get out."

"Yes." Mr. Zhang paled, thinking that this was the end of the line.

Fu Renjiang was filled with trepidation. He wasn't sure how much evidence did Fu Chengyan was holding. However, Fu Chengyan wouldn't do anything he wasn't confident of, so if he came here on his own, that only meant one thing. "Looks like you found out about it."

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow. "Are you looking for this?" Fu Chengyan held a yellow envelope and shook it. Fu Renjiang's expression darkened. "You..."

"Alright, are you going to say it, or should I do it for you?"

“Don’t forget that I am Shengyuan’s director, Fu Chengyan. What can you even do to me?”

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Fu Chengyan sneered. "You should know how I do things around here, Uncle Jiang." He put his glass down and looked at Fu Chengyan condescendingly.

"I don't want to make things too ugly, so I want to see your letter of resignation tomorrow morning. As for the company's shares, well, you can still take the annual dividends." This was as much as he could tolerate.

Fu Renjiang was livid, then he stood up fiercely. "Who do you think you are, Fu Chengyan? Do you think I am scared of you? You're not the boss of Shengyuan. Even your father has to respect me, so how dare you tell me what to do?" The more he thought about it, the angrier he was. I poured my heart and soul into the company.

This brat hasn't even been here for that long, but he's already acting like he's the boss around here. "Do you think I don't know what you're planning? Yeah, we are from the same family, but your family has never treated mine as equals. I'm warning you now. If you do anything to me, then I'll do the same thing to you."

"Well then, I can't wait, Uncle Jiang." Fu Chengyan looked at him coldly. If he wants to do it the hard way, then he can't say I didn't warn him. "I would love to hear your good news tomorrow, or I might have to send something your way." He tossed the document away. "Do you think this is the only thing I have?"

"What do you mean?" Fu Renjiang's expression changed again. "What are you planning, Fu Chengyan? Even if I agree to resign, the board of directors won't."

"I've given you a chance." Fu Chengyan flung his hand and left, not giving Fu Renjiang any chance to take back his decision.

Shi Nuan was discussing something with Pei when Song Rongrong called her. She paused for a moment when she saw the familiar number, signaling Pei to stop the meeting for a while. "Hello."

"Hello my foot! Come here and pick me up, Shi Nuan," Song Rongrong said melodiously, obviously in a good mood.

Shi Nuan squinted, then her eyes gleamed. "Pick you up? You're back?"

"Damn right I am. Cut the crap and pick me up right now!"

"Where are you?" Shi Nuan was happy too, since it had been years since she last met Song Rongrong. She felt touched hearing Song Rongrong's voice. When she left the last time, Shi Nuan thought they would never meet again. "Why did you come back though?"

"Let's leave that for another time. I'm at Wenhua Street now. Just my luck, my car decided to die on me."

"Alright, I'll pick you up right away." She then kept her phone. "I need to go out for a bit, Pei. There's something I must settle, so meeting adjourned. Well, tell any guests who are here for me that I'm out."

Shi Nuan quickly tidied up, but then she remembered something, so she came back. "Oh right, just take the investment details of that project to Mr. Fu. Tell him I went on a field trip."

"Oh." Pei nodded. "What if the general manager comes though?"

"Ignore him." Shi Nuan's expression darkened. "And don't tell him where I went."

Shi Nuan quickly went down and drove the Ferrari Fu Chengyan gave her to Wenhua Street. Song Rongrong only gave an approximate location, so it took Shi Nuan some time to locate her. At the time Shi Nuan saw her, her friend was

sucking on a popsicle, and she was holding two boxes of popsicles at the same time. She waved at Shi Nuan when she saw her. "Right here."

Shi Nuan went to take a look at her. "You got thinner, and darker." Shi Nuan said, then she looked at Song Rongrong's unbelievably short hair. The once fair, lovely, and cute girl was gone, replaced by a tomboy. "Why did you cut your hair?" Shi Nuan touched Song Rongrong's hair, feeling sad. "What a pity."

"Pity my foot!" Song Rongrong didn't mind. "Africa is uninhabitable! I didn't want to groom my hair, so I cut it. It's better being fresh." Song Rongrong looked at Shi Nuan. "It's been years, but you're still the same old you."

Shi Nuan pursed her lips. "I am a constant. Right, I thought you just came back, so what happened?" Shi Nuan felt sad when Song Rongrong went to Africa despite her family's protests back then. She even said that she would never come back. Song Rongrong was a reporter, and she volunteered to go to Africa. The woman had just gone through a breakup back then, so nobody could dissuade her.

Song Rongrong lifted her eyebrow. "I'm already back for a while now. Just got a job earlier, so what you see now is the result of me coming back from an out-of-town interview." Song Rongrong cracked her neck. "I don't really know anyone aside from you here, so I could only call you."

Shi Nuan lifted her eyebrow. "So you wouldn't have called me if you weren't in trouble." Shi Nuan was annoyed. "Are we even friends?"

"Of course we are. I was just thinking that I should settle down before going to see you." Song Rongrong wrapped her arm around Shi Nuan's shoulder. "Right, how's it going on between you and Fu Xicheng? You guys married?"

Shi Nuan stood there, her expression freezing up, then she stayed quiet. Song Rongrong noticed she wasn't looking like herself, so she asked, "Oh no, did you guys break up?"

“Yeah.” Shi Nuan nodded. “I don’t want to talk about this for now. Let’s get to my car.” Shi Nuan took her friend to her car, for she didn’t want to talk about this.

Song Rongrong stood before the Ferrari and observed it. Then she steeped her fingers under her chin as she looked at it quizzically. Shi Nuan quickly pulled her in. “Let’s go. I’ll tell you everything you want to know. Where do you want to go right now? A restaurant or an eatery for lunch?”

“Nope. Hey, I noticed that you’re rich now though, Shi Nuan. Man, you’re awesome.”

“I am not rich. I’m just an employee.” Shi Nuan paused. “If you’re referring to the car, it belongs to my husband.”

“Husband?” Song Rongrong gasped. She widened her already big eyes. “What happened? You’re giving me lots of surprises. I thought you said you didn’t marry Fu Xicheng!”

“I didn’t. I married someone else. It’s a long story.” Shi Nuan thought about it and told Song Rongrong about the situation in a rough outline. After she was done listening, Song Rongrong almost felt like she heard the date of Jesus’ second coming. “So you married someone you barely knew for a month?”

Shi Nuan nodded, then she gave Song Rongrong a piece of meat. “Don’t look at me like that. I had no choice.”

“No, I mean, you’re really awesome, Shi Nuan. When did you become so open? And daring too? Do you even know who he is and what his job is? You married him without finding out all of this.” Song Rongrong couldn’t believe everything that had happened in the few years of her absence. “What was Fu Xicheng thinking? He was dating you, but he got engaged to your sister? What’s his plan now?”

“Their plan? Their plan is to have me go back to the Shi residence and ask me to beg grandpa to let them marry.” Shi Nuan’s gaze darkened. Even though it had been a while now, she still couldn’t accept it when she thought about it.

“Holy sh*t, Fu Xicheng’s a b*stard. I didn’t know he could do this. And Shi Wei’s a b*tch! She has been backstabbing you all the time since you guys were kids, and now she took your boyfriend away?” Song Rongrong was livid. “Oh hell no, did you whoop their a**es? Damn, the more I think of it, the angrier I get. How can they live on so well, while you have to suffer?”

Song Rongrong was about to get up, but Shi Nuan held her hand. “Alright, enough... Hold on, I need to take this.”

When Shi Nuan looked down and saw the caller ID being ‘hubby,’ she was shocked. Song Rongrong saw it too, so she raised her eyebrow. “Oh ho, so you do have a husband, huh?”

Shi Nuan glared at her, then she took the call. “Hello.”

“It’s me,” Fu Chengyan said. “When are you getting off work today?”

Shi Nuan was surprised. “I, um, well, you might have to settle dinner by yourself today.”

“Hmm?” Fu Chengyan’s gaze turned stern, displeasure radiating from it. “What do you mean? Do you have an appointment?”

“Yes. I’m with a friend. We’re outside.” Shi Nuan glanced at Song Rongrong, then the latter came over and mouthed, Tell your husband to come over! Shi Nuan glanced at her. “Don’t mess around!”

“Hmm?” Fu Chengyan replied nasally. “A friend?” he questioned. “Is it a man or a woman?”

“Hey, get your husband here, Shi Nuan.” Song Rongrong said in displeasure. “I thought you said you’re married. I’m your best friend, so you have to at least let me see him. Kick his a** off if he’s ugly, and I’ll get you a better one. He’s going to be loads better than that f**kboy, Fu Xicheng!”

“All you care about is looks, huh? Can you just shut up?” Shi Nuan resigned. “My hubby is hot! There, happy?”

Fu Chengyan said nothing, though he might feel happy that his wife called him hot. A smile twinkled in his eyes, and it reached his lips, taking them in a tango.

Shi Nuan realized that Fu Chengyan was still on the phone after she was done roaring at her friend. Wait, so he heard everything? Her face turned scarlet. “Um, my friend’s a bit mad, so just ignore her.”

“Yeah,” Fu Chengyan said happily. “Since she’s your best friend, then spend some time with her. Oh and, Nuan.”

“Huh?” Shi Nuan was taken aback. “What do you need?”

“Nothing. Come home earlier.”

Shi Nuan felt something brush against her, and she blushed. “I won’t take long. What do you want for dinner? I’ll take it back for you.”

“Sure,” Fu Chengyan smiled. “I’ll be waiting then.”

When Shi Nuan hung up, she saw Song Rongrong looking at her mischievously, as if hinting her about something. “Oh, your husband’s hot, huh?”

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Shi Nuan blushed, and it got even worse when Song Rongrong teased her, so she glared at her friend. “This is all your fault.”

“What? How is this my fault?” Song Rongrong smiled at her. “Hubby, huh? Looks like you two are going swimmingly.”

Shi Nuan bit her lip in embarrassment. She only called him hubby because it was the heat of the moment, but then she realized how embarrassing it must have sounded. “It’s okay. He’s decent.” She thought about it and noticed that ever since she knew Fu Chengyan, he had helped her a lot.

Song Rongrong smiled. “As long as he’s nice to you. I thought Fu Xicheng and Shi Wei being together might affect you, but I think I have nothing to worry now,” Song Rongrong said. “Alright, don’t be shy now. Now that you’re married, just live life, and bring him out whenever you have time.”

“Sure.” It had been years since they met, so they had a lot to talk about. However, Shi Nuan kept in mind that Fu Chengyan hadn’t had dinner yet, and she promised she would get him something, so she told her friend they would meet next time.

Song Rongrong was relieved to see her looking like this. “I don’t have to worry about you now. Look at you, just thinking about him. You’ve changed for the better now. Alright then, let’s meet up next time.”

After Shi Nuan sent Song Rongrong back to the hotel, she received Fu Chengyan’s call on the way back. “What happened?”

“Stroll around more with your friend.”

“Huh?” Shi Nuan was perplexed. “I thought you hadn’t had dinner yet. I bought something for you.”

“Leave it. I have to go out for a bit.” She could hear something in the background. The woman was surprised, and she kept quiet for a while. When Fu Chengyan didn’t hear her reply, he said, “I have to go back to the residence. There’s some matters to handle.”

“Oh!” Shi Nuan looked at the box of food on the passenger seat, then she forced a smile. “OK, you go back then. I’ll stroll around with Rongrong.” Shi Nuan hung up, and for some reason, she felt dejected. She knew they weren’t a couple, but when Fu Chengyan said he wasn’t eating, it made her feel uneasy.

Fu Chengyan went to the Fu residence after he changed. The residence was built on a place near the mountains. It was the outskirts of the city. Old Master Fu loved his peace and quiet, so he moved the residence here when he was young. Since then, it had been more than three decades.

The moment Fu Chengyan’s car stopped at the gates, a servant came to open the door. “You’re back, young master.”

Fu Chengyan rolled the car window down. “Who’s in there?”

“The master and the old master are in there. And also the second master.”

Fu Chengyan nodded, then he drove to the garage. The moment he got out from the car, a little kid hugged him, taking him by surprise. He looked down and saw a short-haired girl looking up at him. “Did you bring me any gifts, uncle?”

The girl who called Fu Chengyan uncle was Cheng An, Fu Chengyan’s sister’s daughter. Everyone in the family feared Fu Chengyan, except for one. It happened to be that the single person was this girl. He lifted his eyebrow, then the man picked her up. “Well, what brings you here?”

“My mom,” Cheng An looked at him. “Did you miss me, uncle?”

“Of course I so.” Fu Chengyan smiled at her. “What about you? Did you miss me?”

“Yep!” Cheng An then kissed him. “Mommy told me that you don’t have a wife yet, so only I can kiss you.”

“Is that so?” Fu Chengyan kissed her on the cheek, then he took her into the residence.

The moment he came in, the old master said, “Is that brat back?”

“Grandpa, Yan’s already an adult now, so can you not call him brat? It’s fine if you do it in here, but if you do it in public...”

“Hmph, so what if I do it in public? What can he even do?” Fu Zhengyun tapped his crutch on the ground angrily, then he glared at Fu Sheng. “Look at what your son did.”

“Dad! Fu Sheng frowned. He felt proud about his son, for none of the youths in the family could compare to Fu Chengyan.

“Uncle’s back, grandpa, great-grandpa!” Cheng An’s childish shout interrupted everyone.

They looked up and saw Fu Chengyan holding Cheng An in one hand while changing shoes with the other. As if everyone was invisible, he took his time to change his shoes and came over.

Cheng An felt comfortable lying in his arms, so she chuckled. “Mama didn’t lie to me. Uncle did come today.”

Fu Chengyan looked at Fu Jiayu and handed Cheng An back to her. “What brings you here today, Jiayu?”

Fu Chengyan’s expression froze, but then she smiled. “All because of you. Dad called me and said you caused trouble again. I thought it’s impossible, since you’re already an adult now. And Cheng An misses you.”

Fu Jiayu’s reason was perfect, so he couldn’t retort. The man squinted, then he looked back at Fu Zhengyun and Fu Sheng. “What did you call me for this time, grandpa?”

“Hmph.” Fu Zhengyun harrumphed. “Look at what you’ve done. They’ve sent their complaints here. We’re already starting to let you handle the company, so why must you have me and your father worry about you?”

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow, then he looked at the document Fu Zhengyun tossed at him. He flipped through it and threw it away like trash. “Who gave this to you? They’re quick.”

Fu Chengyan glanced at Fu Jiayu, making her stiffen up and panic. Fu Jiayu had always felt intimidated by her brother. Even though she was older, the woman would feel depressed whenever she faced him.

“Why are you looking at Jiayu? We’re talking about your matter. We might have given you the power to handle the company now, but it’s not the reason you can do whatever you want.” Fu Zhengyun glared at him. “I am talking to you!”

“And I am listening.” Fu Chengyan steepled his fingers under his chin and sat down across from the old man, looking nonchalant. “I know what I’m doing. Since you’ve retired for a long time now, you shouldn’t interfere now, no?”

“Y-you ungrateful brat!” Fu Zhengyun was seized by an impulse to beat Fu Chengyan with his crutch. Since his grandson ignored him, he looked at his own son. “Look how your son turned out to be, Fu Sheng.”

Fu Sheng didn't look very happy from being suddenly mentioned, so he lectured his son perfunctorily, "Your grandfather is talking to you. You shouldn't be rude."

Fu Chengyan arched his eyebrow and took the cup of tea the servant served him. "Your methods are outdated, grandpa. You know the company has a lot of businesses now, and it's in a lot of trouble. I don't need you to control everything in the family, even though that's going to be a big help. However, I'll need you to not hinder me."

"W-What did you say?"

"I am going to take Fu Renjiang down, and that's quite for sure." Fu Chengyan sipped the tea and frowned, for it didn't taste right, then he put it down. He looked at Fu Jiayu and pointed at her. "And I don't think you can interfere even if you want to. There are a lot of leeches in the company. I know you don't want to sack him because of the fact that he had been by your side for decades, but that doesn't mean I have to take that burden."

Fu Zhengyun closed his eyes. "Are you trying to cross the whole board of directors? They've been working for me since they were young, and some are brothers to your father and uncle. If you do anything to them, the company is going to suffer."

"As if the company won't suffer if I don't do anything to them." Fu Chengyan didn't care about his grandfather's opinion. "I advise you to stay out of this. I know what I'm doing." Fu Chengyan then stood up.

Fu Jiayu put her daughter down. "Go to your uncle."

Cheng An blinked, then she went up and hugged Fu Chengyan's leg. "Are you leaving, uncle?"

Fu Chengyan squinted. "Yeah, I'm going home."

“But isn’t this your home, uncle?” Cheng An nodded, looking perplexed, though her eyes gleamed.

Something surged within Fu Chengyan’s eyes, but still he picked the girl up, then he told Fu Jiayu, “I am only going to make a move against Fu Renjiang. I want to see his letter of resignation tomorrow, but I will still allow him to keep his shares. That’s the most I am willing to do.” Fu Chengyan said, “He has one night to think about it. I await his good news.”

Fu Chengyan handed the girl back to Fu Jiayu, but Cheng An didn’t want to let him go. She was on the verge of tears. “Do you hate me, uncle?”

Fu Jiayu didn’t look too good, then she quickly took Cheng An over. “Settle down, An. Uncle Chengyan’s tired from working all day, so we’ll visit him another day if you miss him, okay?”

Fu Chengyan looked at her cryptically, making her awkward. After Fu Chengyan had left, Fu Zhengyun sighed. “It’s getting late, Jiayu, so you should go back. An needs to go to school tomorrow.”

“Grandpa.” Fu Jiayu’s face paled. “I—”

“We can never stop Chengyan from doing what he wants. Don’t worry, now that he had made his promise, he won’t go back on it.”

Fu Jiayu bit her lip, feeling dissatisfied, but she didn’t say anything. After she had left, the old man snorted. Then he glared at Fu Sheng. “Your son is really something.”

Fu Sheng smiled. “You were waiting for him to do this too, no? He does have more courage than I do.” Fu Sheng said, “But Jiayu might...”

Fu Chengyan didn’t leave right away after exiting the Fu residence. Instead, he stopped his car at the mountainside. The man got out from the car and leaned against the door as he smoked.

Fu Jiayu drove over soon after, and she asked her driver to stop when she saw his car at the mountainside. Cheng An cried her heart out earlier, and now she was sleeping. She put her daughter down before getting out of her car. “Yan!”

Fu Chengyan glanced at her and flicked his cigarette, then he smiled, but his eyes didn't. The moonlight shone down on his almost cold expression. “There won't be a second chance.”

I Want a Lifetime with You

Chapter 60

Fu Jiayu's expression was dark. "Do you have to go this far, Chengyan?"

Fu Chengyan looked at her and smirked. "You raised me up, so you should know the kind of person I am." Fu Chengyan flicked his cigarette again, and Fu Jiayu's expression darkened further. "I will get rid of Fu Renjiang. I don't care about your relationship with him. You have to know that Shengyuan is the Fu family's business, not yours."

"You..." Fu Jiayu's expression was stormy, but she knew the kind of person Fu Chengyan was. "I understand."

"Jiayu." He threw the cigarette butt away. "I hate it when people threaten me with people I love."

Fu Jiayu was taken aback, then she shuddered after Fu Chengyan had driven away. At the same time, Cheng An woke up but she cried, for she didn't see her mother. "Mama!" she wailed.

"I'm here!" Fu Jiayu knew that they had crossed the point of no return, so she asked the driver to take her to Fu Renjinag's place.

The night was in full bloom when Fu Chengyan came home. The forest outside the Wutong Residence danced with the evening wind. Shi Nuan had just come out from the bathroom and saw Fu Chengyan holding his robe that he took from the closet room. She held a towel as the woman dried her hair, surprised to see Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan had seen her too, so the man squinted at her. Shi Nuan only had a towel on her. She wanted to take her pajamas inside with her, though she had forgotten about it. The woman didn't think much about it, for she thought she was alone, but she didn't expect Fu Chengyan to come back so suddenly. When Shi Nuan noticed his almost perverted gaze on her, she looked where he was looking, and the woman covered her chest. "Ah! W-When did you come home?"

She quickly took her pajamas and went into the bathroom. Fu Chengyan squinted and pursed his lips, smiling at how panicked Shi Nuan was.

She went into the bathroom and quickly changed into her pajamas, but when she came back out, Fu Chengyan was nowhere to be seen. Shi Nuan didn't know how she should feel, so she bit her lip and patted her face, before snapping out of her delusion.

The woman paced around the room slowly, but in the end, she went out anyway. Fu Chengyan was bathing in the guest room's bathroom. When he recalled how she looked just now, the man showered himself with cold water.

He didn't expect her to bathe at this moment, and she was almost naked. He was a healthy man, while she was his wife. Fu Chengyan sighed at the thought of that. He wasn't someone who would hesitate too much, but every time he met her, she would always mess up his tempo.

Fu Chengyan went to the study right after he was done showering, but much to his surprise, Shi Nuan was there too, so he squinted. When he saw that she was holding *The Art of War*, the man creased his eyebrow. "Interested?"

Shi Nuan shook her head with a smile, then she put it down. "My grandpa also has this book in his study. Say, you couldn't have picked up this hobby from him, could you have?"

Fu Chengyan arched his eyebrow, though he answered nothing. "Do you need anything from me?"

Shi Nuan nodded, then she shook her head, amusing Fu Chengyan. “Is that a yes or a no?”

Shi Nuan twiddled her fingers awkwardly. “The friend I met today... Her name’s Song Rongrong.”

Fu Chengyan took The Art of War from her. He felt surprised Shi Nuan was saying that, then he paused. He looked up at her and smiled. “I can see that she’s a good friend of yours.”

Shi Nuan nodded. “We went to the same university, but she went to Africa a couple of years ago. Something happened,” Shi Nuan then paused, “She just came back recently, and it had been years since we met, so...”

Fu Chengyan nodded in understanding. “Why didn’t you guys talk more?”

“I thought you asked me to take dinner back for you? Did you have dinner already?”

Fu Chengyan was taken aback. He pressed down on the book with his slender fingers, pursing his lips but said nothing. Shi Nuan frowned when he acted this way. “You didn’t have dinner yet?”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “I’m not hungry.”

“That’s impossible!” Shi Nuan looked at him admonishingly. “You can’t torture your body that way. I used to be a picky eater when I was small, and I almost ruined my stomach. It felt horrible back then.” Shi Nuan then took the book from him and placed it back on the rack. “I thought you went to the Fu residence. Why didn’t you have dinner there? Did you miss it?”

Shi Nuan was being noisy. The big house had always been quiet, but it was livelier now that Shi Nuan was here. Fu Chengyan massaged his temples, his expression freezing for a moment before he smiled. “It’s not that serious.”

Shi Nuan wasn't having any of that. "I kept the food I got for you in the fridge, so I'll take it out and microwave it for you." Shi Nuan was going to go downstairs, but Fu Chengyan held her, forcing her to stop. She looked back at him, feeling confused. "What is it?"

"It's fine. It's too much of a hassle." He was fine with skipping out on a meal."

"It's not. Give me a minute."

Fu Chengyan watched as she left, a gleam of warmth appearing in his eyes. Fu family, huh? If it wasn't for her reminder, he would have forgotten that he didn't have dinner. He pressed down on his stomach, his eyes turning into slits from his smile.

Shi Nuan and Song Rongrong had hotpot, so she didn't want to pack up the leftovers for him. She ordered a few more dishes after that and was going to come back earlier, but then Fu Chengyan went to his old home. After she came back, Shi Nuan stuffed the food into the fridge, so now all she had to do was to take it out and heat it up.

When she came up with the bowl in hand, Fu Chengyan was leaning against the door, looking languid, but yet elegant. He smiled at her, standing up when she came near. "What do you have for me?"

"Just something I packed. I don't really know if you'd like it. Did you wash your hands?"

Fu Chengyan nodded, then he took the bowl from her. "You want some?"

Shi Nuan shook her head. "No. I had my fill." Shi Nuan sat down across from him and watched as he ate. Even though he was fast, the man still looked relaxed and elegant. Shi Nuan started lamenting about the fact that she was a crude woman in comparison to him.

“Why are you looking at me?” When he looked up, the man saw that she was staring at him.

Shi Nuan snapped out of it and smiled awkwardly. “Um, Rongrong said she wants to meet you when you have time.”

Fu Chengyan paused for a moment. Shi Nuan was filled with trepidation when he said nothing. She knew the kind of person Fu Chengyan was, so she knew not everyone could meet him. “It’s fine if you don’t have time. My friend just wants to know if I’m living fine now. She doesn’t have any other ideas.” Shi Nuan said awkwardly, while Fu Chengyan smiled. “When does she want to meet?”

“Huh?” Shi Nuan was taken aback, then she said, “Anytime you are free. Won’t it trouble you though?”

“It won’t.” He smiled. “It’s not every day you’re taking me to see your friends, so it’s not any trouble at all.” He was more than happy to do it.

Fu Chengyan was worried about his relationship with Shi Nuan, so he had never brought her to see his friends. Now that he heard her calling him as her husband in the phone, the man thought that she had finally realized that she was his wife. Now that she was asking him to go with her to meet her friend, he couldn’t be happier.

Shi Nuan bit her lip. Why is he making it sound like my fault? ”I’ll tell Rongrong then. We’ll arrange for it.”

“Sure.” Fu Chengyan was finally in the mood, and all his frustration from the family dissipated. Then he finished the dinner Shi Nuan brought him.

When Shi Nuan saw that he had finished all of the dinner, she said, “And you said you weren’t hungry.”

Fu Chengyan smiled. “It’s my fault.”

Shi Nuan pursed her lips and was about to clear the table, but Fu Chengyan stopped her. "I'll do it."

Shi Nuan nodded and backed off, watching him for a while before going up. She might have thought too much before this. Even though the love between them was nonexistent now, they were married and living together. They would be seeing each other a lot, and that was how love would be born, she thought.

Song Rongrong sent Shi Nuan a text after the latter got back to her room, and Shi Nuan told her about this matter. Song Rongrong cheered. "Alright, then let's arrange it. Hey, since your husband has given you that sports car, does that mean he's rich?"

Shi Nuan thought about it. "Yeah, he is."

"Great. Tell him I want to meet him in the most exquisite restaurant in town, and I want the best dishes," Song Rongrong requested.

Shi Nuan laughed. "Oh, you glutton." She then asked, "Are you going to Yun Shui Jian or the Verdant Pavilion?" When she looked up and saw Fu Chengyan standing at the bedroom's doorstep, she paused for a moment and realized that she was lying in a suggestive pose. Slightly embarrassed, she turned around and sat up. "Anything?"

Fu Chengyan smiled. "Yun Shui Jian it is."

"Were you eavesdropping?" She glared at him.

He shrugged. "You were quite loud."

Shi Nuan puffed her cheeks in displeasure. "That's no excuse for you to eavesdrop," she thought for a while, before seeking confirmation, "Yun Shui Jian it is then?"