

I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 476

Jiang Shizheng was smoking for the first time in a very long time. As he smoked, he spotted Shu Qing at the doorway. "Come here!" he ordered.

She walked in and smelled the horrible cigarette stench. "Dad..." she muttered.

"That's enough. I will go straight to the point. What happened with Nuan? Is what Su Huaibei said true? I don't care what type of relationship you have with him or what happened between the two of you, but Nuan is innocent. Don't you dare direct your anger and hatred at her. Do you even know what you're doing?" he berated.

"Dad, I...I hate him! He destroyed me!" she screamed.

"You deserved what happened to you. I don't want to talk about what happened in the past. Is Shi Nuan your child with Su Huaibei?" he asked.

"I..." she muttered. Her fists were tightly clenched and she jerked her head aside.

"How dare you look at me like this? If it weren't for Nuan, I wouldn't have allowed you to step foot into my house. I want you to leave with Su Huaibei now; I will take care of Nuan. Whether Nuan wants to be a member of the Su family is up to her. You have no right to interfere!" he bellowed.

Jiang Shizheng didn't want to see her before his eyes ever again; the sight of her made him furious.

Shu Qing's lips trembled; she wanted to say something but he wouldn't let her interrupt. "Leave, and never come back again!" he screeched.

"Dad," she pleaded.

"I don't have a daughter like you!" he shouted.

After she left, Jiang Shizheng continued to smoke in the study room, creating much air pollution.

Aunt Fei walked in and was opening the window when she spotted him looking listless. She was shocked. "Master?"

He continued sitting there in silence.

Aunt Fei felt sympathetic towards his plight. She uttered, "Master, I'm sure Ms. Shu knows that she is in the wrong. Why do you have to act this way..."

"She doesn't know that she is in the wrong from the way she was acting just now. I don't think she will ever feel remorseful. You don't have to speak up on her behalf; I understand my own daughter's personality. I have pampered her too much, which is why she grew up to be so selfish and manipulative. I don't care what happens to her in the future. My only duty now is to take care of Nuan."

Aunt Fei sighed loudly and lamented, "Actually, Little Miss is so pitiful as she is only so young..." Aunt Fei had been against sending Shi Nuan to the Shi family from the beginning. However, Jiang Shizheng was busy with his work and she was too old to take care of Shi Nuan by herself.

Furthermore, Jiang Shizheng believed that Shi Nuan should grow up in a complete and healthy family. Hence, he decided to allow Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng to adopt Nuan. The Shis were a good family for two reasons. First, Shi Yunsheng owed Jiang Shizheng a favor at the time. Second, Shi Yunsheng took a liking to Shi Nuan after a fortune-teller told him that the girl would bring great benefits to the Shi family.

Jiang Yu was already married by then. She was at first reluctant to adopt Shi Nuan because Jiang Yu held a grudge against Jiang Yuan for having snatched Su Huaibei away.

Jiang Shizheng had promised Jiang Yu that if she and Shi Jingzheng took care of Shi Nuan well and treated her as their own child, he would leave his entire estate to her. This was why Jiang Yu eventually agreed to adopt Shi Nuan.

When Jiang Shizheng thought about his earlier decision, he involuntarily sighed and asked, "If I had insisted on raising Nuan myself, do you think she would have had a better life?"

"Don't blame yourself. You never wanted any of this!" Aunt Fei stated as she took the cigarette away from him. "You are old and in poor health. If Little Miss knows you are smoking she would be very worried!" she continued.

"You are right. I almost forgot that Nuan is pregnant and she hates seeing me smoke!" he recalled and nodded. "Thank goodness for your advice," he continued.

He let out another sigh and commented, "Yuan and Su Huaibei have both returned. I wonder if Nuan... Aunt Fei, please leave. I need to think about this!"

He stayed in his study for the whole afternoon and finally decided to call Fu Chengyan. "Yan, I have something that I need your help with. Come visit me when you are free!" he said.

Fu Chengyan visited Jiang Shizheng that very night. He called Shi Nuan and informed her that he would be busy at night and would come home later.

"Mr. Fu, today Su Huaibei and Shu Qing visited Mrs. Fu at Xinhuang," reported Zhou Zheng, who walked in just as Fu Chengyan ended the phone call.

Zhou Zheng continued, "Shu Qing's attitude towards Mrs. Fu was horrible! However, Su Huaibei was rather friendly. That's all I have for you for now."

Fu Chengyan rubbed his chin and asked, "Has the contract been signed?"

"Not yet; Shu Qing was reluctant to do so. Su Huaibei even had a fight with her," Zhou Zheng replied.

Fu Chengyan nodded. "I see. Has Su Huaibei returned to the Su family?"

"Yes, it seems like he will soon have a showdown with the Su family," Zhou Zheng answered.

Fu Chengyan bit his lips and replied, "Alright, you may go downstairs now. Arrange a chauffeur to bring me to the Jiang residence tonight."

"You are going to visit the Jiangs?" Zhou Zheng asked in surprise. He had thought that given the current situation, Fu Chengyan should be rushing home to accompany his wife. Shouldn't Mr. Fu be home to comfort Mrs. Fu instead? Although she remained mum on the incident today, she must be heartbroken that her birth mother had abandoned her and treated her with such cruelty.

"That will be it. Is there anything else?" Fu Chengyan questioned.

"No."

"Alright, then make your way down! Also, help me prepare some gifts. Is the new tea available?" Fu Chengyan asked.

"Yes. I will ask my men to get it done immediately!" Zhou Zheng said.

At seven o'clock at night, Fu Chengyan punctually arrived at the Jiang family home. Aunt Fei hurriedly welcomed him in and exclaimed, "Sir, welcome!"

"Aunt Fei!" he replied with a smile on his face. As he walked in, Zhou Zheng followed behind him, holding the gifts. Aunt Fei wanted to take the gifts from Zhou Zheng but was stopped by Fu Chengyan, who said with a chuckle, "Don't worry about Zhou Zheng. He can carry all these items!" He then asked, "Where is Grandpa?"

"He's inside. Come in, Sir!" said Aunt Fei.

"Alright!" he replied.

"Mr. Zhou, please leave the items on the floor. I haven't finished cooking. Sir, why don't you have a chat with your grandpa first?" Aunt Fei asked Fu Chengyan.

"Sounds good. I will do just that," he replied.

Fu Chengyan then walked to the study room and knocked on the door. "Grandpa," he called out.

"Come in!" he replied.

Fu Chengyan gently pushed open the door and saw Jiang Shizheng sitting on the chair, looking a little dazed. Jiang Shizheng waved to him and asked, "Yan, did Nuan come with you today?"

"When you told me that you wanted to speak to me, I guessed that you wanted only me to listen. Hence, I've come alone." Fu Chengyan smiled and walked up to Jiang Shizheng. "How are you feeling today, Grandpa?"

"I'm feeling fine. Just take good care of Nuan; you don't have to worry about my health," Jiang Shizheng responded.

Fu Chengyan grinned. "You are not only May's grandpa but also my former teacher, so I naturally should inquire about your health."

"That's alright. I will go straight to the point then. I wanted to discuss with you about Nuan," said Jiang Shizheng. Letting out a deep sigh, the old man bemoaned, "I don't want to talk about Nuan's parentage, since I'm guessing that you already have investigated that."

Jiang Shizheng lifted his head and looked directly into Fu Chengyan's eyes. Fu Chengyan nodded and stated plainly, "Yes, I did."

Jiang Shizheng massaged his brows and added, "In that case, I won't beat around the bush. Nuan is not Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng's birth daughter—this you already know. Her mother is my daughter, Jiang Yuan, whom you know as Shu Qing."

Fu Chengyan admitted, "Yes, I already know that."

"Then do you know who Nuan's father is?" Jiang Shizheng asked.

"Su Huaibei," replied Fu Chengyan.

Jiang Shizheng initially felt surprised but soon he was relieved instead. "Indeed, you figured it all out without me telling you the truth. Actually, I only found out today that Nuan's father is Su Huaibei."

Jiang Shizheng looked at Fu Chengyan, who appeared shocked by what he had just heard. The old man chortled and grumbled, "I know I have failed as a father. My younger daughter is arrogant, unwilling to admit defeat, and is always riding on a high horse!"

"When I arranged her marriage for her, I was extremely close to the Shi family. Hence, since Yuan was young we had agreed that she would marry Shi Jingzheng," Jiang Shizheng continued.

Fu Chengyan was stunned. "So Jiang Yuan had a marriage arrangement with Shi Jingzheng?"

Jiang Shizheng nodded and replied, "Not only that, my elder daughter, Jiang Yu, also had a marriage arrangement with Su Huaibei. However, I did not have a good feeling about this as the Su family was too prestigious. I could not do much, though, as it was the old Mrs. Su who was in charge of that marriage arrangement."

At this moment, Fu Chengyan understood everything. “As you can see, everything became messed up later on. Jiang Yuan had secretly gotten together with Su Huaibei and by the time we found out about it, it was already too late. They eventually left Jiang City for the capital, and I had not heard from them since then.”

Jiang Shizheng continued, “It was such a scandal! I remember it was snowing heavily that year when Yuan brought Nuan home and left quickly afterward. I was too old to take good care of Nuan, who was just a baby, so I sent her to the Shi family. I thought that Jiang Yu would take good care of her as she is my daughter.”

Fu Chengyan then added, “However, Jiang Yu detested Jiang Yuan and failed to treat May well. Grandpa, you didn’t expect that to happen, did you?”

Jiang Shizheng nodded. “By the time I started to regret and wanted to bring Nuan home, she had already grown up and I couldn’t bear to tell her the cruel truth. Hence, Shi Yunsheng and I decided to treat her especially well—we didn’t want her to live a dreadful life.”

“You have done a great job in raising May. Don’t you think so?” Fu Chengyan asked.

Jiang Shizheng responded in acknowledgment. “Indeed, I am heartened to see that Nuan has grown up to have a kind heart and great personality. However, if I hadn’t acted so foolishly, she wouldn’t have suffered so much during her childhood years!”

“Grandpa, what is it that you really want to say to me?” Fu Chengyan asked.

“Right. I wanted to tell you that Yuan and Su Huaibei have returned, and they visited me today. Su Huaibei wants to recognize Nuan as his daughter and bring her back to the Su family!”

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Fu Chengyan's eyes lit up and asked, "What do you mean by this, Grandpa?"

"I'm not sure, either. I only found out today that Nuan belongs to the Su family. If I had known back then, I wouldn't have given Nuan to the Shi family," Jiang Shizheng replied.

Fu Chengyan nodded and queried, "Do you want May to return to the Su family? The Su family can indeed give her great support."

"Actually, she doesn't have to return to the Su family as she has already married you. I'm sure you will take good care of her. However, she is a part of the Su family and has already suffered so much in the Shi family. I think the Su family will treat her doubly well," Jiang Shizheng replied, "However, the decision ultimately lies with Nuan. I only want to know what you think about it. By the way, how much does Nuan know?"

"I also think May should make the decision herself. If she wants to, she can recognize Su Huaibei as her father, but I wouldn't force her. Since I'm with her now, I will protect her!" Fu Chengyan swore.

"I'm glad to hear that. As to when we should let Nuan know..."

"Grandpa," interrupted Fu Chengyan, "I think May is smarter than we think."

Jiang Shizheng's hand trembled a little and asked in surprise, "What do you mean by that?"

"She already knows who her birth mother is," Fu Chengyan replied.

"What about Su Huaibei?" enquired Jiang Shizheng.

Fu Chengyan shook his head and answered, "She doesn't know yet. However, she is old enough and I'm sure she will be able to accept it when she finds out."

"I'm just worried about her health. She is carrying a baby now and I'm afraid this will affect her well-being. I have already warned Yuan and Su Huaibei not to contact her privately," he declared.

Fu Chengyan answered, "There is no need for you to worry at all!"

"Great. Since you already know, I have nothing else to say. All I hope for is for you to take good care of her. Let's go and have dinner; I'm sure Aunt Fei has finished cooking."

"Alright!" answered Fu Chengyan.

When Fu Chengyan arrived home, he was hugged by two sweethearts. Cheng An gripped his thighs whilst Shi Nuan hugged his waist.

This happened right as the main door opened. "Yan," Shi Nuan called out.

"Uncle!" Cheng An shouted in excitement.

The two called Fu Chengyan simultaneously as they dashed towards the door.

Before Fu Chengyan could react, they were already hugging him tightly. Shi Nuan stuck her neck out proudly and tugged at his arm. She then glanced down at the adorable Cheng An and stuck her tongue out. Grinning, Shi Nuan said, "You are finally back, Yan!"

Cheng An pulled a face at Shi Nuan and immediately hugged Fu Chengyan's thigh and tried to climb up. However, she was too small and couldn't reach his waist. Hence, she immediately frowned and wailed, "Uncle Chengyan, you don't love me anymore!"

Fu Chengyan felt sympathetic for Shi Nuan and then glanced at Cheng An, who was still hugging his thigh. He flicked Shi Nuan's nose and asked, "How can you fight a child for attention?"

"She is not a child!" Shi Nuan bawled.

"You are right. I'm not a child because I have already grown up." Cheng An saw her uncle touching Shi Nuan's nose and immediately grabbed his hand to touch her own nose.

"Whatever Aunt Nuan has, I also want!" Cheng An taunted.

Fu Chengyan instantly burst into laughter and asked, "What is going on here?"

"Nothing."

"Nothing."

Both ladies replied simultaneously.

“Hmph!”

“Hmph!”

Fu Chengyan was at a loss for words.

“Alright, quit it!” He said as he kneeled down. Carrying Cheng An while holding Shi Nuan’s hand, he walked into the living room. When Shi Nuan realized that everyone had gathered in the living room and was gazing at them, she instantly blushed and hurriedly asked him, “Have you eaten?”

“Yes!” he replied with a smile on his face after witnessing Shi Nuan’s face turning bright red. He pulled her tightly towards him and made her sit next to him.

Cheng An automatically sat on Fu Chengyan’s thigh. The girl rubbed his face as she grinned. “Uncle Chengyan, I told Aunt Nuan that when I grow up, I want to marry you!”

“That’s ridiculous. I’m already married to your aunt. Find your own husband when you grow up,” he chided her.

“Why?” Cheng An shouted. Her face was scrunched up and tears welled up in her eyes. “Mommy told me that I have to marry the person I like, and I like you! Can’t I marry you when I grow older?” she asked.

“You silly child,” Fu Chengyan replied as he patted her head, “You are so young. How do you know what love is?”

“Hmph!” she bemoaned.

“Be good. When you grow up, you will meet someone even more handsome and good-natured than I,” he replied.

“Really?” Cheng An asked as she blinked her eyes. “But what if I can’t find one?” she bemoaned.

“That’s impossible. You are so beautiful and smart. Many people will fall in love with you!” Fu Chengyan responded.

"Really?" The little girl asked as her cries turned into laughter. "That's great! Then I don't want to marry you anymore!"

Pfft.

Fu Jiayu laughed aloud and waved at Cheng An. "An, come to Mommy!" she called out.

Cheng An jumped down from Fu Chengyan's lap and ran towards Fu Jiayu. Cheng An plunged herself into her mother's arms and sweetly said, "I won't be stealing Uncle Chengyan from you anymore, Aunt Nuan. You can't bully me in the future; you must treat me well!"

"Alright, I will do just that", giggled Shi Nuan.

"You must buy me a lot of lollipops and ice cream as well," Cheng An exclaimed, "And also Barbie dolls."

"Don't be so greedy!" scolded Fu Chengyan, "Don't bully your Aunt Nuan!"

"Fine! I just want lollipops and ice cream then," Cheng An replied after being chided by her uncle.

Shi Nuan burst out in laughter and said, "An, don't listen to your uncle. I'll buy you whatever you like!"

"Yay! Thank you! I like Aunt the most, followed by Uncle Chengyan!" she cheered.

...

After some time, Cheng An fell asleep in the arms of Fu Jiayu. When Fu Jiayu noticed that she was asleep, she stood up and asked, "Shouldn't we go home now? It's getting late."

"Wait a minute!" Shi Nuan stopped her and continued, "It's already so late. Isn't it troublesome for you to travel to and fro? Since your husband is out of town, why don't you stay here? There's a room for you anyway."

"Yes, I've been cleaning the room every day," the servant, Aunt Zhang, chimed in, "It's very clean and I have prepared clothes for both Ms. Jiayu and Little Miss An."

"Well..." Fu Jiayu hesitated. She then glanced at Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows and commented, "It's already late. Just stay here. You wouldn't want to wake An up, would you?"

Fu Jiayu nodded. "Alright." She then asked Aunt Zhang to prepare the bedroom before saying, "I'll bring An to sleep first."

"I can do it!" Song Zhenyan replied, "Give me the child!" she said as she walked towards her.

Fu Jiayu was stunned and before she could react, Song Zhenyan had already picked up Cheng An and was carrying the girl carefully. She whispered to Aunt Zhang, "Bring me to Ms. Jiayu's room!"

"Yes, please come with me!" Aunt Zhang replied.

Fu Jiayu's face turned stony; she was annoyed. She was vexed that she failed to react in time when Song Zhenyan carried Cheng An.

Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan exchanged glances. Shi Nuan stood up and said, "Jiayu, let's stop thinking about the matters of the past."

Fu Jiayu forced a smile and replied, "I don't know if I can ever forgive her."

"As long as you have an open heart, things may change in the future," Shi Nuan responded with a smile and continued. "It's late. You should rest!"

Fu Jiayu nodded and answered, "Both of you should sleep early, too. You must take care of yourself as you are pregnant. Yan, give Nuan a leg massage to help her relax later. She is still in the early stages of her pregnancy but she will experience leg cramps later on. You must pay more attention to her. Do you understand?"

"Yes!" Fu Chengyan replied, "You are well experienced. When you are free, come over to accompany May. Cheng Jing is not in town anyway, so your house will feel empty with just you and Cheng An around."

Fu Jiayu twitched her lips and nodded. "Alright," she said.

She was surprised by the changes in Fu Chengyan after he married Shi Nuan.

Fu Jiayu initially thought that both Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan would never forgive Song Zhenyan. I can't believe he changed his mindset because of Shi Nuan and is attempting to accept Song Zhengyan. He is even trying to encourage me to forgive her.

"Alright. Have a good night's sleep," she responded.

As Fu Jiayu went upstairs, Shi Nuan let out a smile. She said, "I think she isn't so angry with Mother anymore. She just couldn't forget it, which is why... Since she has already made the difficult first step, the rest should be easier."

"You are right! However, the only question is whether your effort would be in vain," Fu Chengyan replied with a vexed smile.

"Of course it's not in vain. Didn't you see the progress she has made?" Shi Nuan remarked as she rolled her eyes. "By the way, where did you go just now?" she asked.

"I visited Grandpa," he replied as he held her hand. "Why were you fighting with Cheng An?" he asked.

"Don't try to change the topic!" Shi Nuan responded. She gripped his hand tightly and questioned, "You said you were at Grandpa's house. What were you there for? Did Grandpa ask you to visit him?"

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Fu Chengyan sighed involuntarily and pinched her nose. He remarked in a snarky tone, "You, little mistress, are too smart!" Shi Nuan grabbed his index finger and chided, "What did you call me? You are the mistress!"

Fu Chengyan glanced at her and shook his head. "You are my mistress!" he remarked and kissed her finger.

"Whatever. I am your mistress because I can't possibly be your wife, can I?" Shi Nuan attempted to twist Fu Chengyan's ear but was intercepted by him. He then used his palms to clasp hers tightly while he whispered, "You silly goose. I only have one wife, and that's you."

She huffed and said, "Don't try to change the subject again!"

He sighed and wrapped his arms around her. "Let's go up first. It has been such a long day and I miss you."

Shi Nuan grinned and hugged his neck, signaling for him to bend down. After planting a big kiss on his forehead, she said, "You won't feel tired anymore!"

Fu Chengyan gazed at her gently. "You are right. I'm no longer tired when I see your beautiful face," he commented.

After Fu Chengyan finished bathing, Shi Nuan patted the empty seat next to her and uttered, "I'll help you dry your hair."

He sat down but didn't let her dry his hair. "Zhou Zheng said that you went to Xinhuang today. Did something happen?" he inquired.

"What a big mouth he has!" Shi Nuan remarked. "Nothing much happened. I already knew she was going to react like that so I didn't take it to heart. I just felt a bit sad that she treats me and Shen Qianan so poorly. If she didn't like us, why did she give birth to us?" Shi Nuan was perplexed. She was being stubborn because she wanted to figure out the truth.

Fu Chengyan reached out and gripped her hand tightly. He questioned, "Do you want to know the reason for that?"

After seeing her nod, he warned, "However, the truth hurts. You still want to know?"

She continued nodding her head despite noticing that Fu Chengyan's face was clouded over.

"You have a decent life now, even though you haven't figured out the whole truth. So there is no need for you to know the truth, May." he reasoned.

"I know that!" Shi Nuan sighed. "You must be wondering why I want to know. I'm not insistent, but since I have the chance to find out the truth, I want to take up that opportunity. Yan, I know you are worried that I will be hurt. But I'm a grown woman and I know what I am

doing, so stop worrying about me!” she lamented. She walked towards Fu Chengyan and sat behind him. Massaging his shoulders, she continued, “I will have to face the truth one day. Although my life won’t be affected even if I don’t know the truth, have you thought about my mental state?”

“Alright, fine!” Fu Chengyan said. He patted her hands and said, “She went to visit Grandpa today.”

“She? Do you mean Shu Qing?” Shi Nuan was astonished and gasped, “Is that why Grandpa wanted you to see him?”

Fu Chengyan nodded and elaborated, “She wasn’t the only one to visit him. She went there with someone else.”

“Who was it?” Shi Nuan asked. She suddenly felt a flash of fear, and an image instantly appeared in her mind.

It was the man she met at Xinhuang this morning. She asked, “Is it Su Huaibei?”

Fu Chengyan was stunned by her answer. “How did you know that?”

She bit her lips and replied, “I’m not sure.” In fact, she had made a wild guess that turned out to be true.

She also wondered why the first thought in her head was Su Huaibei. “Su Huaibei and Shu Qing went to Xinhuang today. Shu Qing seems to have a complicated relationship with Su Huaibei; I’m just not sure of the details. However, it turns out that Su Huaibei is Su Shaoqing’s uncle! Why is it that Su Shaoqing never mentioned him before?” she pondered.

Fu Chengyan’s eyes flashed upon hearing that and replied, “Indeed, Su Huaibei is Shaoqing’s uncle. This is a rather complicated secret that the Su family has. If you want to know, I will tell you as soon as I get the chance!”

“I’m not interested to find out. I have only met this Mr. Su twice and I have a good impression of him. Can you tell me why Su Huaibei went there? He... What type of relationship does he have with Shu Qing?” she asked.

“Shu Qing has another name. Her real name is Jiang Yuan!” Fu Chengyan revealed.

Shi Nuan had a jolt. Although she was prepared to hear this, she still felt shocked as an indescribable feeling arose within her.

Her lips trembled and she muttered, "Jiang Yuan. That means, she..."

"She is your birth mother and your grandpa's biological daughter. I guess your grandpa did not tell you this."

She shook her head and replied, "No, Grandpa never told me any of this. I always thought that Jiang Yu was my Grandpa's only daughter."

"After Grandpa adopted Jiang Yu, Grandma gave birth to Jiang Yuan. Hence, your Grandpa has two daughters," Fu Chengyan elaborated.

Shi Nuan then asked, "Was I adopted by Jiang Yu?"

"I don't know what happened to your birth mother, but I can tell you about your birth father."

"You know about this?" she queried. Shi Nuan gripped his hand tightly and continued, "They gave birth to me, yet they abandoned me. Who is my real father? Is it Shen Qianan's father? The man called Shen Feng?"

That was the only person she could think of, since she herself looked similar to Shen Qianan and Shen Qianan also looked like Jiang Yuan. "Is it true?" she repeated.

He shook his head.

She was stupefied. "It's not him?" she questioned.

"No!" he repeated.

Shi Nuan suddenly released her hands from his. Her lips were trembling and she moved about stiffly.

After a while, she let out a slight grin and asked, "Yan, you are joking, right? This isn't funny at all."

"May, you are the one who wanted to find out the truth," Fu Chengyan reminded her.

"Yes, but..." she trailed off. Indeed, she was the one who insisted on finding out the truth. "Are you saying that Shen Qianan and I have the same mother but different fathers?" she asked.

"Yes. The results from the investigation are out. This is why I asked you if you want to know the truth. Your birth father wants to recognize you as his daughter!" he answered.

Shi Nuan let go of Fu Chengyan and lay down on the bed. Deep in thought, she remained silent for a long time.

Fu Chengyan furrowed his brows.

He knew that this was a difficult truth to accept, especially for Shi Nuan. He reached out his hand and wanted to caress her head, but she backed away and both of them looked at each other awkwardly.

Shi Nuan turned her head away. She was vexed and did not want to look into his eyes.

She ground her teeth and obstinately refused to face him. Instead, she hugged her knees and took in a deep breath, burying her head in between her knees. "Yan, I want to be by myself," she muttered.

Fu Chengyan's face became stony. "Fine," he replied.

With that, she sat at a corner of the bed while he at another.

His gaze was still gentle and he continued to observe her.

After a period of time, Shi Nuan lifted her head and to find that Fu Chengyan had remained in the same position all this while. She immediately felt guilty and muttered, "Yan, I..."

"Come here!" he ordered.

He waved his hands and Shi Nuan crawled towards him. He pulled her towards him and she lay on his lap. Caressing her face, he said, "You are so foolish. I told you before that I will always be here with you."

Shi Nuan gazed at him and asked calmly, "Is my father Su Huaibei? Am I right?"

"Yes!" He replied with a nod, astonished that she figured it out so quickly.

Shi Nuan was an intelligent person. She was able to connect all the dots to make the deduction.

She had stayed silent for so long was because she was trying to come to terms with the truth.

"The Su family wants to accept me as their daughter? Is that why Su Huaibei visited Grandpa? Does that mean Su Huaibei and Jiang Yuan were in a relationship before?" she bombarded Fu Chengyan with a string of questions.

"Yes, and I can tell you everything you want to know!" Fu Chengyan answered when he realized how agitated she was. She has accepted the truth.

Shi Nuan quivered and questioned, "I just want to know one thing. Why did they abandon me after giving birth to me? Is it his one-sided wish to accept me as his daughter or is he seeking my consent? What about the rest of the Su family?"

"I'm afraid I can't answer this question. Grandpa instructed me that this is for you to decide. It's up to you to accept them as your family; you get to make the final decision," he responded.

Fu Chengyan instantly hugged her tightly. "What I want you to know is that, regardless of what happens, I will always be here for you and carry the burden with you. Please don't shut me out like you did today. Is that ok?" he comforted her.

Shi Nuan stiffened. She gazed at Fu Chengyan tearfully. "I..." she muttered.

He bent down and kissed her on the lips. Everything she wanted to say instantly disappeared as they kissed.

The kiss was domineering yet gentle at the same time. She was initially startled, but soon she gripped his neck tightly to return his kiss.

After some time, Fu Chengyan opened his eyes and asked, "Do you understand now?"

"Yes, I get it," Shi Nuan replied, still gasping for air as her face had turned bright red.

“Good. It’s late now, so let’s talk about it tomorrow.” He proceeded to tuck her into bed.

Shi Nuan reached out her hand and hugged his waist. Exhausted, she quickly fell asleep. Fu Chengyan gazed at Shi Nuan’s petite body tenderly.

After that, he stood up, walked to the balcony, and dialed Su Shaoqing’s number. “Arrange a meeting between me and Su Huaibei!”

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By the time Shi Nuan woke up the next day, she noticed the person who should be by her side was nowhere to be found. Feeling that the other half of the mattress was cold, she opened her drowsy eyes and sat upright. Indeed, no one was around.

A check on the clock on the nightstand revealed that it was almost eleven o’clock in the morning. Tapping on her head in shock, she became wide awake and brought herself out of the bed immediately.

After swiftly completing her morning routine, Shi Nuan returned to the nightstand and checked on the clock. She had her fair share of doubts. I have already set an alarm before going to bed last night. I should have been roused from my sleep at eight o’clock this morning. How the heck did I sleep through the morning?

The moment she rushed downstairs, she noticed almost everyone from the Fu clan was already up. And everyone was at home, too.

As Shi Nuan sneaked her way downstairs, she heard Fu Chengyan fooling around with Cheng An, who would chuckle every now and then. She then heard the helpless Fu Jiayu urging her daughter, “An, stop teasing your uncle.”

Cheng An was the first one who noticed Shi Nuan’s presence as the latter made her way downstairs. The little girl jumped off Fu Chengyan’s lap and rushed over to Shi Nuan’s side. “Aunt, you’re such a lazy bum! It’s almost noon but you’re still sleeping!”

The little girl stuck out her tongue after she finished her sentence. All of a sudden, Shi Nuan flushed with embarrassment. Glaring at her niece in return, Shi Nuan said, "You're the lazy bum!"

Fu Chengyan got up from his seat and caressed Cheng An's head. "An, your aunt has to spend more time in bed because she has to take care of the babies in her tummy."

Staring at Shi Nuan's abdomen wide-eyed, Cheng An asked, "Really?"

She stepped forward and approached Shi Nuan. As soon as she reached her aunt's side, she held on to Shi Nuan's sleeve and requested, "Aunt Nuan, could you please squat down and show me your babies?"

Cheng An couldn't hold back her curiosity anymore. She had her eyes glued to Shi Nuan's abdomen as she exclaimed, "It's unbelievable! How did you stuff two babies in your belly? Are the babies the size of my fist?"

Immediately after she finished her sentence, the little girl raised her fist and compared it against her aunt's belly.

"You're right, An." Shi Nuan's heart melted because of her niece's innocent behavior. She couldn't help but wonder if her twins would turn out as cute as Cheng An.

"Since they're only the size of my fists as of now, I have to protect them and let them stay in my belly for the time being!"

"Oh! If that's the case, I'll stop teasing you. Aunt, can I sleep with you in the future? I'll try my best to protect your babies!" Cheng An blinked at Shi Nuan with her glistening pair of eyes. Shi Nuan couldn't bear to turn down her innocent niece's request. In the end, she pinched her niece's chubby cheek and said, "Sure! Thanks, An! The babies will definitely appreciate your effort!"

"Hehe! Aunt, are you hungry? Let's go grab something to eat!"

Holding Cheng An's hand as they made their way to the dining hall, Shi Nuan replied with a bright grin on her gorgeous face, "Sure!"

Fu Chengyan could only shake his head helplessly as he followed the duo.

Cheng An wasn't tall enough to reach the table, so Shi Nuan was about to carry her up. Fu Chengyan quickly got ahead of Shi Nuan and gave Cheng An a lift, placing her on the chair before his wife could even lean over. "An, your aunt gets exhausted easily these days because she has to take care of the babies. You have to look after your aunt in return, okay?"

"Yes, Sir! Consider it done!" Cheng An saluted Fu Chengyan as she enunciated her reply.

Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes and reprimanded her husband, "Excuse me? An is but a little girl! Why are you bringing up all these in front of her?"

Fu Chengyan smiled and took over the crockery from the servant. "I'm sure you're hungry, aren't you? Here's a bowl of congee Aunt Zhang has prepared for you. It has been cooked for several hours. I'm pretty sure you can easily digest the food."

Glaring at Fu Chengyan as he scooped a spoonful of congee and blew on it before handing it over, Shi Nuan snatched the bowl of congee and said, "I can finish my meal on my own! I'm pregnant, but not handicapped, okay?"

Her husband smiled and patted her head in return. He sighed and urged, "Hurry up and finish your meal!"

"Why are you sighing? By the way, why did you not wake me up from my sleep? Hang on... Are you the one who switched off my alarm? I slept until almost noon and was the last in this house to wake up today!"

"Is there anything wrong? You should stay in bed longer for the babies' sake!" Fu Chengyan rebuked his wife's statement to express his irritation.

Shi Nuan glared at him and reprimanded, "Oh! Are the babies the only ones you care about nowadays? What about me?"

Fu Chengyan stroked Shi Nuan's hair again. "What are you talking about? Take your time and enjoy your meal, okay? Once you're done, I'll bring you out for a walk."

"We're heading out for a walk? Where are we going?" Shi Nuan's eyes sparkled; she couldn't hold back her excitement anymore.

Fu Chengyan found his wife's reaction hilarious. "Why are you behaving as though you have been grounded against your will for some time?"

"Hasn't that been the case? Ever since we found out that I'm pregnant, everyone has been stopping me from doing all kinds of activities! I feel like a panda that's been confined to a zoo!"

"Huh? A panda? Where is it?" The moment Cheng An, who had been savoring her meal, heard her aunt's words, she raised her head and surveyed the surroundings. Hopping over to Shi Nuan's side, she requested, "Aunt, are you going to the zoo? Can you please bring me along with you?"

Shi Nuan was dumbfounded. By the time she returned to her senses, her niece was already holding on to her leg firmly. She turned around and noticed that her husband had burst into laughter.

It was the weekend and the entire family was at home. Fu Zhengyun, Fu Sheng, and Fu Heng were in the living room.

Fu Zhengyun was pumped up today. He had been in a great mood ever since the family butler told him that Fu Jiayu, who rarely stayed overnight, actually spent the last night in the Fu residence.

It had been some time since the Fu residence was so lively. Therefore, Old Master Fu woke up early in the morning and insisted that Fu Sheng and Fu Heng go for a walk with him. Fu Sheng and Fu Heng were by no means young, but age did not stop them from being dragged to the park against their will by their father.

By the time they returned home, the calculative Fu Zhengyun had his eyes glued to Shi Nuan. Oddly, he did not pick on her. He looked at Shi Nuan in a different manner. Eventually, he took a peek at those who were present in the house, including the trio in the dining room, and a bright grin grew on his face.

Others caught a glimpse of Fu Zhengyun's expression. They exchanged glances with each other in silence, tacitly aware of what was happening—the old man probably has no reason to keep picking on Shi Nuan!

In the past, he would definitely have ridiculed Shi Nuan for waking up so late. Today, despite her getting up at almost noon, he did not make any harsh remarks and instead cast a gentle gaze at her.

After they finished their meal, Fu Zhengyun stopped Fu Chengyan from bringing Shi Nuan out when he found out their agenda for the day.

Fu Zhengyun glared at Fu Chengyan.

"You don't usually get to spend your day idly, yet you're going out on your holiday? Shi Nuan is heavily pregnant with twins! You're not exhausted, but have you considered her feelings?"

Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan exchanged glances before they took a peek at her abdomen. Shi Nuan's lips twitched unwittingly because she thought Old Master Fu was being exaggerated. In fact, he seemed even more paranoid than Shi Nuan's two grandfathers.

"We're just going out for a walk and dropping by Shaoqing's place!" Fu Chengyan brought Shi Nuan over to the foyer of the residence as he spoke. He wrapped his arms around his wife's waist and brought her a pair of shoes.

"Does it hurt?" He asked after putting on the shoes for Shi Nuan.

She shook her head in return. Nonetheless, he told her, "If you're not feeling comfortable, you have to tell me! These shoes are custom-made for you. They are said to be very comfortable, but since I can't put them on, I don't know if that is true. So if your feet hurt, tell me and I'll remove them at once!"

"Okay!" Shi Nuan was rendered speechless by her husband's words.

All of a sudden, Fu Zhengyun showed up behind the duo. Shi Nuan got a shock and nudged her husband.

"What's wrong?" Fu Chengyan asked his wife before turning around. The moment he did so, he spotted Fu Zhengyun. Narrowing his eyes, Fu Chengyan asked, "What do you want?"

"Are you heading over to the hospital? Why? Is something wrong with Shi Nuan?" Fu Zhengyun asked in a serious manner.

Fu Chengyan was slightly irritated. He enunciated, "Everything is fine! We're just dropping by for a routine weekly checkup! I'll bring May back with me once we're done, okay?"

"Oh! Okay! Great!" Fu Zhengyun nodded and expressed his acknowledgment, but he stopped them again when they were about to head out. "Wait!"

"What is it again?" It was evident Fu Chengyan wasn't in the mood for another conversation. He checked on his watch and said, "We're running late!"

"Why didn't you head out earlier if you're aware you're running late?" Fu Zhengyun and Fu Chengyan glared at one another. In the end, Fu Zhengyun turned around and greeted Shi Nuan with a gentle smile, "Have you had your meal? If you have any cravings when you're out with this brat, get him to satisfy your cravings, okay?" Fu Zhengyun then called for his butler. "Where is the thing?"

"I'm coming!" The butler rushed down the stairs the moment he heard Fu Zhengyun's words. To be exact, he sprinted his way down and showed Fu Zhengyun a folder. "Here you go!"

Nodding, Fu Zhengyun instructed the butler, "Pass it to Young Mistress."

"Please take this, Young Mistress!" The butler handed over the folder to Shi Nuan as instructed.

Fu Chengyan, Shi Nuan, and everyone from the Fu clan were stunned; they couldn't believe Fu Zhengyun had acknowledged Shi Nuan as a member of the family for the first time ever.

Although Fu Zhengyun had stopped picking on Shi Nuan and started behaving courteously whenever he was around her, he had never once acknowledged her as a member of the family.

Shi Nuan was utterly dumbfounded. She took a peek at the folder the butler had handed to her and then shot a glance at her husband.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes, casting a skeptical gaze at the folder. Eventually, he smirked and placed his hand on her shoulder, replying in a low and gentle voice, "Since it's a gift from Grandpa, why don't you accept it? Aren't you supposed to express your gratitude in return?"

"E-Erm... T-Thanks, Grandpa!" Shi Nuan's mind was all over the place but she did everything as her husband instructed.

The moment she took over the folder, she gulped and expressed her gratitude once more. "Thank you, Grandpa!"

Fu Zhengyun responded with a bright grin. "Great! Take good care of this and consider it your pocket money from me! If this brat refuses to buy you the things you desire, feel free to reach out to me!"

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Shi Nuan turned around and stared at her husband, only to see his face clouding over. Nevertheless, he stuffed the card that had been handed over to Shi Nuan into her bag. "Since this is a gift from Grandpa, you should hold onto it. Even though I won't allow my wife to starve, I'm not against the idea if someone wishes to contribute to our family income!"

He turned around and looked at his grandfather in the eyes. "Grandpa, if you have so much disposable income, why don't you supplement us with a few more cards?"

"Y-You! Do you really think I don't have enough to supplement the entire family?" With this, Fu Zhengyun got into yet another fight with Fu Chengyan.

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrows, showing a scornful and provoking look as he challenged his grandfather.

Fu Zhengyun would never allow his grandson to get the better of him. The old man turned around and instructed his butler, "Head over to the study room and retrieve the things I have placed in my safe—"

"Grandpa!" Shi Nuan interrupted Fu Zhengyun before he could finish his sentence. She waved and said, "That won't be necessary! Actually, I don't spend much, since everything I

need is available. I don't have to pay for my own clothes, either! I really don't need that. What you have given me is already enough!"

Shi Nuan did not want this to go on, so she said, "We have to go now; otherwise, we'll be late for real!"

Immediately after she finished speaking, she glared at her husband.

"Yan, we have to leave, right?"

Fu Chengyan lowered his gaze helplessly because he couldn't possibly defy his beloved wife's words. He nodded and said, "You're right. We've got to go, or else we'll really be late. If there's anything you wish to hand over to Shi Nuan, feel free to pass it to her once we're back."

Thus, Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan were finally about to head out. At that moment, however, Cheng An rushed over and got in their way, holding onto Shi Nuan's leg. After she successfully stopped them from getting out the door, Cheng An moved over and held onto Fu Chengyan's leg instead. "Uncle, can you bring me along with you? I want to go out and have some fun with you and Aunt!"

Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan's hearts were about to melt again as the little girl started blinking her eyes after finishing her sentence.

Pursing her lips in a pitiable manner, Cheng An pleaded with the duo, "Pleeease?"

Shi Nuan couldn't

hold it anymore. Pinching the little girl's nose as she chuckled, Shi Nuan said, "Sure! But you have to behave yourself, okay?"

Cheng An returned to Shi Nuan's side after the latter gave in to her request. She held her hand and announced, "Okay! Hooray! Let's head out and have some fun together!"

In return, Shi Nuan cast a gentle gaze at the little girl. Before heading out, she assured Fu Jiayu, "Yan and I will head out for a walk. We'll be back soon."

"Sure!" Fu Jiayu wasn't against the idea, since her daughter had grown fond of Shi Nuan.

"An, you have to behave yourself and listen to your aunt, okay?"

"Okay, Mommy!" Cheng An nodded vigorously in return. She grabbed Shi Nuan's hand and dragged her out of the house as though she was afraid her mother would change her mind. "Aunt, let's go!"

Thus, Shi Nuan was brought out of the Fu residence by Cheng An. Fu Chengyan turned around and nodded before taking his leave. "Hey! Slow down!"

Fu Zhengyun stood at the entrance, staring at the trio's backs as tears engulfed his eyes. Meanwhile, Fu Jiayu, who had caught a glimpse of her grandfather's response, was equally touched because her grandfather rarely responded in such a manner.

"Why are you in a state of reverie? Hurry up and get going!"

"Grandpa, are you intending to hand over our family's shareholding to Shi Nuan?" Fu Jiayu broke the silence and asked out of the blue.

Fu Zhengyun's body stiffened the moment he heard his granddaughter's words. "Are you against the idea?"

She laughed in return and said, "I'm not against the idea, but I'm pretty sure Yan will be having a hard time soon."

"Hmph! Let's forget about that brat!" Fu Zhengyun replied in a scornful manner but he was delighted deep down. "Since Cheng Jing isn't around, why don't you stay here with Cheng An for the time being? It's not like we have no space for you two in this house. Even though you're a grown-up, you will always be my granddaughter!" Fu Zhengyun was speaking to Fu Jiayu, yet his eyes were locked on Song Zhenyan instead.

Fu Jiayu's eyes flickered. Subconsciously, she took a peek at Song Zhenyan. Looking a little embarrassed and stiff, Song Zhenyan sat upright and said, "Jiayu, your Aunt Ning has told me that Cheng Jing is quite occupied lately..."

As soon as Fu Chengyan walked out of the Fu Residence, he spotted Shi Nuan and Cheng An holding onto one another's hand. They were leaning against the car, waiting for him. Cheng An wouldn't stop staring at Shi Nuan's belly. "Aunt, are the babies really inside your tummy? This is amazing!"

“Yes.”

“Does that mean I used to stay in Mommy’s tummy when I was a baby?” Cheng An caressed Shi Nuan’s belly and asked curiously. “Aunt! The babies are moving!”

“You’re right, An. You used to stay in your mother’s tummy when you were a baby because she needed to protect you as well.” Shi Nuan ran her fingers through her adorable niece’s hair.

“Oh! If that’s the case, Mommy must love me so much!”

“You’re right, An. Babies are angels. Therefore, An is a little angel as well.”

“Really? If that’s the case, I have to love Mommy wholeheartedly!” Cheng An’s eyes flickered. Suddenly, she shrugged Shi Nuan’s hand away, folded her own little arms, and stood in front of Shi Nuan. Still staring at Shi Nuan’s protruding belly, Cheng An instructed, “Babies, you have to behave yourselves! Aunt is doing a great job protecting both of you!”

Fu Chengyan approached the duo with a gentle grin. He took Shi Nuan’s hand and said, “Let’s go.”

“I want to sit with Aunt at the back!”

“I want to sit with both of you as well!” Fu Chengyan then called the butler to get the chauffeur over.

The chauffeur of the Fu clan was none other than Aunt Zhang’s son, Zhang Sheng. The honest-looking man rushed over and greeted Fu Chengyan, “Young Master!”

“I’ll have you in charge of our trip today!” Fu Chengyan handed over the car key to Zhang Sheng and brought Cheng An into the car before returning to help Shi Nuan. “First, let’s drop by the hospital.”

“Actually, I’m not feeling unwell. Is it necessary for us to make a trip to the hospital every week?”

“We have to play safe!” Fu Chengyan had always been a detail-oriented man when it comes to his wife’s safety. Therefore, he had never once found it troublesome to go for a checkup.

He reached over and took Shi Nuan's hands on his lap. "Aren't you curious about the things Grandpa handed over to you?"

"Oh! Do you mean this?" Shi Nuan took out the folder from her bag and asked, "Didn't you say it's a card? Actually, I don't need it!"

Shi Nuan could almost figure out the content of the folder as she took it over from the butler previously. Ever since she was married to Fu Chengyan, he had always settled the bill on her behalf; therefore, she had no need to spend her own money.

Basically, Fu Chengyan would get his staff from Shengyuan to deliver the items she might need, including the latest outfits, shoes, and cosmetic items. In short, she had everything she needed, and her only task was to put the items to use.

Shi Nuan noticed ever since she was married to Fu Chengyan, she had not bought anything, because she did not have to procure her own items.

In fact, it had been some time since she used the money she had in her account. She only spent her own money while shopping with Song Rongrong and Su Yian, which rarely happened anyway.

Actually, Shi Nuan received her salary from Shengyuan as well as income from Ruyi Tea House on a monthly basis. Apart from the aforementioned, she would also be paid dividends from the Xinhuan shares she owned. In other words, she could be considered a wealthy woman as she had quite a lot of assets under her possession.

Fu Zhengyun did not give Shi Nuan the card to boost her wealth. Instead, it was a symbolic act—that she was now recognized as a member of the Fu clan. Therefore, she decided to accept it. After all, not everyone could receive such a precious gift from Fu Zhengyun. As Fu Chengyan's wife, it was crucial for her to be acknowledged by the seniors of the Fu family.

Shi Nuan fooled around with the card and noticed it was a black card. "Your grandfather is such an interesting man. Previously, he was always irritated by my presence and wanted to sow discord between us whenever he had the chance. He seems to have changed, huh?" She deliberately chuckled in a slightly vicious manner.

Fu Chengyan caressed Shi Nuan's hair and said, "This is a global limited-edition card."

"Huh?"

“Frankly, it’s a status symbol; no matter where you are, you can use this card.” Fu Chengyan smiled and asked once more, “Why did you turn him down when he told you he would give you something else he had been keeping in his safe?”

“What do you mean? I didn’t marry you for these materialistic things!” Shi Nuan stuck her tongue out and kept the card immediately. “He was going to get me another stack of cash or something like that, wasn’t he?”

“You’re such a silly woman! Do you have any idea of the things he has been keeping in his safe all along?” Fu Chengyan shook his head helplessly and pinched his wife’s nose once again. “Are you aware of the value of the things you have turned down?”

“Hey! Stop pinching my nose as you talk! What could I have missed out on? You’re my husband, aren’t you? Literally, we’re the collective owners of our assets!” Wrapping her arm around her husband’s arm, she turned around and stared at Cheng An as she raised her question, “Am I right, An?”

Cheng An was clueless about the adults’ conversation; nevertheless, she nodded excitedly in return. “Yes! You’re right, Aunt!”

“See? Even An sees eye to eye with me!” Shi Nuan stroked her niece’s hair gently.

Meanwhile, her husband sighed. He knew the things his grandfather had been keeping inside his safe.

Although they weren’t anything exotic, those items collectively represented the entire Fu clan’s assets. These items were meant to be handed over to the next head of the family. By offering them to Shi Nuan, Fu Zhengyun had made it clear that he wanted Fu Chengyan to become the next head of the family.

Fu Chengyan never longed for such things, but if they were given by Fu Zhengyun to Shi Nuan, he would gladly accept them.

On the other hand, it seemed as though his wife couldn’t be bothered by all this!

Finally, the car was brought to a halt in front of Su Shaoqing’s hospital. Fu Chengyan walked out of the car and entered the hospital, carrying Cheng An with one hand and holding Shi Nuan with the other.

It was a weekend and there were many people at the hospital. A gorgeous couple together with an adorable little girl stood out amongst the crowd.

As Fu Chengyan, Shi Nuan, and Cheng An made their way across the crowd, they managed to attract much attention. Onlookers soon started chattering among themselves upon seeing the three of them.

“Oh my! I have never encountered such a handsome man!”

“You’re right! The woman by his side is gorgeous as well!”

“How do you think they are related to one another?”

“Isn’t it obvious? They’re holding one another’s hand! The man is also carrying that adorable girl. They’re obviously a family of three. What a beautiful family!”

A few ladies gathered and engaged themselves in a round of heated discussion while a few onlookers snapped photos of Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan and proceeded to upload them on their social media accounts.

It’s unbelievable! I can’t believe I ran into such a gorgeous-looking couple! It’s too bad that they are no longer single; they even have a cute daughter!