

I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 461

Things were getting out of hand at the scene. Shu Qing's manager noticed her going pale and quickly ran up to her. "Are you okay?"

"Are you guys happy now?" Shu Qing asked coldly while leaning against him.

The manager simply kept quiet and motioned at the host, who then announced, "All right, that concludes the Q&A session for today! According to the director, this film is a potential award-winner, so it must be a masterpiece! We're about to start the premiere, so please take your seats and enjoy..."

"Is that all you have to say?"

A woman stood up from the crowd and took her hat off.

She stared down at Shu Qing from her seat above, and her face was clearly visible due to the bright lighting in the cinema.

"Wait, isn't that Shen Qianan?"

"Oh, yeah, that really is her! What's she doing here?"

"She sounds really mad! I bet Shu Qing must've done something really bad if Shen Qianan looks that pissed off!"

"Yeah!"

Shen Qianan's sudden appearance combined with the overwhelming pressure from the crowd proved too much for Shu Qing to handle, and the latter collapsed on the spot.

"Shu Qing! Out of the way! Can't you see she's fainted?"

The manager's voice sounded so cold that even the journalists stopped taking photos.

"What are you waiting for? Get Ms. Shu out of here!"

The entire cinema fell silent as a few men in black came in and brought Shu Qing outside.

The host let out an awkward laugh and said, "R-Right, we all came here for this film, so let's get started with the premiere!"

Shen Qianan clenched her fists as she watched Shu Qing's character appear on the big screen. She was playing a middle-aged woman who had lost her son a long time ago. That said woman then adopted a child later on and worked at a nightclub to raise the child.

It was a very touching story, and the mother seemed like a great woman who had given her all to her child.

How ironic... She's a cruel and heartless woman that abandoned her own daughter! I can't believe they let her play such a character!

Shen Qianan put her hat back on and left the cinema halfway through the movie.

Meanwhile, Shu Qing's manager had her rushed to the hospital. The doctor frowned when he saw the state Shu Qing was in. "This patient is burning up at 39 °C, and she is severely malnourished! How on earth..." The doctor couldn't go on any further. "I'm going to administer an IV drip to stabilize her vital signs, but she'll have to stay in the hospital for a couple of days for further observation. In the meantime, she will be put on a full liquid diet."

After the doctor left, Shu Qing's manager gave Su Huaibei a call and explained the situation over the phone. The look in Su Huaibei's eyes grew cold when he heard about what had happened. "Fu Yi, we're going to the hospital!"

"But, Sir... Ms. Shu is in Mr. Su's hospital..."

Su Huaibei paused for a moment. "Where's Shen Qianan?"

"Shen Shixiu's men were with her the whole time. We couldn't grab her."

"Damn it! Can't you guys find a way to get rid of his men?"

"His men are highly-trained professionals, Sir... I-I mean, I'll think of something! P-Please, give me some time!"

Su Huaibei's eyes were filled with rage as he watched Fu Yi leave.

Well done, Shen Shixiu... Let's see how long you can keep protecting Shen Qianan...

Shu Qing woke up in the afternoon the next day, feeling as if she had been brought to hell and back.

White walls and that strong smell of medicine... Am I in the hospital?

Shu Qing sat up straight and yanked the tube out of her arm. She was about to get off the bed when the door to her ward opened.

A man in a white coat entered the ward, but he wasn't holding any files or medical equipment in his hands.

He had his hands in his pockets, and he was simply staring at Shu Qing without saying a word. Shu Qing didn't know who he was nor what he wanted, so she decided to keep quiet as well.

Su Shaoqing's gaze fell upon her face. Shu Qing sure has a face that can drive men crazy! She looks very similar to Shi Nuan and Shen Qianan, and yet there's a clear distinction between all of them. Shen Qianan and Shi Nuan may seem gentle, but their eyes are full of fire when they turn stubborn. Shu Qing, on the other hand, looks like she has gone through a lot in life, yet her eyes have a sweet and gentle look in them! That's how you know she's the real deal!

"Hello, Ms. Shu!" Su Shaoqing greeted her with a smile.

"Who are you?" Shu Qing was surprised that he knew her.

"I believe it should be rather obvious, given my outfit." Su Shaoqing raised his arms and looked at his white coat. "Do I not look like a doctor to you, Ms. Shu?"

"Who the hell are you?" Shu Qing wasn't in the mood to chat with a stranger.

Su Shaoqing stopped smiling after hearing that. He then looked at the back of her hand and said, "It's bleeding."

Shu Qing frowned in annoyance and pressed a piece of tissue paper on her wound. "I don't care who you are, mister. I don't know you!"

"That's okay. Me knowing you is good enough, Ms. Shu!" Su Shaoqing smiled innocently at her. "Oh, by the way, I'm Su Shaoqing, the director of this hospital."

Su Shaoqing?

Shu Qing sprung out of bed and attempted to make a dash for it, but Su Shaoqing stopped her.

"What's wrong, Ms. Shu? Why are you so scared to see me? Am I really that scary?" he asked with a somewhat sinister grin.

"Scary? Heh, you people from the Su family are downright monsters! Now, out of my way!"

Su Shaoqing stepped aside and let her get to the door before saying, "If you tell me where Uncle Huaibei is, I'll help you take care of your current situation."

"What did you say?"

Shu Qing stopped in her tracks. "You mean the Su family doesn't know that Su Huaibei is in Jiang City?"

Su Shaoqing narrowed his eyes. "So you do know Uncle Huaibei!"

Shu Qing tensed up. "You said you could help me take care of my current problem. Does that include Su Huaibei?"

Su Shaoqing glared at her for a brief moment before he smiled again.

Shu Qing didn't know Su Shaoqing very well, but her gut instinct told her that that smile was a bad sign.

She clenched her teeth. "Ah, silly me! You're from the Su family too!" There's no way he'd help me!

Su Shaoqing smirked. "That's not necessarily the case. How can I be of help, Ms. Shu?"

"Help me get away from Su Huaibei!"

“Oh?” Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow and crossed his fingers in front of his chest.

“And here I thought we were going to discuss business. You’re a celebrity, Ms. Shu. Are you sure you want to go out dressed like that? Imagine what the headlines would say! Chaotic private life drives superstar Shu Qing crazy!”

Shu Qing went pale upon hearing that, and she slowly let go of the doorknob.

Su Shaoqing smiled as he continued, “Your body is still very weak, Ms. Shu. Unlike other public hospitals, the people that come and go here are either famous celebrities or...”

“Just cut to the chase, will you?” Because of what Su Huaibei had done to her, Shu Qing felt an inexplicable dislike for Su Shaoqing.

“All right, if you say so. First of all, I’m not really interested in your relationship with Shen Qianan.”

Shu Qing frowned. “What do you want, then?”

Su Shaoqing stared straight into her eyes and said, “I want you to tell me about your connection to Uncle Huaibei, why he left back then, and... why he abandoned Shi Nuan.”

Shu Qing took a few steps back and stared wide-eyed at him in horror. “I-I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

“Oh, you don’t?” Su Shaoqing chuckled. “Then why do you look so nervous when I mention Shi Nuan?”

Shu Qing clenched her fists. “Mr. Su, I don’t know what you’re talking about, and I don’t know who Shi Nuan is either!”

“What about Jiang Yu, then? You should know her, right?”

“No, I don’t!”

“What about Shi Jingzheng, then? Shi Yunsheng? Or maybe even Jiang Shizheng?”

“I have no idea what you’re talking about!” Shu Qing screamed when Su Shaoqing got closer to her, “Get away from me! I don’t know anything!”

Su Shaoqing let out a snicker and stood there observing her.

This woman is about the same age as Ning Xin, but there's such a huge difference between them that I can't even compare them at all... Shu Qing is panicking and overreacting despite being at a huge disadvantage here.

Su Shaoqing wasn't sure why he thought of Ning Xin. He had seen so many wives from wealthy families – not many women out there were able to catch his attention.

Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow. "You don't seem to be in the right state of mind, Ms. Shu. I suggest you stay here a little while longer. We can continue our conversation after you've recovered and thought things through."

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Shu Qing slumped against the bed, shivering as she stared at Su Shaoqing's retreating figure.

I knew it! Nothing good comes out of the Su family!

"Oh, I almost forgot!" Su Shaoqing turned around all of a sudden.

Shu Qing tensed up and looked at him defensively, but he just casually leaned against the door and smiled at her. "Relax, Ms. Shu. I just remembered something and thought I'd remind you about it."

Shu Qing pursed her lips and waited for him to continue.

Su Shaoqing winked at her and said, "Although this is a hospital, access is still restricted. If you would like to leave, please make sure to inform me beforehand. Otherwise..." He didn't continue, but Shu Qing knew it was obviously a threat. "You're a monster, just like Su Huaibei!"

"A monster? That's an interesting way to put it... Uncle Huaibei would probably love that. Anyway, rest well, Ms. Shu. I'll be seeing you again soon!"

Su Shaoqing left after saying that, but Shu Qing felt a lingering sense of uneasiness from his words. A nurse came by her ward shortly after to replace her IV bag. "Try to get some rest, Ms. Shu. The director has given an order; no one will disturb you during your time here," she said after inserting the needle.

Is that so? Well, I suppose there's no point in hoping for a miracle anymore. Su Shaoqing is just as dangerous and evil as Su Huaibei...

Su Shaoqing gave Fu Chengyan a call after returning to his office. "Uncle Huaibei has returned. Judging by what Shu Qing said to me, she probably holds some sort of grudge against him. I can tell that she really hates him."

Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow. "Really? Anything else?"

"Not at the moment, though she did have a huge response when I mentioned Nuan!" Su Shaoqing found that rather odd.

"If I recall, Shen Qianan is older than Nuan, right?"

"Yeah, by two years," Fu Chengyan replied. "What are you implying?"

"Don't you think Shu Qing's attitude is very different when it comes to Shen Qianan?" Su Shaoqing wasn't sure why he felt that way, but he could see that Shu Qing was protective of Shen Qianan during their brief conversation earlier.

A lot has happened lately. Shen Qianan exposed Shu Qing's scandal in public, but there were no acts of retaliation whatsoever from both Shu Qing and her PR team... There are only two possible reasons for this. The first being Shen Shixiu taking care of things for her, and the other reason being that Shu Qing doesn't plan on reuniting with Shen Qianan. But... Why wouldn't she?

“You said Nuan and Shen Qianan are sisters, right?”

Fu Chengyan pursed his lips. “Go on.”

“Why would Shu Qing leave one of her children with the Shen family and the other with Old Master Jiang?”

That was the most puzzling part to him.

Fu Chengyan tapped on the desk with his long and slender fingers. A huge stack of files next to him containing information on Shu Qing’s history in the capital was piled up next to him.

Shu Qing’s journey to stardom began in the capital, and things went really smoothly for her. Of course, that had all been made possible by Su Huaibei.

Su Huaibei had been on good terms with the Old Madam of the Su family back then. She liked him a lot after he had saved Su Yunwan, so she had arranged for the two of them to be engaged.

However, Su Huaibei met Shu Qing, who was actually Jiang Yuan at the time. He fell in love with her instead. Jiang Yuan had always dreamed of being a star. She didn’t want to stay at home, so the two of them left Jiang City together.

The Jiang family wasn’t as powerful as compared to the Su family, so the incident didn’t cause a huge commotion. Jiang Shizheng forbade Jiang Yu from having any more connections with the Su family, and she hated Jiang Yuan because of it.

Although Jiang Yu ended up marrying Shi Jingzheng, she wasn’t free from the damage done by Jiang Yuan’s actions.

Jiang Shizheng and Shi Yunsheng were close and had arranged for Shi Jingzheng to be engaged to Jiang Yuan. By running away from home with Su Huaibei, Jiang Yuan had caused some conflicts to occur between the two families.

After the Old Madam of the Su family passed away, Su Yunwan being in Sheen City severed whatever remaining connections Jiang Yu had with the Su family.

Fu Chengyan rubbed his aching forehead as he flipped through the files.

He knew the situation was going to be complicated, but he didn't expect it to be this bad.

Now it all makes sense why Jiang Yu has been so mean to Shi Nuan throughout those years! It's probably because of what Jiang Yuan did! Not only did she lose the man she loved to Jiang Yuan, but she was also married to a man who had previously been engaged to Jiang Yuan! On top of that, she had to take care of Jiang Yuan's daughter! It's no wonder she'd take her anger and hatred out on Shi Nuan!

Fu Chengyan sighed at that thought.

Su Shaoqing frowned when he didn't get a response from Fu Chengyan. "Hello? Chengyan? Are you there? I'm talking to you!"

"Yes, I'm listening."

"Right... So, even if Shi Nuan is Shu Qing's daughter, she might not necessarily be related to the Shen family."

Su Shaoqing had a sudden realization after saying that and slapped his thigh in response. "Could it be that she's actually related to the Su family?"

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes.

"Now that I think about it, that does actually make sense! Shu Qing reacted very strongly when I mentioned Uncle Huaibei earlier. She kept calling him a monster. What do you think happened between them? According to the information provided by Liang Lin, Shu Qing ran away from home with Uncle Huaibei! Have Liang Lin look further into it. We need to find out what happened in the capital back then, and we need to know she got mixed up with Shen Feng. Oh, and why Shen Shixiu came over to the Shi family too! I think Shen Shixiu is a pretty strange guy. He didn't care much about Shen Qianan at all back then, and yet he's being super protective of her now. I don't know if you've noticed, but Shen Shixiu has his men following Shen Qianan around wherever she goes, and those guys aren't your average goons either! They're highly-trained elites!"

I don't know if my findings will be good or bad, but... If Shi Nuan wants to find out about her background, I'll have to uncover those mysteries before deciding if I should tell her about it!

There was a cold look in Fu Chengyan's eyes. "Understood."

He hung up the phone and stroked his chin, seemingly in deep thought.

Shi Nuan saw him in that state when she came in. She treaded inside lightly to not disturb him. He snapped out of it suddenly when he saw her and quickly put away the files on his desk. "Come over here!" he said while waving at her.

Shi Nuan smiled. "What's up?"

"Nothing much. You just came back from the Project Management Department?"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Yeah, I just had a discussion with Mr. Lin."

Fu Chengyan wrapped an arm around her when she walked up to him, and she instinctively sat down on his lap.

She had one hand on his shoulder while she played with his fingers with the other.

"Are they that fun to play with?"

Shi Nuan looked up at him and nodded. "They are!" She giggled and kissed him on the forehead. "Yan, am I bothering you by coming over to your office every day?"

"Not at all!" Fu Chengyan took a deep breath and felt her fragrant scent fill his nose.

He pinched her waist lightly. Mmm, this feels so good... Shi Nuan tensed up when she felt that light pinch and pouted. "Did I get fat?"

Fu Chengyan was speechless. Where'd she get that idea from?

"Nope!"

Shi Nuan didn't believe him and pinched herself on the waist. "I really have gotten fat! Look at these love handles! No, this won't do... I'm not eating dinner tonight!" she exclaimed.

"Hmm?" Fu Chengyan raised an eyebrow at Shi Nuan, and she felt a shiver down her spine. "What was it you said? Could you say that again?"

“Uh...” Shi Nuan realized what she had said and shook her head profusely, refusing to say another word.

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. This girl sure is acting a lot more mischievous these days... She was a poised and elegant woman a moment ago, yet now she’s acting like a spoiled child. Well, not that I mind. In fact, I’m kind of enjoying this. After all, it’d be really boring if people were to act the same way all the time! If I recall correctly, she was like this when I first saw her...

“Hold still!” Fu Chengyan sighed as he leaned in closer to her ear. “Don’t move about like that when you’re sitting on my lap, okay?”

Shi Nuan tensed up when she heard that and soon realized that something hard pressing against the bottom of her thigh.

She burned bright red instantly and smacked Fu Chengyan on the shoulder. “You meanie!”

“Hmm?” Fu Chengyan nibbled her gently on the ear and licked it before whispering, “Who are you calling a meanie?”

“You! You’re the meanie... Mmph!” Shi Nuan had her mouth sealed shut by a kiss before she could finish.

Fu Chengyan closed his eyes and kissed her so deeply that Shi Nuan fell limp against his body when he let go of her.

She grabbed him by the shoulder and glared at him angrily, her lips red and slightly swollen.

“Hey, don’t look at me like that.” Those eyes of hers were his ultimate weakness.

“Hmph!”

This guy is unbelievable! I don’t even know what else I can say about him! Who would’ve thought that the cold and emotionless man that dominated the market would have such a side to him?

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"You really aren't fat!" Fu Chengyan sighed to make himself sound more convincing. "You're pregnant, remember? Your tummy is going to slowly get bigger. It's only natural that your body weight is going to increase. You mustn't starve yourself, okay?"

"Okay, okay! I was joking!" Of course, Shi Nuan knew better than to do something that reckless.

The thought of Fu Chengyan caring that much about her made her really happy, but she refused to admit it. "That's easy for you to say! You're not the one who's getting fat!"

"May!" Fu Chengyan frowned. "Listen, the doctor said you're too thin and weak, so the baby isn't getting enough nutrients. Being malnourished will make it difficult for you to give birth later on, which is bad for both you and the baby. So, be a good girl and eat well, okay?"

"All right!" Shi Nuan agreed with puckered lips.

"If you're afraid of being fat, I can get fat with you!" Fu Chengyan pinched her on the nose. "Apart from the stuff exclusively for women, I'll have the chef at home prepare an extra set of whatever you're eating. What do you say?"

"Really?" Shi Nuan didn't expect him to go that far for her. She felt touched and pinched his cheeks as she said, "You don't have to do that, you know? I was just being a little melodramatic, that's all!"

"No, I'm a man of my word. Starting tonight, I'll be eating whatever you eat!"

Fu Chengyan then dialed the number to the Fu Residence and requested that the chef prepare an extra set of Shi Nuan's meals for him.

Ning Xin was the one who answered the call, and she had a confused look on her face after hearing that. "But Nuan's meals are specially catered for pregnant women! Are you sure you want to eat that?"

"Yeah, I can't let May be the only one getting fat! She doesn't like that!"

"Okay, then..." Ning Xin sighed and burst into laughter. "Honestly, you two never fail to surprise me!"

Fu Chengyan hung up the phone, and Shi Nuan kissed him on the cheek. "I love you so much, Yan!"

"Really?"

"Mhmm!" Shi Nuan nodded. "I love you more and more each day! What should I do?"

What Fu Chengyan did was more than enough for Shi Nuan. Most pregnant women would worry about their husbands cheating during pregnancy, but Shi Nuan didn't have to worry about that at all.

"Then love me even more."

Fu Chengyan smiled and pinched her on the cheek. "Hey, May."

"Hmm?"

"I love you!"

"I love you too!"

Shu Qing had been staying in the hospital for a week, completely unaware of what was happening in the outside world.

Actually, this isn't as bad as I thought it would be... There are so many things that are beyond my control, after all. Besides, Su Shaoqing would update me on stuff every now and then. I gotta say, he is just as cunning and dangerous as Su Huaibei... He certainly lives up to the Su family's reputation for being cold-blooded monsters!

Shu Qing pretended to be asleep when she saw Su Shaoqing coming in, but he had a way to make her respond to him every time.

"Ms. Shu, aren't you interested in the reason I came here today?"

Shu Qing had her back towards him, so she thought there was nothing he could do if he couldn't see her face.

However, she was naive to underestimate Su Shaoqing's persistence.

"Tsk tsk... What a shame... I thought you'd be interested in what I found out about Shen Qianan today."

"What have you done to her? Did Su Huaibei tell you to do this? I'm warning you, don't hurt her! You tell Su Huaibei that if he so much as touches her, I'll make sure he regrets it for the rest of his life!" Shu Qing lost her cool when she heard him mention Shen Qianan.

"Oh? Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow. "What, you think Uncle Huaibei is the only one who can hurt her? Why are you so afraid of him? Or rather, what did you do to cross him?"

"I did no such thing!" Shu Qing glared at him fiercely. "Don't bother trying to talk me out of this. I will never forgive him, no matter what he does!"

Su Shaoqing was amused by her behavior. "Heh, I don't even know where Uncle Huaibei is. You're my only source of information on him right now! Do tell, why do you look so nervous?"

Shu Qing pursed her lips. "What have you guys done to Shen Qianan?"

"Are you and Shen Feng really her parents?"

Shu Qing kept quiet.

"What about Shi Nuan, then? Is it also the same for her?"

"No, she is unworthy!" Shu Qing sprung up immediately when she heard that. She gritted her teeth and stared at Su Shaoqing angrily. "Stop wasting your time! You'll never find out who Shi Nuan's parents are! Hahaha!"

"You..."

"What's it to you anyway? Is she your mistress or something?"

Su Shaoqing reached out and grabbed her chin. "How could you say such a nasty thing about your daughter?"

"No, she's not! She's just a bastard child! She shouldn't even exist! I should've strangled her to death when I had the chance! The world would be a better place without her!" Shu Qing's eyes reddened with hatred.

Su Shaoqing shoved her away. "What did you say? I dare you to say that again!"

"I could say it a million times, and it still wouldn't change a thing! She's a bastard child destined to be degraded for life! Su Huaibei tells me she got married to Fu Chengyan. Who the hell is she to marry someone like him, huh? He belongs to An!"

"You're crazy!" Su Shaoqing had gotten the answers he wanted, and so he decided to leave her alone. "I think you're all better now, Ms. Shu. We'll have you discharged tomorrow!"

Su Shaoqing then returned to his office, and Jiang Hu went inside after him. "Mr. Su!"

"What's the status of that task I assigned you?"

"It's been taken care of! Why'd you have my men stand guard at Emerald Garden, though? There's no one there at all!" Jiang Hu asked.

"Really?" Su Shaoqing smirked. "Have your men keep a close eye on Shu Qing. I want to know where she goes tomorrow."

"Yes, Sir!"

When Su Shaoqing noticed Jiang Hu still standing there, he asked, "Is there something else you want to tell me?"

Jiang Hu nodded. "It's about Qin Xiaoxiao. She's confirmed to be dead, but she did go somewhere before she left Jiang City."

"Where did she go?"

"A clinic in Bin City, but she was only there for a short while. She left the country after that, and then she encountered Ms. Fu."

Su Shaoqing nodded. All of this tallies with what Fu Ling said. "What about her child?"

"Qin Xiaoxiao died shortly after giving birth, so Ms. Fu adopted the child." Jiang Hu noticed the grim look on Su Shaoqing's face. "Mr. Su?"

"Who has Qin Xiaoxiao been in close contact with before leaving Jiang City?"

"Uh..."

"You didn't find that out?" Both Su Shaoqing's tone and his gaze were ice-cold as he glared at Jiang Hu. "I'm sorry, Mr. Su! Conducting investigations like these isn't my specialty, to begin with! I think Liang Lin or Zhou Zheng would be able to do a better job at it!"

Jiang Hu pleaded apologetically.

Su Shaoqing rolled his eyes and waved him off. "Fine, you're dismissed!"

He waited until Jiang Hu had left before whipping out a box of cigarettes. Though Su Shaoqing had quit smoking for many years, he would still smoke whenever he felt stressed out.

This time, he was stressed because of Fu Ling and Shi Nuan.

I never had any great ambitions in life... I was content with being able to do the things I like. Sure, I may have been a bit of a jerk during my younger days and caused a lot of trouble alongside Fu Chengyan and the others, but my methods weren't as nasty as theirs. Man... Right when I thought there was nothing more to my life, Fu Ling came along and changed everything. She used to annoy and frustrate me a lot, but now... She's left me plagued with guilt and self-blame... As for Shi Nuan... Well, I certainly didn't expect us to have such a connection. I didn't think something I said in the spur of the moment would end up becoming reality! She's most likely the child of Shu Qing and Su Huaibei! I bet Shu Qing's strong reaction earlier must have something to do with Su Huaibei. If that's the case, it would make sense as to why Shu Qing had Shen Qianan stay with the Shen family and left Shi Nuan with Jiang Shizheng, who then handed her over to Jiang Yu.

Su Shaoqing put out his cigarette and took a deep breath before calling Fu Chengyan. "I think Shi Nuan is Uncle Huaibei's daughter."

"I see."

“What do you plan on doing?”

“For now, I’m going to keep it a secret from May.”

The whole thing was too complicated, and he was worried that it would be too much for Shi Nuan to handle in her current condition.

Fu Chengyan wasn’t going to let anything nor anyone stress Shi Nuan out.

“But Shu Qing is in Jiang City right now, and I doubt Shen Qianan will leave her alone. You’d better be prepared because this is most likely going to blow up soon!”

Fu Chengyan lowered his gaze. “Where is Su Huaibei right now?”

“I don’t know yet. I had some guys keep an eye on Emerald Garden, but a week has passed with no sign of him at all.”

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“Have them continue to monitor the place. He’s gotta be in there!” Fu Chengyan stated before asking, “Is there anything else?”

“No.” Su Shaoqing heard Fu Chengyan grinding his teeth over the phone and immediately knew that the man was in a bad mood. “I just thought I’d remind you that he is still my uncle as well as your father-in-law.”

Fu Chengyan narrowed his eyes. “Are you saying I should show him some respect?”

“Never mind, forget I said anything!”

Su Shaoqing shrugged helplessly. Of course, he’s mad... Regardless of what happened between Su Huaibei and Shu Qing, abandoning Shi Nuan like that was terrible. I probably shouldn’t tell him about Shu Qing’s attitude towards Shi Nuan, considering the fact that even I felt like hitting her when I heard it. Fu Chengyan would probably kill her ten times over! They’re both her daughters, so why is she treating them so differently?

"Sir, Ms. Shu is being discharged today!"

Fu Yi reported the news to Su Huaibei. The latter who had been staying in Emerald Garden the entire time.

Su Huaibei narrowed his eyes when he heard that. "Have someone pick her up."

"Where will we take her?"

"Emerald Garden, of course!" Su Huaibei smiled with a vicious glint in his eyes.

Fu Yi tensed up. "But there are so many men out there monitoring us right now, Sir. Are you sure about this?"

"What's there to be afraid of?" Su Huaibei wasn't planning on being secretive ever since he decided to return. "It's about time I let them know I'm back. Have someone bring Shu Qing over right now!"

"Yes, Sir!"

Su Huaibei got up from his chair and fiddled with the ring on his finger.

Shu Qing had just stepped out of the hospital when Fu Yi came up to her and stood in her path. "Out of my way!" Shu Qing yelled in shock.

"Mr. Su has sent me to bring you back, Ms. Shu."

"I said, get out of my way!" Shu Qing clenched her teeth. Damn Su Huaibei and all of his lackeys! "I told you to get out of my way! Did you not hear me?"

"Mr. Su wants you back there!" Fu Yi refused to budge and simply stood in front of her. He had a domineering air about him which was starting to scare Shu Qing. "So... So much for the great Su Huaibei, huh? Tell him to come here himself if he's got the guts to..." The door to the car behind Fu Yi was opened before she could finish, and Su Huaibei glared at her coldly from the inside. Shu Qing was frightened and instinctively tried to run, but Fu Yi wasn't about to let her get away. "Come with me, Ms. Shu!"

Shu Qing looked around and screamed at the top of her lungs, "No! I won't get in the car, Su Huaibei!"

"Fine, I'll get out of the car, then!" Shu Qing grew terrified when she saw that Su Huaibei was really going to get out of the car. She quickly opened the door on the other side and climbed in. "There, you happy now?"

Shu Qing shot him a twisted smile. "I used to think you were completely fearless, Su Huaibei. It's nice to see you scared once in a while."

Su Huaibei chuckled. "Hmm? Me? Scared? What makes you think I'm scared?"

Shu Qing glared coldly at him. "You've been hiding in your house the whole time I was being held captive by your nephew in the hospital! You're nothing but a coward, Su Huaibei!"

"Hmph! I'm not a coward, and you will see why later on! I'll have you know that keeping you in the hospital was part of my plan." Su Huaibei held her by the chin. "Look at you... You've nursed yourself back to health in just a week! Seems you aren't that stupid after all!"

Shu Qing took a deep breath. "What do you mean by that? What on earth are you planning?"

"A hunger strike is the dumbest thing to do, so I suggest you not do it again. Even if you wanted to kill yourself, there are plenty of other ways to do so. It'd be a real shame to starve that pretty face of yours to skin and bones. You'd look so ugly when you die that even Hell wouldn't want you there!"

"Su Huaibei, you bastard! F*ck you!" Shu Qing brushed his hand off of her. "What the hell do you want from me? Haven't you had enough?"

"Had enough? You betrayed me and told me our daughter was dead! You think that'd be enough?"

Shu Qing's eyes widened. "No, she really is dead! I strangled her to death! That bastard child is dead, Su Huaibei!"

"Is that so?" Su Huaibei sneered. "You think I'm that stupid?" He then showed her a stack of photos and said, "Shi Nuan is our daughter, isn't she? You know, you really should've strangled her back then. Because you didn't, she is now married to Fu Chengyan and will eventually become the matriarch of the Fu clan! What of Shen Qianan then? She's pregnant before marriage, and no one knows who the father is! Is this the outcome you wanted, Shu Qing?"

“Argh! I’ll kill you, Su Huaibei! I’ll kill you! You’re a monster! You belong in Hell!”

“Heh, you should be the first one to go there! I decided to spare you if you gave birth to the child back then, but what did you do? You told me you killed her! You did this to yourself, Shu Qing!!”

Su Huaibei grabbed her by the cheeks and squeezed them hard. “This pretty face right here has ruined the lives of... How many people now?”

“Why don’t you just kill me already?”

“There’s no way I’d kill you!” Su Huaibei sneered. “I’m gonna make sure you live to see Shi Nuan give birth to her child and enjoy a happy life with Fu Chengyan while Shen Qianan loses everything!”

“You heartless monster!”

Su Huaibei pinned her down and got on top of her. “Monster again? How about you try something new instead?”

Shu Qing’s eyes were filled with a burning hatred as she glared at him.

“You know, I might think you like me if you keep looking at me like that!”

“I would rather like a dog than you!” Shu Qing raised her head and bit him on the chin.

Su Huaibei grabbed her by the chin forcefully. “You’ll regret that, Yuan! I gave you a chance back then, but you chose to throw it away!”

“Don’t call me that! Jiang Yuan is dead! She’s dead, you hear me?”

“Is that so? That’s not what you said when you begged me to take you away from Jiang City! You even promised to marry me once you got famous, remember?”

Shu Qing began trembling violently as those memories of the past resurfaced. “Stop it! You’re not worthy of marrying me!”

“Who is, then? Shen Feng, who is already married? Or the old man, Shen Jingan?”

"F*ck you, you monster!"

Knock! Knock!

A knocking sound on the car window interrupted them.

Su Huaibei narrowed his eyes when he heard a man's voice from outside. "It's been so long, Uncle Huaibei! You prepared such a huge gift for me at our reunion? Aww, you shouldn't have!"

Su Huaibei rolled the window down and glared at him angrily.

Su Shaoqing, who was leaning against the car, waved at him. "Hi, Uncle Huaibei... Oh, Aunt Qing!" He flashed them an innocent smile and even gave them a surprised look.

"Long time no see, Qing," Su Huaibei uttered.

"Indeed! It's been over twenty years!" Su Shaoqing said with his arms crossed.

"I was still a kid when you left Jiang City!" He then shifted his gaze towards Shu Qing. "Ms. Shu, you look like you haven't aged a bit!"

Shu Qing went pale upon hearing that.

Oh, right... I did visit the Su family with Su Huaibei back then, so it makes sense that Su Shaoqing has seen me before! I couldn't recognize him because he was still a kid at the time!

Su Shaoqing noticed the change in her expression. "I guess I do have a sharp eye. Wouldn't you agree, Aunt Qing?"

"Don't call me that! I'm not related to this guy at all!"

Su Shaoqing chuckled. "Uncle Huaibei, I didn't expect you to give me such a huge surprise at our reunion!"

"Huh?" Su Huaibei was confused.

"I mean, getting intimate in front of a hospital with tons of people walking by? You should get a room for that kind of stuff, Uncle Huaibei!"

"You little brat!" Su Huaibei looked at Su Shaoqing's outfit. "So you've become a doctor, huh?"

"Yup! You still look as handsome as before, Uncle Huaibei!" Su Shaoqing whistled at him. "Dad and Grandpa miss you a lot, by the way."

"Is that so?" "Anyway... Now that we've met, it'd be rude of me to go home by myself! How about you come home with me, Uncle Huaibei?" Su Shaoqing offered.

Su Huaibei stared into his eyes as if trying to see through Su Shaoqing's intentions. Unfortunately for him, Su Shaoqing was smart enough to not give anything away. "Sure, why not?"

"That's great!" Su Shaoqing smiled and opened the car door. "You don't mind giving me a ride home, do you?"

"Not at all!"

Su Shaoqing raised an eyebrow. "Sweet! You should come with us too, Aunt Qing! The Su family misses you a lot too, you know?"

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Going back to the Su family?

"No, never!" Shu Qing looked at Su Huaibei and Su Shaoqing in horror. She had never expected to see not only Su Huaibei, but also Su Shaoqing getting involved in this.

Despite all the time spent together with Su Huaibei these years, she didn't know much about him. Put it another way, in fact, she had never thought about getting to know him. She might have known the young Su Huaibei, but since all the incidents that had happened, Shu Qing felt very distant from Su Huaibei, as though a wall was set between them, tearing them further and further apart.

As with Su Shaoqing, she hadn't the least idea about him. The only information she got was that Su Shaoqing was Su Huaibei's nephew. Shu Qing was still haunted by the experience a few days ago and therefore, she reckoned that Su Shaoqing was definitely not an easy-going person either.

"The way Aunt Qing behaves has me thinking if Uncle Huaibei and I have bullied you!" A long and narrow glint flashed across his eyes, Su Shaoqing looked up toward the driver and said, "Su family of the Jiang City, do you know the way?"

The driver was uptight and turned to look at Fu Yi. "Let's drive."

The driver continued driving forward. However, listening from time to time to the voices coming from the back seat, he shuddered.

Very soon, the car arrived at the Su Residence. Su Shaoqing did not tell anyone in the family that Su Huaibei was coming home; therefore, when the butler opened the gate and saw that Su Shaoqing had brought home some guests, he was rather surprised but when he saw the face of the other man in the car, he was shocked to the bone. "Mas... Master Huaibei!"

It's Su Huaibei! The butler was so excited that he almost walked straight back into the house without closing the gate. "Master Huaibei is back, Master Huaibei is back!"

At the Su Residence, Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin who were talking in the living room were perplexed upon hearing that. Su Yunwan was the first to rise from her seat and asked, "Who? Who is that?"

"Aunt Yunwan, look who's here?"

Su Shaoqing had heard Su Yunwan's voice and he entered the door first. Seeing that his mother, Lin Shuqin was also there, he walked toward her with a grin and greeted, "Mother!"

"This boy!" Lin Shuqin smiled and asked, "Who's here again you were saying?"

"Uncle Huaibei!" Su Shaoqing replied and just then, Su Huaibei came in with Shu Qing. Su Huaibei's movement seemed to be a little impaired while Shu Qing was reluctantly entering the door after him.

When Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin saw Su Huaibei, their faces brightened up. "Huaibei, you're back!"

"Yunwan, Shuqin!" Su Huaibei curled his lips a little. "Long time no see."

"It's been very long indeed. Where have you been all these years?" Su Yunwan had not seen her brother for a very long time so she was over the moon. Lin Shuqin had mixed feelings about seeing Su Huaibei but when she saw Shu Qing, she was clearly surprised. "You—you..."

"It's you!"

Su Yunwan's face also darkened. "Why are you here?"

Shu Qing sneered, "It's been so long since we last met, Ms. Su and Mrs. Su!"

Su Yunwan squinted at Shu Qing and gritted her teeth, replying, "Long time no see, Ms. Jiang Yuan!"

Shu Qing froze upon hearing that. She clenched her fist tightly and said, "Ms. Su has mistaken. I'm Shu Qing."

"Ha!" Su Yunwan looked at Shu Qing while still sneering, "How could I have mistaken? Ms. Jiang Yuan is a natural beauty; everyone who sets eyes on you couldn't help but fall for you. Huaibei even abandoned his family because of you and he has been away for 25 years."

Shu Qing's face turned pale. "Is Ms. Su blaming me now?"

"I won't dare!" With a long face, Su Yunwan was clearly displeased with Shu Qing. "Oh right, should I call you Shu Qing or Jiang Yuan now?"

The expression on Shu Qing's face changed perceptibly. "Mr. Su is finally back after such a long time. I suppose an outsider like me should just leave!"

"Stop right there!"

Su Huaibei's face darkened instantly. "Don't you dare leave!"

Shu Qing stopped in her tracks and heard Su Huaibei said to her, "If you don't wish to be bothered by Shen Qianan in the future, you'd better listen to me!" Su Huaibei reached out and grabbed Shu Qing's arm. "Yunwan, Shuqin, this is my wife, Jiang Yuan!"

Both Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin were taken aback but before they could say anything, Shu Qing had got ahead of them.

When Shu Qing heard what Su Huaibei said, she shook his hand off and retorted, "Su Huaibei, when did I marry you? Let me be very frank with you, I'll rather live alone till the day I die than to marry you!"

"Then who are you going to marry? Shen Feng, huh? He wasn't even going to marry you twenty-five years ago. Do you think he'll marry you now?" Su Huaibei held Shu Qing's chin tightly and added, "You listen carefully to me now, you're mine even if you were dead!"

Shu Qing was astounded, so were Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin.

They did not know what happened over these twenty years but they could sense a deep contempt within the tone of Shu Qing toward Su Huaibei.

However, wasn't it because they were so madly in love with each other that they eloped together from Jiang City? What's going on now?

"Su Huaibei, you could keep me prisoner but you can never have my heart!"

"You're heartless! What do I need your heart for?" Su Huaibei sneered, "I only want you by my side and I'll be contented."

"You..."

"If you don't want anything to happen to Shen Qianan, then listen to me and don't challenge my limits. I'm sure you know how easy it is for me to take action against anyone."

Shu Qing was quivering but not a word was spoken.

Seeing that Shu Qing had clammed up, Su Huaibei reached out and caressed her cheek, speaking very tenderly, "That's my girl." And then, he turned around swiftly, just to find that

Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin were both looking at him with startled expressions. "I know we haven't seen each other for a very long time but why are you looking at me like that?"

"No— Nothing!" Su Yunwan could feel that Su Huaibei had changed a lot. As to what made him the way he was, she had no idea. "Since you're back now, please don't leave anymore!"

"Alright!" Su Huaibei nodded. "Is my room still available?"

"Yes. The butler made the maid clean it every day. Are you moving back?"

"This is my home after all. Since I'm back now, of course I'd be staying here!" Su Huaibei nodded again.

Upon hearing that, Su Yunwan was delighted. "Good. I'll get someone to clean up the room right now!"

Right after that, Su Yunwan left to make arrangements for the room to be cleaned. At the same time, Lin Shuqin was also pleased. "I'm sure Huainan and Yunqing would be very thrilled to see you home as well!"

With a smile on his face, Su Huaibei replied, "Thank you, Shuqin, for taking care of this family all these years!"

"Don't mention it!" Lin Shuqin smiled and turned to look at Shu Qing with a frown; however, she resorted to silence eventually. "Oh right, your father had gone out with some of his friends a few days ago so you might not be able to see him so soon!"

"Oh, really? He's such an old man now but he's still a man of wide interests it seems." Su Huaibei was still holding Shu Qing's hand tightly as he answered Lin Shuqin. After a while, the butler came down together with Su Yunwan. "Everything is ready. If you need anything else, I'll send for the butler at once."

"Thanks, Yunwan."

"We're family, don't be so courteous with me!"

Watching as Su Huaibei had gone upstairs while forcing Shu Qing to go with him, Su Yunwan turned around and eyed at Su Shaoqing with a frown. "What is going on?"

Su Shaoqing who had been totally ignored all the while raised his eyebrows and asked, "Why? Has Aunt Yunwan finally thought of me? Hehe." Su Shaoqing laughed lightly and added, "What do you want to know, Aunt Yunwan?"

"What's with your Uncle Huaibei? When did he come back? Also, what's with Shu Qing?"

Pausing for a while, Su Shaoqing looked at Su Yunwan solemnly. "Aunt Yunwan, it's a rather long story. I've also just come to know about it recently. As to why he has come back and his entanglements with Shu Qing, it's too long a story and I don't have not got enough information about it. But haven't you discovered something, Aunt Yunwan?"

"What is it?"

"Do you still remember this person?"

"Who?"

"Shi Nuan. Fu Chengyan's wife, Shi Nuan!"

"She?" Su Yunwan was stunned as she heard the name "Shi Nuan". And then, astonishment crept on her face. "Why did you suddenly bring her up? She..."

She remembered Shi Nuan. She's a girl who leaves a remarkable impression on others. In addition to that, her face is one that can hardly be forgotten. Su Yunwan's face turned gloomy all of a sudden. "You're saying that Shi Nuan is Jiang Yuan's daughter?"

"I suppose she is." Su Shaoqing noticed that his aunt's face was turning dark so he added, "Aren't you curious about who Shi Nuan's biological father might be, Aunt Yunwan?"

"So...?" Out of the blue, Su Yunwan's eyes widened in shock and she turned to look at Su Shaoqing and Lin Shuqin.

Lin Shuqin's eyebrows were almost knitted together. "Shaoqing, this is not something to joke about, are you sure?"

"Not very sure, but I suppose so." Su Shaoqing was wearing a smile. "Shi Nuan was still kept in the dark, but Chengyan was aware. I've discussed this with him and we'll ascertain through investigation. After all, Uncle Huaibei seems to have an inextricable relationship with this Jiang Yuan."

"What about that Shen Qianan you mentioned?" Su Yunwan had a vague impression of Shen Qianan. "Wasn't she and someone of the Fu clan..."

Su Shaoqing nodded. "But that was the past. Also, Fu Chengyan was never interested in her."

"Then Shen Qianan and Jiang Yuan..."

"She should be Jiang Yuan's daughter as well, but she's not Uncle Huaibei's daughter."

Su Shaoqing's words were an implication to Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin that they could treat Shi Nuan as a family member and ignored Shen Qianan when they saw these two persons in the future.

Su Yunwan and Lin Shuqin looked at each other and shook their head. "Sigh, just leave these matters to your Uncle Huaibei. But Shi Nuan..." Su Yunwan heaved a sigh. "Luckily, she's married to Fu Chengyan now and won't be wronged anymore."

"Right!" Su Shaoqing blinked. "Don't worry, Aunt Yunwan, we'll settle all these matters well." And then, Su Shaoqing turned to Lin Shuqin. "By the way, where's father?"

"You brat! So you still remember your father, huh?" Lin Shuqin couldn't help but continue, "Don't think that I don't know what you have been doing outside all day. Are you hanging out again with that Fu Ling recently?"