

I Want a Lifetime with You Chapter 471

Fu Chengyan was afraid that Shi Nuan wouldn't be able to handle it. Hence, he was happy to hear her say that.

Fu Chengyan's gaze deepened as he looked at her. "Did you have a good dinner?"

He had wanted to accompany her there today, but Shi Nuan shot down the idea. Besides, he was indeed busy and he couldn't untangle himself from work. Shi Nuan was adamant about going alone. She wanted to see just what kind of attitude Shu Qing would have when facing her.

Although she had met Shu Qing before, she wasn't sure how Shu Qing would really treat her. Their meeting today had helped Shi Nuan understand certain things. She was sure that Shu Qing didn't like her and that she had even harbored resentment towards her. Otherwise, she wouldn't have treated her the way she did during an occasion like that.

"Yeah, of course, I did!" Shi Nuan curled her lips into a smile. However, when she thought about Shu Qing's attitude towards her, it was inevitable that she would feel slightly uneasy.

At this point in time, she didn't think that she needed her parents' care anymore, but no matter the age, one's family was still important.

"Silly girl. You must tell me if anything's bothering you, okay?"

"Okay." Shi Nuan nodded with a smile. "I'll definitely make good use of such a capable husband. What are you so worried about?" Shi Nuan reached out to pinch his cheek. "I'll go take a shower first." Then, she paused. "By the way."

"Hmm?"

Fu Chengyan raised his brows. "What is it?"

“Since we’re living in your family home now, and umm... Mom... Has realized her mistakes. Not to mention, it’s been so many years already since all that happened. So, you wouldn’t still be holding a grudge against her, would you? I’m sure that you’re not that petty, right?”

Fu Chengyan’s eyes widened in surprise before they narrowed into slits as he stared at her. “Hmm? So you’re starting to lecture me too now?”

“No!” Shi Nuan glared at him. “In fact, I know that you’ve never blamed her, right? Otherwise, you wouldn’t have allowed her to move in.” She knew Fu Chengyan’s personality like the back of her hand by now. Although he seemed cold and aloof on the outside, whenever it came to his family, he was always kind. Be it Song Zhenyan or Fu Jiayu, he would always care about their welfare.

Fu Chengyan brows pulled together, but he didn’t say a word.

Shi Nuan laughed lightly. “Alright. I’ll go and take a shower now.”

After seeing Shi Nuan disappear into the room, Fu Chengyan remained rooted to the spot for a few beats. When he turned around, he found Song Zhenyan standing by the stairs, staring at him. He didn’t know how long she had been standing there. Her eyes were shimmering as she looked at Fu Chengyan, and she was about to say something when Fu Chengyan gave her a faint nod. “It’s getting late. You should rest earlier.”

As Fu Chengyan brushed past Song Zhenyan, he could feel her tremble slightly.

Fu Chengyan frowned, but calmly walked past her. On the other hand, Song Zhenyan stood there for a long time. Tears trickled down her cheeks as her emotions spiraled out of control. Although Fu Chengyan did not address her as his mother, God knew how long it had been since the mother and son pair had such a normal conversation.

Shi Nuan!

Just what kind of power does Shi Nuan possess, seeing that she is able to change my son, who had always been so cold?

Song Zhenyan did not get the answer to her question, but she knew that Fu Chengyan no longer hated her. Even if he did not call her ‘Mom’, she wouldn’t mind it. As long as she could see her son every day like that, she would be more than satisfied.

During the entire night that Shu Qing was locked in her room, she couldn't sleep at all. The pain in her lower jaw was so intense that she couldn't ignore it. Even so, she was unwilling to bow her head before Su Huaibei. That man was waiting for me to make a fool out of myself from the very beginning!

Su Huaibei is no longer the young man from twenty-five years ago. He's a devil now. And me? Shu Qing looked at her worn-out face in the mirror. Laughter bubbled in her chest, but it couldn't seem to get past her lips.

She still remembered the accusations that Su Huaibei had thrown at her. Even after all these years, those words still haunted her day and night.

However, things had already happened and they couldn't change a thing.

The door to her room was soon opened. Su Huaibei had one hand on the doorknob when he saw Shu Qing sitting on the floor in front of a mirror. His eyes flashed with a dark gleam, but it vanished as soon as it appeared,

He strode into the room at a sluggish pace. The injury on one of his legs was what caused him to walk with an unattractive gait.

A man trailed along behind Su Huaibei. He had a smile on his face and a medical bag in one hand. When he saw Shu Qing's appearance, something flashed in his eyes. "Uncle Huaibei, did you call me over this early in the morning to treat Aunt Qing?"

"Treat?" Su Huaibei gritted out the word. Then, he smiled. "Well, if you can treat mental illness, that'd be good!"

Shu Qing abruptly whipped her head up to shoot daggers at Su Huaibei, wanting so badly to maul his face. Despite her murderous gaze, Su Huaibei calmly looked at Su Shaoqing. "Just take a look at her!"

Su Shaoqing walked over and peered down at Shu Qing.

Due to her dislocated jaw not being reset for the whole night, Shu Qing's face was swollen and beyond recognizable. Even after being told that this woman was Shu Qing, some might still have found it hard to believe. However, the frosty glint in Shu Qing's eyes held heavy resentment.

Su Shaoqing crouched down and arched his lips into a smile at Shu Qing. "Aunt Qing, how could you have been so careless? It might be a little bit painful, so you'll have to bear with me for a moment!" As he spoke, he made quick work with his hands. Before Shu Qing knew what was going on, she heard a crack, just as her dislocated jaw was fixed.

Even though Shu Qing's jaw was now back in place, her face was still swollen.

Su Shaoqing smiled. "There. All done now. Refrain from eating for a few days and try not to speak as well. I'll prescribe you some medication, Aunt Qing. Just take care of yourself and you'll be as good as new!"

Su Shaoqing sounded like he was talking about the weather. It was obvious that he did not see this issue as an issue at all.

Although she had gotten her jaw fixed, Shu Qing was still in pain. Besides, she still couldn't speak. The slightest movement in her jaw would bring tears to her eyes.

Su Shaoqing withdrew his gaze at that moment. "Uncle, although we're relatives, a hospital director such as me having to come in person isn't something to be easily brushed off. Let's talk about the fees shall we?"

Su Huaibei squinted at him. "Look at how money-minded you've become, you little brat." Even though he said that he patted Su Shaoqing on the shoulder and uttered, "You know that I could've done without you, too!"

Su Shaoqing chuckled. "I've only just gotten off work after my night shift, you know? Alright. If there's anything else, go directly to my hospital. I'm going back to sleep for a while."

After Su Shaoqing left, Su Huaibei stood in front of Shu Qing without speaking. However, he kept his eyes trained on her. "Do you hate me?"

Shu Qing didn't say a word, but her eyes spoke enough for her.

Su Huaibei smiled. "It's good that you do. Since you don't love me, go ahead and hate me. The fact that you hate me goes to show that you can't forget about me!" As Su Huaibei spoke, he caught a glimpse of the rage in Shu Qing's red eyes. She looked like she wanted to kill him right then and there. However, he knew that Shu Qing wouldn't dare to express her anger in front of him at this moment. It was because she was afraid that he would hurt her

again. Being stuck in a living hell was not something that she had wanted to experience again.

“By the way, you’ve been back for such a long time, but you haven’t gone to visit your father yet, have you? It’s been so many years already. Don’t you want to see him?”

With red-rimmed eyes, Shu Qing gingerly opened her mouth to speak. “You’re not qualified to bring him up at all.” Her words were barely audible, but she was in so much agony that tears began to fall down her face again.

Su Huaibei’s heart clenched in his chest. He reached out and used his coarse fingers to wipe off the tears from the corner of her eyes.

“Tell me. How could you have been so cold-hearted as to abandon Nuan all those years ago?”

Shu Qing took a few unintentional steps backward, but Su Huaibei jerked her forward, not allowing her to escape. “Yuan, you can’t run away from everything.”

“Since you’re not feeling well, you should get a good rest. Once you’ve recovered, I’ll take you back and we can visit your father together!”

“No!” Shu Qing screamed in panic.

She shook her head as more tears dribbled down her face.

It wasn’t that she didn’t want to go back, rather, it was that she couldn’t.

Her father, Jiang Shizheng, hated her so much. He hated her for being both heartless and inhumane.

She was afraid to see the disappointment in Jiang Shizheng’s eyes.

Shu Qing grabbed onto Su Huaibei’s hand and continued shaking her head in refusal. She didn’t want, didn’t dare, and most importantly, didn’t have the right to go.

Su Huaibei shook her hand off with an impassive expression on his face. “Only if you go and see your father, tell him that I’m Nuan’s biological father, and let Nuan officially join the

family, will I consider letting you go. Otherwise, be prepared to live under my shadow for the rest of your life. It'll be your own purgatory on earth!"

Su Huaibei glanced coldly at Shu Qing. When he saw the dullness in her eyes, he looked away and once again locked her in the room.

Upon reaching the bottom of the stairs, Su Huaibei unexpectedly ran into Su Huainan who had just come back. Su Huaibei was taken aback for a split second. "Huainan!"

When Su Huainan's eyes landed on Su Huaibei, he nodded imperceptibly. "Mm. When did you come back?"

"A few days ago when you weren't home, Huainan." When Su Huaibei noticed Su Huainan scrutinizing him, he huffed out a laugh and asked, "Why are you looking at me like that, Huainan?"

"I've heard everything from Shuqin. So, you've brought her home, huh?" Su Huainan's expression was rather unsightly, probably because he didn't have a good impression of Shu Qing. "You went away for twenty over years, just like that, and now you're back... Logically speaking, I can't really tell you what to do even though I'm one of your older brothers, but this woman..."

The events back then were still vivid as though they had happened just yesterday. "Are you sure about it?"

"Yes!"

Su Huainan shook his head. "You're not getting younger anymore. You should know how tricky relationships can be. Since you say that you're sure, I shall say no more. Nonetheless, you should be mentally prepared when you face our father!" Su Huainan patted Su Huaibei on the shoulder. "Also, don't go too far too, alright?"

"Alright!" Su Huaibei nodded. "I plan to bring her back in a few days."

"To see Old Master Jiang?"

Su Huaibei nodded in response. "Yes." He hesitated for a moment before continuing, "And to let Nuan officially join the family."

“What did you say?” Su Huainan was stunned. “Nuan? To allow her to officially join the family?” Su Huainan was caught up with work recently, so there were many things that he wasn’t made aware of just yet.

“Shi Nuan. The daughter that I had with Jiang Yuan.” Su Huaibei continued, “She never told me that I had a daughter. Now, I plan to acknowledge Nuan as part of our family!”

“Alright, alright, alright. Since she’s a daughter of the Su family, naturally, we should acknowledge her as family. However, which Shi family is she from?”

“You don’t have to worry about this, Huainan. I know what to do!”

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“Well, in that case, I guess there’s nothing left for me to say. You’ll have to handle these things by yourself anyway.” Su Huainan patted Su Huaibei’s back. “Let’s have a seat. Tell me, what in the world is going on? Isn’t Shi Nuan Shi Jingzheng and Jiang Yu’s daughter?”

Since the incident twenty-five years ago, the Su family rarely had any interactions with the Jiang family, much less with the Shi family. Hence, Su Huainan wasn’t very clear about the situation in the Shi family. However, he had recently heard about Shi Nuan in passing.

Su Huainan suddenly remembered that Lin Shuqin had mentioned Shi Nuan during their phone call two days ago. However, he was too busy at that time. Hence, he had only listened half-heartedly and soon forgot about it altogether. Now that Su Huaibei had brought it up, Su Huainan recalled that Shi Jingzheng indeed had two daughters. The elder one, Shi Wei, was in showbiz and was considered to be a popular celebrity. As for the younger daughter, Su Huainan had not heard much about her. Even when he did, it was never pleasant.

As Su Huainan thought about it, his face darkened. “I can’t believe it. It was bad enough that the Shi family had taken away a child from the Su family! In addition to that, they didn’t even treat her well! Outrageous!”

“That’s why I plan on taking Nuan back into the family. Unfortunately, Nuan is already all grown up now, and she’s even married. I’m worried that she wouldn’t be able to accept it.”

This was the reason that Su Huaibei did not tell Shi Nuan the truth just yet. It was especially the case after he met her at the hospital the other day. Su Huaibei became increasingly afraid of reuniting with her because he was worried she would be unwilling to acknowledge him as her father.

"We can't rush this for now. I've long heard about Shi Nuan's marriage as well. That man from the Fu clan is close to Shaoqing. Thus, you can start with Shaoqing!"

"That's what I was thinking too."

The next day, Su Huaibei directly made his way to Su Shaoqing's hospital to probe him about matters regarding Shi Nuan and Fu Chengyan.

Seeing that his uncle was living an honest life now, Su Shaoqing no longer felt the need to hide anything. "Uncle, I'm not discouraging you, but Shi Nuan is already an adult and has her own thinking. So I really can't say whether or not she'll acknowledge you. However, I must warn you that Fu Chengyan isn't a simple person. Shi Nuan suffered a great deal all those years living with the Shi family and Fu Chengyan isn't one to let bygones be bygones. He's just waiting for the right time to strike the Shi family!"

Su Huaibei met his gaze, his brows knitting into a frown. "You don't have to tell me all of this. I just want you to help me test the waters so that I can see what Fu Chengyan and Shi Nuan think of me."

Su Shaoqing's hand that was holding a pen froze mid-stroke. He was slightly surprised to see this side of Su Huaibei. For as long as he could remember, this uncle of his was a very stubborn and assertive person. He always did as he pleased, never caring about what others had thought. Otherwise, things would never have panned out the way that they did that year.

"Okay." Su Shaoqing smiled. "I'll help you. Is there anything else, Uncle Huaibei?"

"I need to get her medication."

Although he didn't mention her by name, Su Shaoqing clearly knew who he was referring to. "Oh. Here you go!" Su Shaoqing took out the medication from his drawer and passed it to Su Huaibei. "Uncle, women are supposed to be pampered, not tortured. Weren't you afraid that you'd kill her by using so much force on her?"

Su Huaibei raised his brows, a hint of amusement peeking out from his eyes. "Qing, since when did you become such a merciful person?"

Su Shaoqing's expression stiffened. "Uncle, these two hands of mine save lives, not harm them!"

Only until Su Huaibei left did Su Shaoqing take a cigarette out of his pocket. He held it between his fingers for quite a while before inhaling deeply and calling Li Heng who was all the way in C Country. "About the information that I've told you to dig up on my Uncle Huaibei, have you found it?"

"What information, specifically, do you want?" Li Heng waved his hand, gesturing for Bao to go look for Pei Huan. Then, he left the room and went to the beach outside. Narrowing his eyes, he asked, "He didn't do anything suspicious when he was abroad. What exactly are you suspicious of?"

"Nothing!" Su Shaoqing laughed it off. "So, when are you and Pei Huan going to come back? Are you just going to let that brat Li Xufan run that shabby company of yours? Aren't you afraid that he'd take over it, one day? You'll be left with nothing if that happens."

Li Heng scoffed, sounding like he wasn't worried in the least. "If he manages to take over my company, that would mean that he has what it takes, right?"

"Eh? Heng, don't tell me that you don't plan on returning?" Su Shaoqing gasped. "You must be having a lot of fun there, huh! If Pei Huan doesn't rein you in and allows you to continue being idle, you might very well become completely broke one day. Let's see if Pei Huan would still want you then!"

Li Heng scoffed again. "You don't need to worry about this. Even if I'm penniless, my wife is rich, and my wife's brother is rich too. There's no way that I'll starve to death!"

"Tsk, tsk. Heng, you're seriously getting more shameless by the day. Does Pei Huan know you're like this? Does Fu Chengyan know?" Su Shaoqing couldn't help but nag at him. "Seriously though, haven't you finished settling matters there? You know that Pei Huan and Ling are friends, right? And... I might need Pei Huan's help with Ling!"

Li Heng's gaze darkened. "Not yet. I haven't found the miracle doctor. Although Huan and Bao are fine now, I can't help but worry!" This was also why Li Heng had been reluctant to return home.

Of course, there was another reason too. He had missed three years' worth of time with Pei Huan. He did not want to make the same mistake twice. Hence, he wanted to treat himself to a long vacation and compensate for those three years.

When Su Shaoqing heard his answer, he did not push any further. After a momentary silence, his lips lifted into a smile. "My Uncle Huaibei has returned, and Shi Nuan could be his daughter!"

"Yeah! I caught wind of this matter. Is this why you've asked me to investigate him?" Li Heng pondered for a moment. "Your uncle has been living in C Country for more than twenty years, and it seems like there weren't any problems. He was indeed very close to Shu Qing, but their relationship is rather complicated. If you want to know what exactly happened between them, I think you'd better go to the capital to find clues. After all, they were in the capital for a period of time. Furthermore, that specific period of time is the key to your answers!"

Su Shaoqing brushed his nose lightly and replied, "Okay!"

Shu Qing rested for a few days due to her injury. The medication that Su Shaoqing had prescribed was the best, so there weren't any long-term sequelae left behind.

Even so, Shu Qing didn't want her injury to heal so quickly. Once she recovered, it would mean that she would have to go back to see Jiang Shizheng. Upon seeing him, she would have to face certain things that she would rather leave buried.

Shu Qing's manager had been waiting in the Su family mansion for a long time. When Shu Qing came downstairs, the manager hurriedly stood up. "Ms. Shu, according to your schedule for today, you have to make a trip to Xinhuang to discuss matters regarding the contract."

The manager handed Shu Qing the contract which Xinhuang had given them a long time ago. Nevertheless, Shu Qing did not accept it. "I want to back out."

"What did you say?"

The manager looked at her in shock. "Could you repeat what you've just said?"

Shu Qing stared at him with a glacial expression. "Tell Su Huaibei that I want to go back to C Country and that I won't sign with Xinhuang!"

Her manager's heart skipped a beat. "Nonetheless, Ms. Shu, all the preparations had been done prior to your return to the country, and we've discussed everything with Xinhuang as well. Are you sure that you'd like to back out now? There's no way for you to advance your career in C Country anymore."

Her manager did not beat around the bush either. He clearly stated everything out for Shu Qing, "You're not young anymore, so a foreign country can't exactly offer you what your homeland can!"

"Enough. It's up to me to decide. Tell Su Huaibei that I..."

"Tell me what?" Su Huaibei had just returned home when he saw Shu Qing kicking up a fuss. His face clouded over as he pressed forth, "You're not a child anymore. You need to face the consequences of your mistakes instead of running away from them. After so many years of running, do you really think that you can keep it up?"

Shu Qing's expression turned grim, but she remained silent.

Seeing that, Su Huaibei waved his hand and ordered, "Get into the car first."

"Yes!"

After the manager left, a mirthless chuckle escaped Su Huaibei's lips. "Jiang Yuan, did you really think that you'd be able to go back? Since you don't want to go to Xinhuang, then we'll go to the Jiang family's home.

Upon hearing this, Shu Qing's eyes widened in horror. "No. I'm not going!"

"That's not up to you!" Su Huaibei left no room for discussion as he dragged Shu Qing out by the arm and shoved her into the car. With that, he commanded, "To the Jiang family's home!"

"No. Xinhuang! To Xinhuang!" Shu Qing lost control of herself and screamed. "Let's go to Xinhuang. Can't we just go to Xinhuang?"

Su Huaibei's lips quirked upwards as he pinched Shu Qing's chin. "Why couldn't you be this obedient from the start? It would have saved us so much trouble." Su Huaibei glanced at the chauffeur and ordered, "Go to Xinhuang Entertainment!"

“Yes, Sir!”

Very soon, their car halted at the entrance of Xinhuang Entertainment. Because the media had caught wind that Shu Qing would be coming here today, many reporters were currently waiting by the entrance. When they saw a car stop in front of Xinhuang Entertainment’s doors, they immediately swarmed over.

Su Huaibei frowned at the sight of this. His sharp gaze swept toward the manager. “What’s going on?”

“Ms. Shu’s schedule was pre-arranged. It was even available on the official website. Thus, this is unavoidable!” The manager had a troubled expression on his face.

If that incident from before didn’t happen to Shu Qing, this was exactly the exclusive that the media would need, and they would also hype up Shu Qing’s return to the country. However, the current Shu Qing did not need media exposure. The more low-key she remained, the better it was for her.

The manager had never expected so many people to show up. Other than media reporters, there were also some fans present. He glanced at Su Huaibei with a helpless expression. “Mr. Su, how should we proceed?”

“Drive to the Xinhuang’s basement parking and call their person in charge.”

“Yes!” The manager dabbed his sweat away with his handkerchief and immediately made the call.

“Mr. Su, Xinhuang’s person in charge told us to go to the parking lot first. There will be someone to bring Ms. Shu up.” He paused as he waited for an answer.

“Then, what are you waiting for?”

“Yes. We’ll go there right away!” The manager ended the call and glanced at Shu Qing, who was silent throughout the entire journey before speaking up, “Ms. Shu, Xinhuang Entertainment is currently the most capable company. Not just in Jiang City, but in the capital and even the whole country, Xinhuang is the cream of the crop in producing famous celebrities.”

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Shu Qing merely huffed in response. When the manager saw her disinterest, he felt slightly awkward and did not continue speaking anymore.

The car quickly arrived at the parking lot. Seeing that Xinhuang's staff had prepared for this scenario in advance, the media reporters and paparazzi were not granted access.

Shu Qing pushed the car door open and stepped out. When she saw that Su Huaibei had also gotten out, her face turned gloomy all of a sudden. "Why did you get down?"

A smirk played upon Su Huaibei's lips. "Of course, it's to take a look at your future workplace and see what kind of environment you'll be working in!" Su Huaibei didn't bother about Shu Qing, walking ahead of her instead. Xinhuang's person in charge was slightly astounded upon seeing Shu Qing and a middle-aged man walking over together. Even so, the person in charge did not comment on it. "Ms. Shu, this way please!"

Su Huaibei shot a glance at Shu Qing, who had a reluctant look sprawled across her face, before stepping into the elevator. The manager followed closely behind them. Shu Qing gritted her teeth in the end, as she ultimately chose to follow them in.

She had witnessed Su Huaibei's methods more than once. Every time Shu Qing thought that his methods could not get any more brutal, he would make her see him in a different light again. Su Huaibei had never cared for civility. Thus, Shu Qing was now on her best behavior.

When Su Huaibei saw this, a crease formed between his brows. Nevertheless, he did not make any remarks.

The Xinhuang personnel looked between the two of them and instantly felt the oppressive aura that the middle-aged man was exuding. All he did was stand there without uttering a word, but he could still intimidate those around him. Very soon, the personnel could also make some connections between Shu Qing and Su Huaibei.

The elevator doors opened when they reached the seventh floor. The personnel extended his hand and urged, "Please follow me. Our boss is already waiting in the conference room."

Su Huaibei took the lead, with Shu Qing trailing along behind him. The personnel pushed open the door to the room. At that moment, Shu Qing felt regret gnaw at her chest. She wanted to run in the opposite direction, but Su Huaibei did not give her the opportunity to do so at all.

His hand had already grabbed her arm as he grinned at her. "Where do you think you're going?"

Shu Qing's face paled as she stared at Su Huaibei's hand on her arm, holding her in place. Then, she looked at the person inside the room. Her fists clenched tightly and hatred swirled in her eyes.

Shi Nuan had also seen Shu Qing by now. She stood up from her seat and walked toward them with a polite smile. Her smile stayed in place the whole time and she gave off the vibe of a mature and steady woman.

However, when Shi Nuan's gaze landed on Su Huaibei, surprised filled her eyes. She stared at him for quite a while before exclaiming softly, "It's you?"

Su Huaibei also froze for some time before releasing Shu Qing's arm. Faced with Shi Nuan's smiling eyes, he was slightly dumbfounded, but more pleasantly surprised than anything. "Good afternoon!"

"Good afternoon!" Shi Nuan smiled. "We met at the hospital previously, but you look a little bit different from that day! Do you remember me?" Shi Nuan pointed at herself.

Su Huaibei immediately understood. "Oh, yes. I remember that. I looked rather disheveled that time. I'm sure you had a good laugh behind my back."

"It wasn't a big deal. My name is Shi Nuan. I'm the current person in charge of Xinhuang. And you are?"

"Su Huaibei!" He extended his hand and shook hands with Shi Nuan in a very gentlemanly way.

Shu Qing, who was standing beside Su Huaibei at that moment snorted with derision when she saw his actions. "Stop acting like you're close when you're not."

The smile on Shi Nuan's face stiffened, but she quickly recovered and raised her brows instead. "Mr. Su, I hope you don't mind me asking, but what's your relationship with Jiang City's Su family?"

"Do you know of the Su family, Ms. Shi?" Su Huaibei looked at her with surprise. Shi Nuan nodded and replied, "Yes. Mr. Su Shaoqing and I are well acquainted with each other. What about you?"

"I'm Qing's fourth uncle!" Su Huaibei smiled. "So you and my nephew are friends!"

"That's right, Mr. Su. Ms. Shu, please come in as well!" Shi Nuan did not ask what the relationship between Su Huaibei and Shu Qing was, neither did she ask someone to escort Su Huaibei out. On the contrary, she made sure to take good care of him.

"Xu Yue, pour some tea for Mr. Su, please." Shi Nuan paused. "What type of tea do you prefer, Mr. Su?"

"I don't mind anything!" Su Huaibei looked at Shi Nuan with a gentle gaze.

Shi Nuan nodded slightly. "Make a cup of Pu'er then. Ms. Shu, what about y..."

"There's no need for that." Shu Qing cut her off and said in a slightly vexed tone, "You don't need to put in so much effort on me, Ms. Shi. I don't want a drink!"

Shi Nuan raised her lips slightly at that. "Bring a glass of warm water for Ms. Shu. Seeing how ageless Ms. Shu looks, she must be very health-conscious, avoiding consuming any outside food." Shi Nuan cleverly cleared the awkwardness brought about by Shu Qing.

Su Huaibei's keen eyes were fixated on Shi Nuan as he gazed at her with admiration and a hint of a smile.

Shi Nuan looked away and raised her hand slightly. With that, Zhou Zheng came over. "Mrs. Fu, this is the contract for Ms. Shu!"

Shi Nuan nodded and accepted the contract. Her eyes swept over the details as she held the contract in one hand, while her other hand tapped against the desk. Her calm and relaxed appearance made her look very professional and sophisticated to outsiders, but when Zhou Zheng saw this, a smile stretched across his lips.

Mrs. Fu has spent too much time with Mr. Fu to the point that she has picked up some of his little habits. Whenever Mr. Fu is in deep contemplation, he would look like this too.

Shi Nuan looked through the contract thoroughly, then passed it to Shu Qing. Then, she instructed Zhou Zheng to give Shu Qing's manager and Su Huaibei a copy each as well. "The contract that was previously given to Ms. Shu was only the preliminary agreement and it wasn't perfected yet. This one was just released this morning. Please take a look at it first. If there are any problems, feel free to point them out."

Xu Yue came in just then. He gave Su Huaibei a cup of tea, before handing Shu Qing a glass of warm water. However, Shu Qing did not accept it. Xu Yue glanced at Shi Nuan, and the latter signaled for her to place the glass aside.

Shi Nuan looked at Shu Qing patiently and found that they shared many similarities. Nonetheless, there were also disparities between them.

Shu Qing's personality was very different from hers. On the contrary, Shen Qianan and Shu Qing had the same personalities; they wore their emotions on their sleeves.

Shi Nuan shifted her gaze but was met with Su Huaibei's friendly one.

Shi Nuan gave him a polite nod, which he did the same with a smile. From the start to the end, he was nothing but a modest gentleman.

Shi Nuan had a very good impression of Su Huaibei. He gave her a good feeling and he seemed completely harmless to her.

It took Shu Qing about half an hour to finish looking through the contract. Shi Nuan had remained quiet in her seat throughout the entire ordeal.

Shu Qing could not stand how collected she was, so she snapped the contract shut and announced, "I'm not satisfied with this contract!"

"Oh?" Shi Nuan raised her brows. "May I know what exactly you're not satisfied with, Ms. Shu?" Shi Nuan then lifted her hand and Zhou Zheng instantly came over. "Zhou Zheng, note down everything and make sure that you fulfill all of Ms. Shu's requests."

Although Shi Nuan was speaking to the assistant, her eyes were trained on Shu Qing. "Ms. Shu, Mr. Zhou is my husband's personal assistant. Of course, his skills are unparalleled. So, if you're dissatisfied in any manner, just let Mr. Zhou know."

“Ms. Shu, I’m all ears. Please, go ahead!” Zhou Zheng sat adjacent to Shi Nuan and focused on Shu Qing with a serious expression.

Meanwhile, Shu Qing was stupefied, unable to say a word for quite a while. Under Shi Nuan’s intense gaze, Shu Qing finally snapped out of it and sneered. “I’m just not satisfied. I’ve heard that Xinhuang is one of the top entertainment industries in the country. So what is this? You people can’t even handle a simple contract and need me to teach you how to do your jobs? Is everyone at Xinhuang so incapable?”

Zhou Zheng lifted his head and arched his brows in question at Shu Qing.

This was the first time that he met such a difficult artist. Shi Wei was already bad enough, so he never expected that there would be someone even worse. Had it not been for Fu Chengyan specially ordering him to accompany Shi Nuan to settle some things, he would not have been willing to serve someone like this. Not only was she arrogant, rather, her attitude toward Shi Nuan was also very bad. It was a blessing that Shi Nuan was a good-tempered person, otherwise, he would have...

Shi Nuan lightly tapped the table, signaling for Zhou Zheng to remain calm. Then, she turned to Shu Qing with a smile and uttered, “Then I guess we won’t be signing the contract today.”

Shu Qing scoffed. “If that’s the case, I’m leaving. I have things to do.”

Seeing Shu Qing stand up, Shi Nuan followed suit. “Ms. Shu, why don’t you keep your options open? After all, Z Nation is huge and Xinhuang isn’t the only entertainment company. Based on your current reputation, any company would be willing to sign you, and the price would be negotiable as well. Since you aren’t satisfied with Xinhuang, it must mean that we still have to improve on certain things. After you explore other companies, I’ll get in contact with you again to ask you for your advice, Ms. Shu!”

Shu Qing’s face turned ashen with anger. “Shi Nuan, you...”

“Preposterous! How dare you raise your voice at Mrs. Fu?” Zhou Zheng got to his feet and went to stand in front of Shi Nuan. “Mrs. Fu treats everyone well, and that’s because she’s kind. Even if you are our guest, you shouldn’t take advantage of it. If you don’t want to sign with Xinhuang, I dare say that no company in the country would want to sign you!”

“You...”

“Zhou Zheng!” Shi Nuan frowned and pinned him a hard stare. “How could you speak to Ms. Shu in such a manner?”

“I was out of line.” Zhou Zheng immediately retreated to his initial position.

Shi Nuan plastered a professional smile on her face and turned to look at Shu Qing. However, the smile did not reach her eyes. “Since our discussion has turned rather unpleasant, I hope that you’ll have a good day, Ms. Shu. I believe that we’ll have other chances to collaborate in the future!”

“Xu Yue. See our guests out.”

“Ms. Shu, this way.”

“Hmph!” Shu Qing harrumphed and took a step to leave.

Shu Qing’s manager quickly grabbed Shu Qing’s arm. “Ma’am, what are you doing? Xinhuang is such a large company but you don’t want to sign with them? What in the world aren’t you satisfied with? All the conditions stated in the contract are tailored to your best interests. Even the resources are the best of the best. If you walk out now, you won’t get another chance like this.”

“You... Are you even my manager?” Seeing her own manager publicly slap those words in her face, Shu Qing glared at him. “I’d said, I don’t want to sign!”

“Don’t forget about your current image and reputation. You’re not young anymore. Why are you being so stubborn?”

“Since she doesn’t want to sign, then we won’t force her!” Su Huaibei came to stand before Shu Qing, looking down his nose at her. “After so many years, you’re still the same; older but not wiser!”

Post navigation

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Shi Nuan stayed in the meeting room after Shu Qing left. Zhou Zheng and Xu Yue stood by her side with concerned looks. "Mrs. Fu, why did you..."

The lady raised her hand to halt the question. "I fully expected her not to agree to it. It's not the contract's problem- it's me." The self-aware Shi Nuan admitted laughingly.

If she were still a delicate young lady, Shu Qing's words would have scarred her deeply. However, she had since grown and matured, and her ego was no longer that fragile.

Zhou Zheng watched on worryingly at the side. He personally knew a lot about her family background as Fu Chengyan had instructed him to investigate it secretly. Unfortunately, being just a lowly secretary, he had no right to probe further into the matter. Nevertheless, working for Fu Chengyan for a long time did shape his perspective on the issue.

As such, he could not help but feel indignant for Shi Nuan. Yet concurrently, he realized that the lady did not actually need any emotional support- she was already rather mature, beyond what he himself was capable of.

"Alright, it's getting late. I think that you should return to the headquarters," Shi Nuan told Zhou Zheng.

"What will you be doing then, Mrs. Fu?" came Zhou Zheng's question.

Usually, Shi Nuan would be visiting Shengyuan at this hour. Otherwise, she would have met up with Fu Chengyan. "I think I will go on a stroll with Xu Yue!" She turned to Xu Yue and continued, "Since Yan got you to be with me, your schedule shall be determined by me. Don't worry though, I am a very kind person."

"Sure thing, Mrs. Fu!" Xu Yue cheered. "Where do you want to go?"

"I haven't made up my mind. Let's just head out first. Meanwhile, can you help me tidy up these contracts now? I foresee that the woman shall be back." Shi Nuan always trusted her instincts. "Anyways, what is Shi Wei doing recently? Did the company give her any new acting offers?"

The query was directed at Qin Hong and Ms. Qin. Ms. Qin replied, "She went ahead to audition for an urban drama, which we did not invest in, and got the gig. There was an official announcement made a few days ago. We originally wanted to take action against her since this was a breach of contract, but Mr. Zhou advised us to close an eye on this issue."

Zhou Zheng concurred with Ms. Qin's statement. "It was Mr. Fu's orders!"

Shi Nuan nodded. "Alright then, we will let sleeping dogs lie."

Following the exchange, Shi Nuan and Xu Yue departed from the building and headed out.

Frankly, Xu Yue was rather afraid of Shi Nuan initially. Although she had worked on the twenty-seventh floor previously, she barely had the chance to see Fu Chengyan. When Mai Qi, the head secretary, ordered her to be with Shi Nuan, she had no idea who she was. Once Mai Qi told her about Shi Nuan's actual identity, Xu Yue began to feel apprehensive.

She had imagined that Shi Nuan would be a difficult person to be around. Nonetheless, after a while, she began to realize how wrong her assumptions were.

Tagging along behind Shi Nuan, she watched on as the lady browsed through some luxury goods and bought some children's clothes at the boys' section, before heading to the kids' area.

"Is this for our future young master?"

"Master? The baby's only over 3 months old- we don't know the gender yet!" Shi Nuan exclaimed. "However, the doctor did tell me that they're twins."

Xu Yue's eyes widened at the news. "Really? I've heard that twins are usually really hard to conceive if one doesn't have the genetic heritage!"

Shi Nuan softened her voice. "That claim has no basis."

"Well, do you wish for a boy or girl, Mrs. Fu?" asked Xu Yue.

"Either one is fine, though the most ideal outcome would be having a girl and a boy each. That way, they can keep each other company. Moreover, having one gender each may also bring good luck!"

Shi Nuan spoke fondly as she gazed tenderly at the baby clothes. Changing the topic, she asked, "Yue, do you have a boyfriend? You look pretty young- are you twenty-four yet?"

"I'm already twenty-five!"

Shi Nuan raised her brows in surprise. "Oh my, that means that you're older than me!" For a moment, she wondered if she had gotten married too early- she was only twenty-four after all.

She continued with a grin, "So, do you have a boyfriend?"

"Yes! However, we've agreed to focus on our careers so that we can earn enough money to afford a house before marrying each other."

Shi Nuan listened with an occasional nod. "One's career is indeed important, but ladies like us should think more about our happiness too. I think that twenty-five is an ideal age for marriage."

Xu Yue understood Shi Nuan's concerns, but she had her own beliefs. "Both of our families are indeed persuading us to get married soon. The elders have even offered to pay for our house in advance. However, my boyfriend and I, are not really into the idea of using their money. We'd very much prefer to be financially capable of affording a home ourselves."

"That's very ambitious!" Shi Nuan cried out. Grabbing two sets of baby clothes, she handed them over to Xu Yue and said, "Buy these for now and keep them for the future!"

...

Ever since Shu Qing and Su Huaibei departed from Xinhuang Entertainment, the pair remained silent. In the car, Shu Qing remained fuming and had no energy to engage with Su Huaibei. The air in the car was tense. The silence only broke when Shu Qing looked out of the window and realized that the scenery looked unfamiliar. "This is not the route to the Su family residence!"

Su Huaibei scoffed, "Wow, I'm surprised that you actually recognize the route! I thought that you didn't want to go back?"

Clenching her fists, Shu Qing hissed, "Su Huaibei, are you entertained by your own antics? If you don't want to see me, then don't keep me by your side!"

"I've already said it before, and I'll say it again- forget about ever leaving my side. Even if you're dead, I'll make sure that your body remains with me."

A wave of disgust overwhelmed Shu Qing. "You're sick! You're completely out of your mind!"

"Yes, I'm absolutely sick, so what? Your life will be in my hands until the day I die. Your only escape route is to pray hard that my demise comes before yours." Out of the blue, he grabbed Shu Qing's jaw forcefully. "Also, let me repeat myself. Be nicer to Nuan, you hear me?"

He then slackened his hold over her. Recovering from the sudden aggression, Shu Qing turned to look out of the window again. She asked with unease, "Where are you going?"

"I see that you've left Jiang City for so long that you don't even recognize the way home."

This ignited Shu Qing's vehement protests. "No! Su Huaibei, do you not understand me? I've said that I do not want to go back! I refuse to go back!"

"Nevertheless, I've also said that I'm going to give Nuan a proper status- one that is as distinguished as Fu Chengyan's. I won't let anyone bully my daughter."

Shu Qing roared in desperation, "Su Huaibei! Shu Qing is not your daughter! She belongs to Jiang Yu and Shi Jingzheng! Your own daughter is long dead. Do you hear me? Dead!"

Su Huaibei's voice turned colder than ever. "Shu Qing, do you even have an ounce of humanity left in you? If you can recognize Shen Qianan as your daughter, why can't you do the same for Nuan?"

"Haha... You're hilarious, Su Huaibei. This is literally the pot calling the kettle black. If I'm void of humanity, then what about you? Also, after torturing me for so many years, do you really think that I can still remain sane?" An empty laugh echoed in the car. "I can deem Shen Qianan as my daughter because she doesn't have your filthy DNA. Shi Nuan, on the other hand... "

A harsh slap landed on Shu Qing's face before she could finish her sentence. Su Huaibei flashed her a menacing gaze and bellowed, "You'd dare say that again?"

"I will say it over and over again! It's unfortunate that you're her father. Your dirty blood flows in her, dooming her to a lifetime of shame. It's all your fault, Su Huaibei! You ruined me, and you ruined Shi Nuan!"

"You... " That was the last straw. The man's hands darted out as his fingers closed tightly about her neck.

Ragged breaths escaped from Shu Qing's throat as the grip strengthened increasingly. Her neck could quite literally snap at this rate.

Nonetheless, she did not retaliate even as her face grew ruddier over time. Instead, she forced a grin at Su Huaibei as a tear rolled down her cheek.

All of a sudden, throbbing waves of pain pierced through Su Huaibei's chest. His hold around Shu Qing relaxed as he doubled over in pain- hands clenching at the area around his heart. Cold sweat blanketed his forehead.

Released from the death grip, Shu Qing took a while to regain her breath.

Processing the sight before her and seeing the man in agony, she sneered, "Su Huaibei, don't tell me that you're actually dying!"

His teeth clenched harder than ever as he threw a piercingly cold gaze at her.

The manager at the front seat soon got hold of the situation and quickly reacted. "Mr. Fu, are you alright? Medicine! Where's your medicine?"

Rummaging through the man's bag to no avail, he immediately instructed the driver to stop the car.

Alighting the vehicle, the manager dashed to the back compartment and dragged Shu Qing out of the car to make room. He began searching for the medicine on his body, asking anxiously, "Mr. Fu, where is your medicine?"

As Shu Qing stumbled out of the car, a chill went down her spine as the scene played out before her eyes. At this point, Su Huaibei had already lost consciousness. His figure slumped lifelessly on his seat, and his face was deadly pale.

She felt goosebumps on her arms. Winter season had yet to arrive, but for a moment, even her teeth felt like trembling.

“What... What is happening to him?”

No one heard her. She raised her voice, “What on earth is happening to him?” Dashing forward, she pulled the manager out of the car in a hostile manner and demanded an explanation. “Tell me, what happened to him?”

The manager slapped her hands away and uttered coldly, “You want an explanation? Aren’t you too busy hoping that Mr. Su would pass away soon? Unfortunately, your wishes won’t come true. Mr. Su will live a long, healthy life. I’ll make sure he shall.”

Returning into the car, the manager soon procured the buried medicine. Quickly, he placed one into Su Huaibei’s mouth. After what seemed like an eternity, the man regained consciousness. “After you feeling better, Mr. Su?” asked the manager.

A tad bit of color returned to his complexion, making him look much livelier than before. He gave the manager a brief nod as he reassured him that he was fine.

Once the entire ordeal was over, the manager swiftly returned to his original seat.

Meanwhile, Su Huaibei, who was still resting against his seat, glowered at Shu Qing’s scraggy figure. Calling out to the lady outside the car, he jibed, “Are you disappointed that I’m not dead?”

“You... “ Shu Qing bit her lips. “Yes, it’s a shame that you’re not dead.”

“I’m afraid that you would have to continue feeling this way for a while,” Su Huaibei replied.

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“Get in the car!” Su Huaibei looked at Shu Qing with cold eyes. The latter gritted her teeth and stood outside for a moment before getting in the car. But this time, she did not dare to speak as fiercely toward him as before.

Su Huaibei couldn't be bothered. He closed his eyes and started to feign a nap.

Shu Qing sat beside him, feeling nervous. However, that feeling quickly disappeared.

Su Huaibei! Shu Qing clenched her fists. When he was sound asleep, she realized he wasn't as scary as when he was awake.

Since when did he become like this? She could no longer remember. After hating him for such a long time, the passionate moments they had together seemed insignificant.

Looking at him was an eyesore. She turned her head away from him.

Little did she know, Su Huaibei was not asleep at all. As she turned away, he opened his eyes. For a moment, his eyes were filled with gentleness.

The car stopped at the Jiang Residence. Su Huaibei opened his eyes and noticed Shu Qing unwilling to move. So, he pulled the door open and tugged her off the car. “You think you can run away from this?”

“Don't force me, Su Huaibei!”

Su Huaibei tightened his lips and said, “Force you? It's fine if you think that way. Go in!”

Without sparing a moment, he forcibly dragged her up the stairs. He did not give her any chance to retaliate.

His steps were not quick, but he moved at a steady pace. He rang the doorbell as soon as he arrived at the doorstep.

“Coming!”

It was Aunt Fei's voice coming from the other side of the door. As the door opened, Aunt Fei greeted, "How may I help... Young Lady?" She was stunned by the sight of Shu Qing. "Um..." She looked over to the man beside Shu Qing and was surprised. Pointing her finger toward Su Huaibei, she said, "You are..."

Su Huaibei smiled and nodded. "It's been a while, Aunt Fei."

Aunt Fei was horrified to see them. She quickly pushed them out and said, "Master is not home today. You're not in luck. Leave!"

Suddenly, Jiang Shizheng's voice came through. "Aunt Fei, who's that at the door?"

Jiang Shizheng was coming out of the study room. While walking toward the living room, he saw people struggling and pulling each other. He turned his head toward Aunt Fei, but his face fell when his eyes met Shu Qing. "Why are you here? We don't welcome you. Get lost!"

He pointed at the door. With a harsh voice, he said, "Aunt Fei, chase them out right now!"

"Dad!" Despite not wanting to come home, Shu Qing involuntarily trembled when her father said those words. "Dad, I..."

"Dad? Don't call me Dad. I don't have a daughter like you. Get out of my sight!" Shu Qing refused to leave. With rage boiling within his veins, Jiang Shizheng brandished his slipper.

"Leave! Get out of my house! Now!"

"Uncle Jiang!"

Su Huaibei grabbed Shu Qing and stood in front of her.

As his height was significantly taller than Jiang Shizheng, he bent forward as he looked at the latter.

Jiang Shizheng was stunned when he saw the man who appeared before him.

Even after more than twenty years, Su Huaibei's appearance barely changed. Plus, he seemed to be a lot more matured and older.

"You... It's you! How dare you come to my house? You want me to beat you up, don't you?" Jiang Shizheng looked Su Huaibei in the eyes. If it hadn

't been for Su Huaibei's abduction of his youngest daughter Jiang Yuan, the incidents that followed would never have happened.

Due to the marriage between Su Huaibei and Jiang Yu being called off, Jiang Yu became a laughing stock, and she hated Jiang Yuan even more. But what happened afterwards? If Su Huaibei and Jiang Yuan had a good relationship, Jiang Shizheng might be able to forgive everything. But what had happened later for everything to come to this? He had no intentions to know, but his resentment toward Su Huaibei was absolute.

"Leave. Both of you. The Jiang family doesn't welcome the likes of you."

Shu Qing whimpered, "Dad."

Jiang Shizheng shoved Shu Qing away. She staggered on her feet with a pitiful face. Then, she looked at Su Huaibei. "Are you satisfied now?"

The man glanced at Shu Qing. "Uncle Jiang, I know you're still bothered by what happened back then, but it has been so many years. Jiang Yu is a wife and a mother now. What happened won't matter anymore. I brought Yuan here today for only one purpose!"

"I don't care what your purpose is! We don't welcome you here!" Jiang Shizheng refused to hear them out. "Aunt Fei! Chase them out of here with a broom!" he shouted.

Su Huaibei exclaimed, "Uncle Jiang! I know you don't wish to see us, but what if I'm here to talk about Nuan?"

Those words had Jiang Shizheng and Aunt Fei appalled.

"Old Master?"

Jiang Shizheng blinked with astonishment. "Nuan? How did you know about Nuan? Nuan is a child from the Shi family! What does Nuan have to do with you!"

"I am Nuan's biological father!"

"What?" Jiang Shizheng was astounded. He looked at Su Huaibei in disbelief, then at Shu Qing and asked, "Tell me! who is Nuan's biological father?"

"I..." Shu Qing stuttered. Jiang Shizheng stared at her as if he were staring into her soul. She couldn't bring her head up.

In her entire life, there were only two people for whom Shu Qing felt the most guilt. One of them was Jiang Shizheng, and the other was Jiang Yu. Jiang Shizheng worked hard to raise her, but she did not fulfill her responsibilities as a daughter. As for Jiang Yu, she had been very kind to Shu Qing ever since she was a little girl. However, Shu Qing had snatched Su Huaibei away from Jiang Yu.

Shu Qing tightened her fist. She couldn't let out a single word. It was fine for her to lie to Su Huaibei, but she couldn't gather herself to lie to Jiang Shizheng.

"You. What did I, Jiang Shizheng, did in my past life that caused me to give birth to such a wicked child like you!" Jiang Shizheng was trembling with anger. He slowly raised his arm and viciously slapped his palm across her face. "Not a single word! You left your sister and me without a single word! Do you have any idea how much humiliation your sister had to endure? Then you came back and left us a baby who had an unknown father that you didn't acknowledge to be yours! Have you ever considered the baby or me? You imbecile!"

Jiang Shizheng pointed toward the bottom of the stairs. "Get out! Get out of my sight! And you... I'm warning you, don't you go anywhere near Nuan. Nuan is a child of the Shi family. You're not fit to be Nuan's parents. Now get lost!"

"Uncle Jiang!" Su Huaibei stopped him. "Nuan is my child! She belongs to the Su family! I will not let Nuan be one of the Shi family! Also, the Shi family has been mistreating Nuan. How can I tolerate one of my family being tormented by others!"

"Ho ho, now you sound like a saint. So why didn't you want your child back then?" Jiang Shizheng had assumed that Su Huaibei never wanted the child. Otherwise, Shu Qing would not have brought the child back.

"It's not that I don't want the child, but..." Su Huaibei glanced at Shi Qing once again and took a deep breath. "We had a misunderstanding in the past. Back then, I thought... I thought the child was dead!"

Jiang Shizheng immediately realized something was amiss. He asked Shu Qing, "Is it true?"

Shu Qing refused to answer, and Jiang Shizheng understood immediately. In a sarcastic tone, he said, "This is great! My daughter is selfish and full of lies! I must have insulted your ancestors in my previous life for you to torment me in this life!"

"Dad... Please don't say that."

"What should I say then? That I taught you well? Look at you! You're despicable!" Jiang Shizheng desperately wanted to slap Shu Qing even more, but he resisted. He turned his body aside and said, "Go. Get out of my sight. You don't have to worry about Nuan. She's married to the Fu clan and has been doing well. She does not need selfish parents like the both of you."

"Uncle Jiang!" With his arms, Su Huaibei stopped the door from closing. "I understand that I'm probably your least favorite person, and you won't forgive me. However, I am here only because of Nuan. I want Nuan to return to the Su family! I promise I will treat her well and let her marry Fu Chengyan with her new identity so she won't be questioned by anyone in the Fu clan in the future."

Jiang Shizheng paused and gave Su Huaibei a stern look as if he were verifying the authenticity of his words.

Su Huaibei added, "Shi Nuan is the daughter of the Su family. I will not abandon her and leave her out there to fend for herself without an identity!"

"You make it sound so easy. What about the Su family? Will they acknowledge her as one of them?"

"Why won't they? I am Nuan's father," Su Huaibei reassured. "There is nothing to worry about. The Su family already knows about Nuan's identity, and they don't bear her any grudges."

Jiang Shizheng lowered his head and thought for a minute. "Aunt Fei, please send Mr. Su off." He then turned to Shu Qing. "You, get in here!"

At first, Shu Qing wanted to leave, but she hesitated at those words. She looked at Su Huaibei, then at Jiang Shizheng before saying, "Dad, I..."

"Hmph! Don't call me that. I don't consider you as my daughter. Do you think I'll still talk to you if it isn't for Nuan?"

Jiang Shizheng turned around and walked toward the study room. Aunt Fei looked at Shu Qing and gestured with her hand. "Young Lady, please come in! As for Mr. Su..."

"It's okay. I'll wait here!" Su Huaibei replied.

Aunt Fei nodded. "Young Lady, go ahead." She gestured her hand again to lead Shu Qing into the house.

Shu Qing stood at the door anxiously clenching her fists. Jiang Shizheng's voice came from inside the house. "Stop dilly-dallying! You'll get to leave once we're done talking!"