

I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 496

Jiang Yu glared viciously at Shi Nuan. "Shi Nuan, the Shi family has always treated you well and gave you whatever you wanted. Now that you are reunited with your biological parents, how can you abandon us and leave in good conscience? What's the meaning of your actions? Aren't you just being ungrateful?"

Jiang Yu continued to berate Shi Nuan, "Zheng and I raised you and gave you everything that we gave Wei. Even when you were sick, it was I that took you to the hospital. Or have you forgotten about that too?"

Shi Nuan looked up and saw Jiang Yu furiously pointing a finger at her as if she had made a terrible mistake. Despite the ferocity of Jiang Yu's glare, Shi Nuan remained calm while looking back at her.

Before this, what hurt her the most wasn't the fact that her biological parents abandoned her. She didn't even know they existed anyway. All she could remember was how Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng treated her. In her heart, they were her real parents.

However, they had always been biased toward Shi Wei and never cared for her. That's right. When I was sick, it was indeed Jiang Yu who sent me to the hospital. However, has she forgotten how I got sick in the first place? It was snowing heavily then. Taking advantage of the fact that Shi Yunsheng wasn't at home, Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng brought Shi Wei out for a meal and left Shi Nuan outside the house in the cold alone. With no one to let her back in, she huddled in the freezing cold for many hours.

The next day, she had a high fever that just wouldn't subside. Worried that she might take a turn for the worse, Jiang Yu sent her to the hospital.

Shi Nuan looked at Jiang Yu calmly. Once upon a time, she had put all her hopes on Jiang Yu. In fact, she even thought that the reason why Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng resented her was because she wasn't a good enough daughter. However, despite doing her best to be good, she had never been able to win Jiang Yu's affection.

If it weren't for Shi Yunsheng and Jiang Shizheng, Shi Nuan would have thought that familial concern was a myth.

Ironically, Jiang Yu was now talking about how caring she and Shi Jingzheng were to her.

Her experience was so traumatic that she couldn't be bothered to provide them with a reaction. All she did was stare at them calmly before letting out a smirk. "I will always remember the care you have shown towards me my whole life. If there's anything you would like my help with in the future, please don't hesitate to let me know."

"You..."

Shi Nuan smiled faintly. "Just like when Wei fancied my boyfriend. Didn't I give him up immediately?"

"Shi Nuan, you..."

"I will accept whatever request you make of me, except this time, I don't intend to divorce my husband."

Jiang Yu was rendered speechless.

Meanwhile, Fu Chengyan snorted softly and tousled Shi Nuan's hair. "Let's eat!"

As Jiang Yu's expression darkened, she subconsciously looked at Su Huaibei before glancing at Fu Chengyan.

From the moment they arrived, Su Huaibei's attention was focused on Shi Nuan. His affection for her was obviously real. As for Fu Chengyan, he didn't have much to say ever since he entered the house. However, his commanding presence emanated throughout the dining hall still.

When Jiang Yu was berating Shi Nuan a moment ago, Fu Chengyan emitted a frosty vibe while his gaze blazed with murderous intent. Jiang Yu didn't notice it but Shi Jingzheng did.

Hence, he quickly tugged Jiang Yu's hand to signal her to sit. "Come let's eat!" Shi Jingzheng served Jiang Yu some food and whispered, "You should shut up!"

Although she relented by taking her seat, she was still overwhelmed by frustration.

Initially, she had planned to rely on Shi Nuan's relationship with Fu Chengyan to seek his help for both the Shi family and Shi Wei. However, she was blindsided by the presence of Su Huaibei, especially when talk of Shi Nuan returning to the Su family surfaced.

There was no way she was going to agree. If Shi Nuan really changed her surname and returned to the Su family's fold, the Shi family would stand to lose all their potential benefits. After all, they did take care of Shi Nuan for many years. Even if she returned to the Su family, she still owed them a lot and they intended to collect.

Su Huaibei was aware of Jiang Yu's intention. He put down his chopsticks. "I understand how presumptuous this is but Nuan will definitely return to the Su family. If both of you have any requests, I will fulfill them to the best of my abilities."

"Hmph, aren't you being too full of yourself?" Jiang Yu poured scorn on him.

Shi Nuan's face darkened immediately. "What do you want then?"

"I heard about the project at Aureate Jade..." Despite not knowing much about business affairs, Jiang Yu had discussed with Shi Jingzheng about what to ask for yesterday after they heard that Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan were coming.

Since they were presented with the opportunity today, Jiang Yu greedily made her demands.

Despite not showing it on her face, Shi Nuan was further disgusted by Jiang Yu's behavior the moment she heard her demands.

Shi Nuan knew that Jiang Yu had an agenda when she protested against her return to the Su family. After all, their familial relationship was as good as non-existent. True to her expectations, Jiang Yu's target wasn't Su Huaibei. Instead, it was a project that belonged to the Shengyuan Group.

The Shengyuan Group was among the largest companies in Z Nation, let alone Jiang City. A single joint venture with Shengyuan Group alone was the equivalent of a year's revenue for Huancheng or even that of a few years combined.

Shi Nuan had previously monitored the Aureate Jade project and knew it was worth tens of billions. Both Shengyuan and Prosperous Group were the main investors in the project together with the Jiang family from Sheen City. It was a massive endeavor by all of them. Huancheng was just a small company, hence it was extremely difficult for them to participate.

Shi Jingzheng long had his eyes on the project but he couldn't even meet the bidding requirements. As such, he could only turn his attention towards Shi Nuan.

After all, the project was managed by Shengyuan. As long as Shi Nuan said the word, Fu Chengyan would definitely agree.

Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu thought that they had a wonderful plan. Without doing anything, they wanted to take over such a huge project. It was a wonder that they even had the cheek to ask for it.

Just when Jiang Yu finished, the dining hall fell into silence as no one uttered a word.

Shi Jingzheng waited for Fu Chengyan to respond while Jiang Yu looked eagerly at him.

Shi Nuan suddenly burst into laughter. "What Aureate Jade? Mom, since when did you start doing business? What project are you involved in? Do you think it's just like the stocks that you and your rich housewife friends buy?"

"You..." Jiang Yu didn't expect Shi Nuan to blatantly lie. "Shi Nuan, stop playing dumb. I'll be frank with you. The Shi family has raised you, so don't think you can abandon us just because you found a better home in the Su family. It's fine if you want to join them, but you must pay back the twenty-odd years of care that we have showered you. Once you have done that, we will gladly be rid of you."

"How can you speak like that?" Shi Yunsheng slammed the table in anger. "Jiang Yu, are you the head of the household, or am I?"

"Dad, I think age is clouding your judgment so it's better if you don't head it anymore. After all, you're already old. Isn't it time you hand the Shi family over to Zheng?"

"You..."

"Hah!" Fu Chengyan suddenly laughed aloud. Raising his hands, he adjusted his cufflinks.

Meanwhile, Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng waited with bated breath. They knew it didn't matter what anyone else said. As long as Fu Chengyan said the word, anything could be resolved.

Fu Chengyan glanced towards Shi Nuan and beamed at her. After that, he turned his attention toward Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu.

"What Shi Wei is enjoying at Xinhuang is all due to her being Shi Nuan's sister. Xinhuang will provide Shi Wei the best prospects and resources for the next five years." Although his deep

and crisp voice wasn't loud, it was still filled with gravitas. "Xinhuang has spent tens of millions on Shi Wei during this time. May I know if you have even spent one million on May over the last twenty years?"

"You... How can you compare it like that? The debt owed for raising a child is priceless!"

"Oh? Do you want me to present Shengyuan or the Fu clan itself to you as repayment then?"
Fu Chengyan gave Jiang Yu the side-eye.

Despite him being seated, Fu Chengyan's commanding presence simply couldn't be ignored.

Although he was their junior in terms of familial hierarchy, Jiang Yu still cringed in fear when confronted by Fu Chengyan. Even Shi Jingzheng felt intimidated by Fu Chengyan's domineering pressure, let alone Jiang Yu.

Fu Chengyan smiled faintly. "I promise that in five years, Shi Wei will become a star, this was what I promised May when we first got married.

"How can that be? Wasn't Fu Xicheng the one..."

"Haha, do you think that Fu Xicheng is capable of convincing me to groom and promote Shi Wei?" With one hand on the table, Fu Chengyan's held Shi Nuan's hand with his other. Supported by her thigh, he gently pinched her wrist.

"Mr. and Mrs. Shi, is there anything else that you're not satisfied with?"

"If Shi Wei wasn't May's sister, Xinhuang wouldn't have signed her on and also helped suppress the scandals related to her."

Jiang Yu's face turned pale and she clenched her fists in anger.

She had previously assumed her daughter was capable and didn't expect that it was due to her being Shi Nuan's sister that she was able to rise to stardom. The truth was too difficult for Jiang Yu to accept.

She had been living under Jiang Yuan's shadow her whole life and was always worried that Jiang Shizheng would abandon her because she wasn't his biological daughter. Hence, she always made sure she did her very best. However, the one she loved was stolen by Jiang

Yuan in the end. Furthermore, her own daughter ended up following in her footsteps unwittingly. Shi Wei was being outshined by Shi Nuan at every opportunity.

“Of course, if Mr. and Mrs. Shi insist on taking over the Aureate Jade project, I can still make it happen. Logically speaking, I won’t reject any capable partners who are interested to bid for the project. However, I must remind you that the Aureate Jade project is a massive undertaking and wouldn’t be making any money in the short term. Hence, you have to consider if you have deep enough pockets to stomach the losses in the beginning.”

Shi Jingzheng turned pale at Fu Chengyan’s words. “You...” How does he know so much? Huancheng has been trying to reinvent itself in recent years. Despite not making any visible progress, Shi Jingzheng was still proud of what he did. However, after Fu Chengyan’s remarks, Shi Jingzheng felt that he had just been humiliated.

“Huancheng is going through a restructuring and just lacks an opportunity.”

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Fu Chengyan smiled faintly in response, his expression clearly showed that he had a different view of the matter.

“I’m sure you have a better picture than me of what the actual situation is. As long as Huancheng is capable enough, I am willing to accept it.” Fu Chengyan gently leaned forward on the dining table. “Business is business. I hope you understand that.”

After having someone younger point out his weakness, Shi Jingzheng felt humiliated and dared not continue the topic. However, Jiang Yu lost her temper. “As of now, Shi Nuan is still a member of the Shi family and you are her husband, which meant that you’re our son-in-law. So what’s wrong with helping out your parents-in-law?”

Fu Chengyan’s expression turned foul instantly. Jiang Yu’s words had obviously crossed his threshold.

“Mrs. Shi, are you negotiating business with me, or are you selling your daughter? If that’s the case, I can negotiate with you but you only have one chance. Once you have used it, the Shi family will no longer have any other opportunities, including that of your daughter.”

"Are you threatening me?" Jiang Yu clenched her fists. "You talk as if you have been very good to Shi Nuan when in reality, you're not even willing to fork out any money on her behalf!"

"Shut up!" Shi Yunsheng was utterly infuriated by Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng. "Both of you are a disgrace! Get out of here and go to your room, now!"

"Dad!" Jiang Yu looked at Shi Yunsheng in disbelief. "Don't you see how they are humiliating us? We are the ones that brought up Shi Nuan..."

"Did you raise her?" Shi Yunsheng stared at Jiang Yu with the corner of his eye. "I was the one who raised and watched her grow up. What has it got anything to do with you? I didn't even say anything so what makes you think you have the right to speak? Zheng, get this disgraceful piece of trash out of my sight!"

Shi Jingzheng seethed but stood up nonetheless. "Yes, father!" He then dragged Jiang Yu upstairs. However, Jiang Yu was defiant and continued to kick and scream. "Shi Nuan, you ungrateful girl. If you still remember that we were the ones who raised you, you would give the Aureate Jade project to your father. Or else, I will tell the whole world about your past. You ingrate! Mhmm!"

At that moment, Shi Jingzheng had no choice but to cover her mouth. "That's enough, we're going upstairs now!"

With that, the dining hall returned to silence.

Shi Yunsheng massaged his temples in exhaustion. "Nuan, I hope you don't mind. They..."

"Don't worry, Granddad, I'm used to it." Since Shi Nuan was young, Jiang Yu had always been saying nasty things.

She didn't understand then and thought that the problem lay with her. Now, she knew the truth. There were some people who would always resent her despite what she did and how hard she tried. That was Jiang Yu's attitude toward her and it didn't surprise her at all.

"No matter what, I failed in my duty to take care of you and allowed you to suffer so much throughout the years." Shi Yunsheng remarked with his tone filled with regret.

Shi Nuan quickly reassured him. "Granddad, it's not your fault! You have treated me as if I was your own granddaughter. I'm well aware of what you have done for me, so you shouldn't blame yourself."

Shi Yunsheng sighed out loud. "I think it's good that you return to the Su family. As long as they treat you well, my mind will be put at ease. I feel terrible about how your parents acted. It's my fault for not educating them better."

"Granddad, don't say that."

"You're a good girl, so remember to behave when you're with the Su family, alright? Next time, don't come back here. Whenever I miss you, I'll go look for you instead." The Shi family had lots of problems and both Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng would never let Shi Nuan off easily. In truth, this was the main reason why Shi Yunsheng insisted that Shi Nuan changed her surname.

As long as Shi Nuan was an official member of the Shi family, she would never be free of Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng. As Shi Yunsheng was old now, he didn't know how long more he still had and he no longer had the energy to protect her. Hence, it was better to hand her over to be watched over by someone else.

"Su Huaibei, since you have made a promise, you must treat Shi Nuan well."

"Old Mr. Shi, don't worry. Shi Nuan is my daughter, I will definitely be good to her." Despite disliking Jiang Yu and the others, Su Huaibei was very much appreciative of Shi Yunsheng's attitude.

Shi Yunsheng nodded and shifted his glance to Fu Chengyan, "Yan, I know that the Fu clan has high standards and that your family disapproves of her. However, Shi Nuan is a good girl and I believe the Fu clan will see for themselves how wonderful she is. Until that happens, you have to carry out your duty as a husband to love and care for her."

"Granddad, don't worry." Fu Chengyan held up Shi Nuan's hand and placed it in his palm. "My love for Shi Nuan will never waver."

Shi Yunsheng nodded gently. "I'm already advanced in my years and no longer have much to ask for. My only regret is that I'm still waiting for the chance to attend your wedding." Just as he spoke, Shi Yunsheng looked at Shi Nuan's tummy. "And also, to see these two babies."

"Granddad, you'll be able to see them soon." Shi Nuan reached out to hold Shi Yunsheng's hand. "Three months have already passed. Six more months and you will be able to see your great-grandchildren."

After sending Shi Nuan and the others off, Shi Yunsheng called for the butler with a gloomy expression. "Where are Zheng and Jiang Yu?"

"They are upstairs, Old Master."

"Tell them to see me in the study." Supporting himself with his walking stick, Shi Yunsheng headed to his study room.

Earlier, when Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu headed upstairs, Jiang Yu's anger had yet to subside. The moment she entered her room and closed the door, she started smashing everything around her. "Shi Jingzheng, look at how biased your dad is..."

"Shut up!" Shi Jingzheng too was angry. But Jiang Yu's inability to see the bigger picture infuriated him further. "What are you making such a big fuss for? Didn't you see how many people are present? Don't you know who Fu Chengyan is? How dare you scream at him? Are you trying to get yourself killed?"

"Why are you so afraid of him? No matter how smart he is, we are still his elders. How did that stupid Shi Nuan manage to snag him for herself?" That thought alone angered her further. "Tell me, what right does she have? Even her face isn't as pretty as Wei's, so is there anything for her to be proud of?"

"Anything for her to be proud of? She has married well. I think you're being so worked up because you saw Su Huaibei!" Shi Jingzheng glared at Jiang Yu coldly. The moment Jiang Yu heard his words, however, she raved hysterically. "Shi Jingzheng, what did you just say? I dare you to repeat it!"

Knock, knock. There was a knock on the door followed by the butler's voice. "Master, Old Master wants to see both of you in his study."

At that, Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu exchanged glances, they couldn't help but frown. Jiang Yu asked, "Why does your dad want to see us for?"

"How should I know?" Despite his frustration, Shi Jingzheng agreed. "Alright. We will go over immediately."

As Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu entered the study, Shi Yunsheng greeted them with a snort. "Have you finished arguing?"

"Dad, what happened to you today? Su Huaibei was obviously taking advantage of our family. No matter what, we did raise Shi Nuan in our home. And now, how can we allow him to take her away just like that?"

"What do you plan to do then?" Shi Yunsheng scoffed. "Don't think that I'm unaware of what your intention is. Let me remind you that I am the one who raised Shi Nuan. So don't try and take advantage of her, do you understand?"

"Dad, you can't say that. Shi Nuan is still officially a member of our family before she changes her name. To be honest, if we don't agree, there's nothing they can do despite how resourceful Su Huaibei or the Su family are. They can't just take her away by force, can they? We have raised her on their behalf for so long so we definitely must be compensated for our efforts!" Jiang Yu couldn't help but interrupt, "Look at how rich the Su family and Fu clan are, we..."

"At the end of the day, you're only doing this for yourselves and not for Nuan's sake. I'm not in the business of selling my grandchildren for money. So, there's no room for discussion. The reason I called both of you here is to tell you to hand over the household register."

Jiang Yu fumed immediately, "Dad, are you crazy? Do you really plan to let Shi Nuan change her surname without getting anything in return? There's no such thing as a free lunch. We must definitely squeeze the Su family for something in return."

"Enough. It appears the only thing important to you is money. Give me your household registers. I'm going to take Nuan to change her surname tomorrow." Shi Yunsheng knew that Jiang Yu was greedy, but her greed still exceeded his expectations. "Give them to me now!"

"Dad..."

"Zheng, go get them for me."

"I dare you!" Jiang Yu was enraged. "Old Master, I think you're really biased. Shi Nuan isn't mine nor Zheng's daughter. You don't even treat Wei that well and yet you're so nice to Shi Nuan. Is it because of her maternal grandmother?"

"You wretch! How dare you say something like that!" Shi Yunsheng was so angry that he swung his walking stick at her. However, Jiang Yu managed to evade in time and hid behind Shi Jingzheng. "Dad, I think you're being angry because you're too embarrassed to admit it. Haha, I know I'm not a biological daughter of the Jiang family. I'm not her daughter but Jiang Yuan is and Shi Nuan is Jiang Yuan's daughter. That's why you love her more than your own granddaughter. You love her so much that you even gave the shares in Huancheng to Shi Nuan. That shows how biased you are."

"Zhe... Zheng! drag this unruly woman out of my sight!"

"Old Master, are you alright?" After Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu left, the butler came in to support Shi Yunsheng. "Please calm down."

"I'm fine, I'm fine." Shi Yunsheng shook his head and sighed. "What a bunch of bull-headed fools."

"Old Master, there's no way their characters can change." The butler was also one of the elderly men at home and was used to seeing all these. "Hence, there's no point in being angry at them."

"You don't understand. My time is limited and all I hope for is for them to live happily together. But look at how useless they are. If I died suddenly, tell me what is going to happen to them?"

Shi Yunsheng shook his head, sighing as he muttered, "Do they think that I only care about Nuan?"

"Master will understand in due time."

"Forget it!" Shi Yunsheng shook his head in disappointment. "I no longer hope that he can expand Huancheng. I'm happy enough just as long as he can maintain it." In truth, he was more worried about Fu Yuqing's ambitions toward the company.

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"I don't care. I won't give in that easily." Jiang Yu was still fuming when they returned to their room. She looked at Shi Jingzheng and sneered, "Are you satisfied with this kind of outcome?"

Shi Jingzheng glared at her. "What are you planning to do then?"

"Hmph! After doing so much work, how dare he not give us anything. Have you forgotten that Dad gave his shares in Huancheng to Shi Nuan? When he decided that, she was still a member of the Shi family. But now that she has changed her surname, she is no longer one of us. What right does she have to own Huancheng's shares?"

Shi Jingzheng recalled the matter now that Jiang Yu had brought it up. "That's right. Old Master Shi did give the shares to Shi Nuan." At that time, he had objected but could do nothing to change his father's mind.

After all, Shi Jingzheng respected his father a lot and wouldn't have clashed with his father over something like that. However, he realized that Jiang Yu was right. Now that Shi Nuan wasn't a member of the Shi family, she no longer deserved to own the shares in Huancheng.

"What do you plan to do?"

"Since they want the household registers, fine. Just give us back the shares then." Jiang Yu was adamant in her decision. "Tell your father that you will be the one to meet Shi Nuan tomorrow to change her surname. By that time, we will decide what happens."

Shi Jingzheng nodded. "You're right. Let's go with your plan then."

Shi Nuan's phone rang incessantly since early morning. As she was sound asleep, it woke Fu Chengyan up instead. When he saw the caller ID, his eyes narrowed. "Hello?"

"Nuan... huh? You are?"

"I'm Fu Chengyan." When he heard Fu Chengyan's deep voice, the man on the other line was stunned briefly. He continued, "Yan, it's Shi Jingzheng. I..."

"Oh, so it's Mr. Shi." Fu Chengyan chuckled. "Mr. Shi, may I know why are you calling so early in the morning?"

Fu Chengyan's voice became frosty immediately. When Shi Jingzheng heard Fu Chengyan address him as Mr. Shi, his gaze turned awkward. However, he feigned ignorance and continued, "Erm... is Nuan awake? Can you let me speak to her?"

Fu Chengyan glanced at Shi Nuan who was still sound asleep and replied, "No, but it's the same if you tell me whatever you planned to say to her."

"Well..."

"Yes? Is it something that I'm not supposed to know?"

"No, no, I don't mean that." Shi Jingzheng didn't dare make any demands in front of Fu Chengyan. He quickly changed his tact. "Well, Nuan wants to return to the Su family, right? My Dad has asked me to accompany Nuan to get her name changed. It relates to the household register, and Nuan's household register is still with us."

Fu Chengyan squinted his eyes, "Is that so?"

"Yes. Yan, can you check when Nuan is free? Ask her... erm, what I mean is that since Nuan is no longer a member of the Shi family, therefore..."

"Therefore what?" Fu Chengyan knew that Shi Jingzheng definitely had an ulterior motive for calling.

He likely didn't expect me to be the one to pick up. Hence, he is stuttering in panic.

"Actually Mr. Shi, there's no need for the trouble. When we visited yesterday, May's main purpose was to pay respect to her Granddad. With regards to the change in surname, you don't have to trouble yourself with it."

"Hold on now, what do you mean?" Shi Jingzheng understood what Fu Chengyan meant. "But Nuan's household register is still with us. How can..."

"Mr. Shi, don't you have any confidence in my capabilities by now? I married May without your permission, do you think I need your household register to change her surname?" Fu Chengyan smiled faintly. His smile resembled that of a smirk than a smile.

Using his hands to lift up the blanket, he proceeded to cover Shi Nuan properly. After that, he headed to the balcony and watched what was going on downstairs.

Old Master Fu was playing chess with Su Huaibei. Su Huaibei had arrived very early, likely with the intention of changing Shi Nuan's name.

Su Huaibei saw Fu Chengyan from below and nodded to greet him.

Fu Chengyan nodded back and shifted his gaze away. Tapping his fingers on the balcony railing, he remarked, "Well, that's all for now, I got to go."

"Hello, hello..." Before Shi Jingzheng could even reply, Fu Chengyan had ended the call.

"How did it go?"

Jiang Yu approached and saw Shi Jingzheng's shaken expression. "Did Shi Nuan give you a hard time?"

"That damn wretch, did she disagree?" Jiang Yu gritted her teeth. "Come, let's go see her. If she doesn't agree, we won't allow her to change her surname."

"Enough, it wasn't her that answered!" Shi Jingzheng was in a foul mood. "In fact, I didn't get to speak to her at all."

"Then why are you so angry?"

"It was Fu Chengyan that answered," Shi Jingzheng grumbled. "He was so cocky that I didn't even have the opportunity to tell him. He told me that they came yesterday just to inform us about it and weren't asking for our consent. In fact, he said that he didn't even need our household register. He..."

"What?" Jiang Yu couldn't help but shriek. "Is he going to cut ties with us just like that?"

Shi Jingzheng scratched his head in frustration. "Enough, and lower your voice. If Dad hears about this, it will only make things more difficult. I think we should just meet with Shi Nuan discreetly about this. We must take back the shares."

Meanwhile, Shi Wei was standing outside. When she heard Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu's conversation, her eyes glistened with hatred.

I have almost forgotten that Granddad had given his shares in Huancheng to that despicable woman.

Since she's no longer a member of the Shi family, why does she deserve to own part of the family's assets? Even if Mom and Dad won't see her, I will.

At that moment, Shi Nuan was still sound asleep and was oblivious to the gathering storm over the matters involving her.

After washing up, Fu Chengyan headed downstairs. Fu Zhengyun and Su Huaibei had finished a few games of chess by then. When he saw Fu Chengyan, Fu Zhengyun snorted with displeasure. "You really lack discipline. You're no longer a child and yet still wake up so late."

"He's still young!" Su Huaibei smiled as he didn't mind it at all. "Now that Nuan is pregnant, it's good that Yan spends more time by her side."

"Hmph!" Fu Zhengyun snorted again. However, he began to let out a smile at the mere mention of Shi Nuan. After that, he glanced at Fu Chengyan who was approaching them. "Where's Nuan?"

"She's still asleep."

Fu Zhengyun nodded. "Pregnant women do need more sleep as it's good for their health. Tell Aunt Zhang to boil some herbal soup for her later. I saw that she wasn't looking too good when you returned last night." Just as he spoke, he suddenly recalled something. "Did the Shi family make things difficult for Nuan?"

"No!"

"That's good!" While Fu Zhengyun continued with his game of chess, the tea he prepared came to a boil. When he saw Fu Chengyan fumbling around with it, he couldn't help but frown. "Look at how terrible you are at this, you're still a far cry from Nuan."

Just as Fu Chengyan was about to serve tea, he suddenly paused as he found the comment amusing. "Since when did May prepare tea for you?"

"Of course she did, the last time..." Just as Fu Zhengyun began to speak, he stopped abruptly. He snorted again, "Don't think I'm oblivious to what you're doing. Are you trying to chide me in front of your father-in-law?"

During that time, Fu Zhengyun disapproved of Shi Nuan and now he was being made to eat his words.

However, Fu Zhengyun had a straightforward character. Since he had made a mistake, he admitted to it.

While Fu Chengyan handed Fu Zhengyun and Su Huaibei their teacups, he remarked, "With regards to changing Shi Nuan's surname, I'll get someone to take care of it."

Su Huaibei was surprised to hear it. "But Nuan's household register is still tied to the Shi family, so we need to inform them first. Old Mr. Shi still hasn't given his permission."

Fu Chengyan sneered in response, "Shi Jingzheng gave Nuan a call this morning."

"Oh?" Fu Zhengyun's interest was piqued. "What did he say? I don't think he is going to give up the household register just like that, is he?"

Fu Chengyan nodded. "From what I can gather, he wants something in return for consenting to May changing her surname."

"Does he still want the Aureate Jade project?" Su Huaibei asked with a frown. "Why don't you let the Su family handle this. After all, Nuan is now one of us and all this started because of me."

"There's no need for that as they no longer want the Aureate Jade project." Fu Chengyan squinted his eyes. Just when he recalled something, his eyes flashed in epiphany. "This is but a trivial matter, I'll handle it myself."

Su Huaibei nodded. "It's good to hear that it's not going to be difficult. If you encounter any problems, please let me know." Although he wasn't as influential in Jiang City, the Su family was still well respected there.

Fu Chengyan nodded. "Changing her surname isn't something troublesome."

By the time Shi Nuan awoke, it was already late morning. When she reached out her hand to feel the bed beside her, she noticed it was cold to the touch. Regaining her senses, she opened her eyes suddenly and was greeted by a small face blinking at her up close.

Just when Shi Nuan recoiled in surprise, she heard Cheng An clapped and cried out. "Aunt Nuan is awake! Aunt Nuan's a lazy bum. Even when the sun is shining on her bum, she still wants to laze in bed."

Shi Nuan hugged her pillow as she got up in a grouchy mood. "An, stop yelling!"

"Nenenenene!" Cheng An stuck out her tongue. "Can't stop, won't stop!"

"You naughty girl!" Shi Nuan jumped out of bed but was caught at the waist by a pair of large hands. Turning around and blinking, she put her arms around Fu Chengyan's waist. "Where did you come out from?"

Fu Chengyan couldn't help but chuckle as he poked Shi Nuan's forehead with his finger. "I've been beside you all this while, didn't you see me?"

"No." Shi Nuan couldn't help but stuck out her tongue too. "What time is it?"

"Eleven."

"What! It's already so late!" Shi Nuan exclaimed suddenly. "Why didn't you wake me up? I've overslept again." Shi Nuan covered her mouth. "Oh my God! My reputation! How am I to face the world now?"

"Stop exaggerating!" Fu Chengyan peeled her hands off her mouth. He then swept her off her feet and carried her into the bathroom. "Wash your face. He's already here."

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When Fu Chengyan was about to carry Shi Nuan downstairs, she insisted on walking by herself. However, Fu Chengyan was adamant about it. Left without a choice, Shi Nuan

covered her head and grumbled in her heart. She felt as if she was no different from a cripple. Fu Chengyan tugged at her hand helplessly. "Fine, I'll put you down in a while."

Coincidentally, Su Huaibei and Fu Zhengyun walked in from the garden and saw them acting all lovey-dovey. Su Huaibei smiled at the sight of it. "Nuan!"

Shi Nuan's face froze momentarily but she quickly broke into a grin. "You're here!"

Despite not greeting him as her Dad yet, Shi Nuan's response was more than enough to keep Su Huaibei happy. Su Huaibei nodded with a smile. "I'm here to see you and also discuss with Yan about the matter of changing your surname."

Shi Nuan couldn't help but frown. "Must I change it?" She looked at Su Huaibei and Fu Chengyan the moment she asked.

"It doesn't matter if you don't want to change it," Su Huaibei quickly added. "I respect your opinion."

Fu Chengyan shook his head instead. "You have to." To him, it was a must. "I'll take care of the matter, so don't worry about it."

"But..." Shi Nuan wasn't particularly stubborn, it was just that it didn't matter much to her what her surname was. Furthermore, Shi Yunsheng had always treated her very well. Hence, she didn't want him to feel upset.

"Have you forgotten what Granddad said?" Fu Chengyan gently stroke her head. "Hmm? The Shi family shares that you own. Have you forgotten about them?" Fu Chengyan leaned in to whisper into Shi Nuan's ear.

Realization dawned on Shi Nuan. "Yes! Now that you reminded me of it." No wonder Shi Yunsheng insisted on her changing her name yesterday. She now understood why. "But, aren't the shares with you now?"

"Silly gal. Only you know that, but they don't." Fu Chengyan pinched her nose in amusement. "Anyway, don't worry about it. Are you hungry? Let's go have lunch."

"Sure!"

Su Huaibei and Fu Zhengyun exchanged glances and nodded to each other in satisfaction.

In the afternoon, Fu Chengyan went out to deal with something while Shi Nuan stayed home and played with Cheng An. As Cheng Jing was always working outstation, Fu Jiayu and Cheng An had moved in with them. The Fu residence became livelier as a result.

Just when Shi Nuan and Cheng An were playing a spelling game. Her phone unexpectedly rang. The servant rushed into the room with her phone. "Young Mistress, your phone is ringing."

"Pass it to me." Shi Nuan reached out and stroked Cheng An's head. "An, go play by yourself for a while. I have a phone call to take."

"Okay!" Cheng An nodded. "Come back quickly."

"Alright!" As Shi Nuan stood up, she was surprised to see that it was Shi Wei that called. "Hello?"

"Shi Nuan, let's meet outside."

Shi Nuan squinted her eyes. "Ms. Shi, what do you want to see me for?"

"How long has it been and you're already acting so distant? We have been sisters for more than twenty years, haven't we?" When Shi Wei heard how Shi Nuan addressed her, she couldn't help but grit her teeth. "Shi Nuan, don't you forget, even if you changed your surname, it was the Shi family that raised you. You..."

"Just get to the point, what do you want?" Shi Nuan couldn't be bothered to hear the same old speech again. "It's best if you can just tell me over the phone."

"Shi Nuan, don't forget that you haven't changed your surname, and your household register is still tied to the Shi family," Shi Wei gleefully declared. "How about it? Let's make a deal."

A deal? Shi Nuan narrowed her eyes and quickly understood what Shi Wei's intention was.

"The household register is with my mom. I will hand it over to you but in return, you must give me the shares you have in Huancheng."

"Ms. Shi, you seem to have your plans all laid out well." Shi Nuan knew that Shi Wei wouldn't do her any favors without an ulterior motive. However, she didn't expect her to also be after the shares. "What if I don't want to give them to you?"

"Then you can forget about changing your surname. As long as your household register is here, you will still be officially designated as a member of the Shi family. Haha, Shi Nuan, I think you would prefer not to have anything to do with us. As long as you're a member of the Shi family, we will be relatives of the Fu clan. I'm sure the Su family will not be happy about that."

Shi Nuan couldn't deny that Shi Wei had her plan well thought out. However, she probably overestimated herself and underestimated the capabilities of both Fu Chengyan and the Su family. Something as trivial as this was likely not going to be much of a problem for Fu Chengyan. That being said, Shi Nuan was curious as to where Shi Wei got the courage to dare come and negotiate with her.

"Hmm, it will depend on whether you can reach them in the first place."

"What do you mean? Shi Nuan, I tried being nice. So don't force me to be nasty." Shi Wei changed her tone immediately. "Do you really not want to change your surname?"

"I don't think you have to worry about that on my behalf. If there's nothing else, I don't think we have anything more to talk about." With that, Shi Nuan was about to end the call. However, Shi Wei quickly stopped her, "Shi Nuan, don't you want to know why you were left by the beach when you were a teenager?"

Shi Nuan's hand paused. "What did you say?"

When Shi Wei heard her reaction, she knew she had an opening. "When you were a teenager, you suddenly disappeared. After that, you were found by the beach with your clothes in a mess. Do you still remember that?"

Her words sent a shiver down Shi Nuan's spine. Tightening her grip on the phone, her gaze darkened while her breathing gradually became heavier.

It was obvious to Shi Wei that Shi Nuan had taken the bait. She continued, "After that, the Shi family spent a lot of money to cover it up. Perhaps you may have forgotten about it but Shi Nuan, you were left on the beach naked. Aren't you curious about what happened?"

"Was it you? Did you do it?" Shi Nuan's tone sharpened so suddenly that even Cheng An and Fu Jiayu were shocked. They couldn't help but look at Shi Nuan.

Shi Nuan too realized that she had overreacted and took a deep breath to calm herself. "Shi Wei, was it you that did it?"

"Haha, I still have the pictures from then. Do you think Fu Chengyan will still want to be with you after he finds out about your disgraceful past?"

Shi Nuan gripped her phone so tightly that she could almost crush it. "Shi Wei, so it really was you!"

"That's right. Tell me, do you want me to send the pictures to Fu Chengyan or to the other members of the Fu clan? I heard they still don't approve of you. If they find out about that disgraceful incident, they will no longer accept you even if you're a member of the Su family."

"Shi Wei, how dare you!" Shi Nuan gritted her teeth.

"There's nothing that I don't dare do. Haha, Shi Nuan, you always think so highly of yourself and act as if we're beneath you. But who do you think you are? You might pretend to be innocent and demure, but both you and I know that you're just a despicable and unscrupulous woman underneath. Now, remember to bring the share transfer agreement with you when you meet me later."

Shi Wei ended the call with a cold snort.

Meanwhile, Su Su who was standing beside Shi Wei looked on at her devious expression. She pursed her lips slightly. "Did you just say that Shi Nuan was... by someone in the past?"

Shi Wei snorted in response. "That's right, do you want to take a look? I still have the pictures."

Shi Wei's words caused Su Su's expression to darken. The fact that Shi Wei wanted to get herself in trouble didn't mean that she wanted to go along with it, especially after what happened in the past. However, Su Su couldn't help but be amazed at how Shi Wei managed to maintain her facade for such a long time.

If not for the previous incident that caused her to see Shi Wei's true colors, Su Su wouldn't have known that Shi Wei had been planning to hurt Shi Nuan all this while.

"No, I don't want to see them." Su Su shook her head. "However, do you really want to meet Shi Nuan? Are you sure she will give the shares to you? I don't think she will. After all, those shares of Huancheng are worth a lot!"

"Hmph, if she doesn't give them to me, I'll expose the pictures and destroy her reputation!" Shi Wei declared.

"Alright, remember to keep the photos in a safe place. Or else you will lose the only leverage you have against her." Just as she spoke, Su Su stole a glance at Shi Wei's bag. Shi Wei nodded. "Of course, these are very old pictures after all. The film and camera have long been lost. This right here is the only copy."

Su Su's eyes flashed when she heard that and she quickly nodded in agreement. "This time, you must take back from Shi Nuan what was meant to be yours."

Meanwhile, Shi Nuan's expression darkened as she watched her phone screen fade to black. Clenching her phone, she fell deep into thought. After that, she went upstairs to grab her things and prepared to head out. Fu Jiayu quickly stopped her. "Nuan, where are you going?"

"I... there's something I need to do. Jiayu, please continue to play with An."

"Nuan!" Worried about her, Fu Jiayu grabbed hold of Shi Nuan's hand. "What's so important that you have to leave now? Can't you wait for Yan to return or shall I go with you?"

"No need. I'm fine going by myself." Shi Nuan replied in haste. Cognizant that her tone sounded too anxious, she added, "I'm just meeting a friend. Yan knows her too. So, don't worry as I'll be fine. I know how to take care of myself."

"But..."

Before Fu Jiayu could finish, Shi Nuan had already left.

Fu Jiayu quickly gave Fu Chengyan a call. "Yan, Nuan received a call and rushed out immediately. I'm worried about her."

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. "I understand. Don't worry, I'll deal with it." After ending the call, he called Jiang Hu immediately. "Did Shi Nuan go out alone?"

“Yes, Mr. Fu. However, my men are following her. So, don’t worry.” While he was speaking, Jiang Hu gestured to his subordinate to be more mindful while driving. “Keep your distance. Don’t let Mrs. Fu notice.”

“Continue to watch her and keep me updated.” Fu Chengyan ended the call and looked up at Su Shaoqing. “What do you want?”

Su Shaoqing snorted. “I must say, Chengyan, you have become a slave to your wife. You can’t even let her out of your sight for a moment.”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “Hmm...”

Su Shaoqing raised his hand immediately to surrender. “Alright, alright, I admit my mistake. I’m here to see you about Ling. Do you have any news?”

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“Based on my understanding, you can go see Qin Yanzhi directly. Why do you still need to do this in a roundabout way?” This was something Fu Chengyan was puzzled by.

Stunned by his words, Su Shaoqing responded with a wry smile. “Ling and Qin Xiaoxiao’s experiences were similar. She now sees Bai as her own flesh and blood. Hence, even when Bai has fully recovered, Ling is not going to return him to Qin Yanzhi. However, do you think the Qin family will stay silent once they find out Bai is a member of their family?”

There was more to the matter than meets the eye. Therefore, Su Shaoqing had to tread carefully when dealing with it. “Besides, Ling is...”

Fu Chengyan raised his eyebrow, “What about her?”

“Nothing!” Su Shaoqing shook his head. “All you need to do is help me to contact the Qin family. As for the rest, I’ll handle it myself.”

Fu Chengyan nodded. “That’s for the best. Only you and Ling can resolve the matters between both of you.”

“So, what did Jiang Hu call you for just now?”

“It’s about May. Anyway, since you have no other business, I need to go now.” He was worried about Shi Nuan going out alone, even if Jiang Hu was watching her.

“By the way, once Li Heng is back, let’s get together some time. It’s been such a long time since we saw each other. I wonder what Jingxiu is up to now as well. It has been ages since we last heard from him.”

Fu Chengyan gaped briefly before shaking his head. “Jingxiu has always acted on his own and doesn’t like others to meddle in his affairs.”

Su Shaoqing nodded. “I wonder what he’s up to that he always has to be so secretive. Ever since he came back after leaving for a few years, he seemed to have changed. And then there’s Ning Xi...” Su Shaoqing shook his head as he spoke. “Forget it, I have enough problems of my own. I better stop talking about him.”

“Mmm-hmm, well, I’m off then.”

...

The moment Shi Nuan left the Fu Residence, she received Shi Wei’s call. “I’ll wait for you at the cafe along West Avenue. If I don’t see you in one hour, the pictures will be made public.”

“Shi Wei, how dare you!” Gritting her teeth, Shi Nuan tightened her grip on the steering wheel. “I’m on my way.”

As she floored the accelerator, Shi Nuan sped towards West Avenue.

After more than forty minutes, Shi Nuan finally arrived. However, Shi Wei arrived more than an hour late. When she alighted from the car, she was delighted to see that Shi Nuan had been waiting there for a long time. She clicked her tongue before approaching Shi Nuan with Su Su following behind. “I didn’t expect the photos to be so important to you. If I had known earlier, I would have used it long ago.”

“You! You’re the one that did that to me back then, am I right?” Shi Nuan didn’t care about the photos. Instead, she was more focused on who was responsible.

Shi Nuan had always felt disturbed by the matter. She remembered fragments of what happened but mostly felt like she had forgotten about it. Nonetheless, she would still dream about it occasionally. Every time she awoke from the dream, however, she could no longer remember what happened.

The matter had been bugging her for a long time but she assumed that it would slowly fade away with time. Never would she expect Shi Wei to bring it up at all.

Looking at her sister's reaction, Shi Wei assumed Shi Nuan was afraid. Shi Wei started to gloat. "Haha, why don't you make a guess?"

Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows, "I have no time to play games with you. Give me the pictures."

Shi Wei sneered at Shi Nuan. "Do you take me for a fool?" She then glared at Shi Nuan. "Where's the thing that I asked for?"

"What thing?" Shi Nuan played dumb on purpose.

"The Huancheng shares. I asked you to bring the share transfer certificate, didn't I?" When Shi Wei saw that Shi Nuan wasn't being cooperative, her temper sparked. "Aren't you worried that I will expose all your pictures?"

"Go ahead. I want to see if you have the guts to do so." Shi Nuan snorted. "Didn't I tell you that I have sold the shares?"

"You're lying. It's impossible!" Shi Wei didn't believe Shi Nuan. "It was a gift from Granddad, there's no way you would sell it."

"I'm telling the truth. Half a year ago, I sold it off and told you about it. However, you chose not to believe me." Shi Nuan shrugged, palms up, as she watched Shi Wei seethed. "Shi Wei, give me the photos!"

"You actually want me to give you the photos without the share transfer agreement? Do you think I'm an idiot?" Shi Wei took out an envelope and shook it in front of Shi Nuan. "See this? It's filled with photos. Besides that, I have kept extras elsewhere. If you don't give me the shares, I will destroy whatever reputation you have left. By then, the Fu clan and the Su family will see your true colors."

Shi Nuan's gaze narrowed while her expression darkened at the same time. However, it wasn't out of fear. "Are you sure you want to threaten me with that?"

"How is this a threat? It's only a fair exchange." Shi Wei thrust her chin forward and looked at Shi Nuan gleefully. "You must be quivering in your boots by now. It wasn't easy to get yourself married to Fu Chengyan and then reunite with your biological father. But now, it seems your world is going to collapse on you. Shi Nuan, are you terrified now?"

"Me? Terrified?" Shi Nuan couldn't help but laugh. "Did you think I came because of the pictures?"

"What else could it be?" Shi Wei had no idea what Shi Nuan was up to. Nonetheless, she felt that Shi Nuan was just putting up a strong front. Whoever saw the photos would be afraid and it was impossible for Shi Nuan not to feel the same.

"I'm here just to confirm if that incident has something to do with you. It now appears that my suspicions are correct."

"So what if it did? Do you have any proof?" Shi Wei glared coldly at Shi Nuan. "So much time has passed since then. Do you think you can still find any evidence to prove that I did it?"

"I don't need to prove it!" A smug smile broke out on Shi Nuan's face. "It seems that's the only leverage you have for today's negotiation?"

"That alone is all I need against you." Shi Wei snarled. "Give me the share transfer agreement now and I will return the photos to you. After that, I'll call all the enmity between us even."

Shi Nuan suddenly burst into laughter and squinted her eyes at Shi Wei. Shi Wei was puzzled. "What's so funny?"

Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows. Her gaze then fell upon Su Su who was standing behind Shi Wei. The moment she smiled faintly, she saw Su Su nodding discreetly. After that, she shifted her attention back to Shi Wei.

"Some time ago, I went to the hospital for a checkup as I am pregnant. I'm sure you know about that. The hospital I went to was the one owned by Shaoqing." Shi Nuan casually glanced at Shi Wei while holding a glass of warm water in her hands. "Ms. Shi, don't you want to have a seat?"

Shi Wei gritted her teeth. "What's the big deal about getting pregnant? After you give birth, you're just going to turn into an ugly, stay-at-home mom. Do you think a man like Fu Chengyan would still want you by then?"

Shi Nuan smirked. "Whether Yan still fancies me or not has nothing to do with you. I'm just curious to have bumped into you during my checkup."

Shi Wei's expression froze and she tightened her grip on her bag. "What are you trying to say?"

Shi Nuan frowned. "Nothing much. Did you know, the doctor I'm seeing is the best gynecologist in the city. What's his name now... Oh! It's Yu Qing!"

Shi Wei froze again at the mention of that name. However, she pretended not to be affected. "What has your doctor got anything to do with me? I'm amazed that you even remember the doctor's name."

"But of course. I have always had a very good memory, photographic in fact. After my checkup that day, I was resting in Dr. Yu's office. There, I unexpectedly overheard something interesting. Do you want to know what I heard?"

"Shi Nuan, shut up now!" Shi Wei suddenly shrieked. She glared viciously at Shi Nuan. "Shut up!"

Shi Nuan smirked again. "Ms. Shi, why are you getting so worked up for? I only wanted to share something interesting that I heard with you."

Shi Wei suddenly stood up, grabbed her cup of unfinished coffee, and was prepared to splash the content over Shi Nuan.

"Be careful!" Su Su jumped forward by reflex and managed to hold Shi Wei back.

The cup of hot coffee barely missed Shi Nuan and spilled all over the floor instead.

"Su Su, what are you doing?" Shi Wei looked at Su Su in disbelief. "Why are you protecting that despicable woman?"

Su Su was stunned for a brief moment. After which, she tugged at Shi Wei's sleeve and whispered, "Are you crazy? Shi Nuan is pregnant. Are you trying to kill her with the hot coffee?"

"So what if I was?" Shi Wei was so furious that she didn't care anymore.

Su Su frowned. "Don't forget what you came here for. You're here for the shares that you deserve and they are still in Shi Nuan's hands. Getting on her bad side does no one any good. Moreover, Shi Nuan has the support of the Fu clan and Su family. If you hurt her, not only will you lose the shares, but the Shi family and even Huancheng may be destroyed!"

After hearing Su Su's explanation, Shi Wei regained her senses and couldn't help but feel that she almost made a grave mistake. She gulped. "What do we do now?"

"What else can we do? You have to apologize."

"Apologize? You want me to apologize to her?" Shi Wei raised her voice. However, Su Su tugged at her again. "Do you still want the shares? Don't forget you're still working at Xinhuang. Fu Chengyan is your boss, and so is Shi Nuan."

Shi Wei was stumped. The thought of how they were related professionally infuriated her further.

After the close call, Shi Nuan stood up and looked at Shi Wei calmly. "Ms. Shi, aren't you worried about spraining your back with such a dramatic reaction?"

"You..." Su Su quickly restrained Shi Wei and signaled to her with her eyes. After that, she forced a laugh and look at Shi Nuan. "I'm sorry, Ms. Shi. It was an accident, Wei didn't do it on purpose."

Shi Nuan raised her eyebrows, "Is that so?"

Shi Wei clenched her teeth and muttered reluctantly, "I'm sorry."

Shi Nuan smirked. "In that case, how are you going to make it up to me?" Shi Nuan extended her hand and tap her fingers on the table. "Do you still want the shares?"

“Shi Nuan, don’t get cocky now. The shares belong to the Shi family in the first place. Do you think that Granddad is still willing to give them to you after you change your surname?” Shi Wei couldn’t stand Shi Nuan’s smug expression.

Shi Nuan laughed in response. “Ms. Shi, how many times do I have to tell you that the shares are no longer in my hands because I have sold them. Oh, by the way, Granddad knows that too as I asked for his consent before doing so.”