

As Agreed 101

Chapter 101: A Date

Shu Pan pretended not to hear and continued eating.

To avoid awkwardness, Wen Chi changed the topic. “Shu Pan, how about bringing Joy to Bin City next time for a visit?”

“Well, I’m planning to bring her here to study later.”

“That’s great. If you ever face any difficulties, remember to tell me. We’re friends. Don’t hesitate,” Wen Chi emphasized.

“Okay,” Shu Pan nodded in response.

Later, Wen Chi finished his meal and left. However, Shu Pan couldn’t help but feel that there was something more to Wen Chi’s hints, and even the most obtuse person would have sensed it.

Shu Pan’s mind was in turmoil, but she felt she didn’t deserve someone as good as Dr. Wen, especially as a divorced woman.

Tong Fei was about to go abroad for a photoshoot, so she planned to meet with Gu Shaoting at the company since they would be separated for some time.

Tong Fei wore a tasteful and elegant knee-length dress, exuding grace and elegance. Whenever she appeared in front of others, she was in her best state, leaving a lasting impression.

Tong Fei walked into Gu Shaoting’s company in high heels, her slender and pointed heels making a “clack, clack” sound on the office floor. Everyone in the company was aware of their relationship, so no one stopped her. She wanted to surprise Gu Shaoting, so she didn’t want anyone to inform him.

Firstly, their relationship had been rumored, and secondly, Tong Fei had previously been a spokesperson for the Gu family. It was nearly impossible for such a high-profile couple to keep their relationship secret.

Tong Fei quietly entered Gu Shaoting's office.

"Shaoting..." Tong Fei's voice was sweet as she affectionately called Gu Shaoting.

"Why do you have time to come over?" Gu Shaoting raised his head from his documents.

"Oh, I'm leaving for an overseas photoshoot tomorrow, and I won't be able to see you for quite a few days. I'll miss you, so I came to have a meal with you. Are you free?" Tong Fei moved closer, sat on the armrest of Gu Shaoting's chair, and then embraced his neck, lightly brushing his forehead with her lips.

Gu Shaoting was somewhat unaccustomed to her intimate actions and furrowed his brows.

He stood up as an excuse, walked over to the water dispenser, and took a sip of water.

"You'll be gone for a few days? When are you leaving? Do you need me to have a driver take you?" Gu Shaoting concealed his inner discomfort and asked Tong Fei.

"I have an early morning flight, and my agency will send a car. Thanks for offering though," Tong Fei replied. When she heard Gu Shaoting offer to have a driver take her, her heart ached slightly.

It seemed that every time, a driver was arranged to pick her up, but he had never personally gone to the airport to see her off.

Tong Fei looked into his eyes, and even though they were close, she found that she couldn't understand him anymore.

"That's fine. If you need any help, feel free to ask," Gu Shaoting said after taking a sip of water, and he walked back.

"Is there anything you'd like to eat? You can choose," Gu Shaoting continued.

"Is sushi okay?" Tong Fei asked cautiously.

"That's fine. Whatever you like. Just wait a moment, I'll tidy up, and we can go," Gu Shaoting replied casually.

The two of them closed the door and left together, Tong Fei quickly hooking her arm around Gu Shaoting's. The employees in the company saw them greet each other and then lowered their heads to work.

Tong Fei raised her head, swaying her graceful waist, appearing extremely proud, like a triumphant rooster.

Assistant Zhang, on the other hand, felt secretly uncomfortable. Tong Fei always liked to boss people around whenever she came, whereas he knew the former Madam to be gentle and low-profile. They were two completely different people..

Chapter 102: Grandpa's Ununderstanding

Zhang shook his head sadly. Although he had been with Gu Shaoting for a long time, he still couldn't figure out what was on his mind.

He knew that Gu Shaoting wasn't the type to be swayed by beauty. Over the years, countless young and beautiful women had thrown themselves at him, but he had never shown any interest.

However, the sudden news of his divorce from Madam had taken him by surprise. For a while, Mr. Gu had been frequently visiting home for meals, and Zhang had thought that their relationship was improving. Little did he know that he would hear about their divorce.

Zhang gazed at their departing figures, feeling a mixture of emotions.

After their meal, the two of them returned to the Gu Family's mansion. Gu Shaoting hadn't visited his grandfather in a long time. When his grandfather learned about his divorce from Shu Pan, he had actually thrown a teacup at him, luckily the tea inside wasn't scalding hot.

It was clear that his grandfather was extremely upset. Although more than three years had passed since then, his grandfather still occasionally held a grudge against him, giving him the cold shoulder.

According to Auntie Wang, Grandpa Gu often sighed and felt that Gu Shaoting had lost his senses by divorcing Shu Pan, who was such a great wife.

Back at the Gu Family's mansion, Auntie Wang informed them that Grandpa Gu was in his room. Gu Shaoting, knowing that his grandfather didn't have a good impression of Tong Fei, decided to go upstairs alone to avoid causing any trouble.

"Grandpa, how are you feeling today?" Gu Shaoting squatted beside his grandfather and asked.

"I'm fine as long as you don't upset me," Grandpa Gu replied, still harboring resentment about Gu Shaoting's divorce from Shu Pan.

"Grandpa, that's all in the past now. You should try to let it go. Tong Fei and I are doing well, and she's famous internationally," Gu Shaoting said, though he wasn't sure if he was trying to convince his grandfather or himself.

"I wanted a daughter-in-law who was low-key, humble, and not scheming. I've seen more of the world than you ever could. If you don't listen to your elders, you'll suffer," Grandpa Gu brought this sentence up every time he saw Gu Shaoting.

“Alright, Grandpa, I understand. Actually, Tong Fei is a good person. You’ll get to know her better with time,” Gu Shaoting continued to explain.

“Ah, I’m old and useless, can’t manage so many things anymore,” Grandpa Gu shook his head, feeling melancholic.

“Okay, Grandpa, take care of yourself and rest more. Don’t dwell on other things too much. Let everything happen naturally, okay?”

Grandpa Gu raised his hand and waved, signaling him to leave.

As Gu Shaoting descended the stairs, he saw Tong Fei chatting with Song Can.

“Mom, you didn’t go out today?” Gu Shaoting greeted them.

Then, he sat down across from them.

“Shaoting, that’s great. I was just talking to Tong Fei about you. You’ve been together for so long. Maybe it’s time to consider getting engaged. Girls are shy, so you should take the initiative,” Song Can advised Gu Shaoting.

“I’ve been quite busy lately, so I’m not considering this for now. We’ll talk about it later,” Gu Shaoting quickly declined.

Tong Fei’s expression darkened, and Song Can noticed it. She continued, “I can help you with that.”

Gu Shaoting didn’t respond, and the atmosphere became a bit tense. Tong Fei

quickly added, “Auntie, I’ve also been very busy lately, and I’m about to go abroad for a photoshoot. We don’t need to rush this. We’re doing well, so let’s discuss it later.”

Song Can looked at Tong Fei's aggrieved expression and patted her hand.

"Alright then, once you both have some free time, we'll proceed.."

Chapter 103: Portrait

Exiting from the Gu Family's ancestral mansion, Gu Shaoting intended to drive Tong Fei back home.

At Tong Fei's doorstep, she looked at Gu Shaoting with a hint of shyness and extended an invitation, "Shaoting, it's still early. Would you like to come up for a cup of coffee?"

Her gaze carried anticipation, and her coy demeanor was quite alluring.

Gu Shaoting pursed his lips and replied with a gentle refusal, "I'm a bit tired tonight. Let's do it another time. You have an early flight tomorrow. You should rest."

"Okay, then. Please drive safely," Tong Fei responded with disappointment. She was genuinely finding it more and more difficult to understand Gu Shaoting. Over the years, she had put in a lot of effort to get close to him, and sometimes, no matter how obvious she made her intentions, he seemed uninterested. Occasionally, she couldn't help but question her own charm, but the number of people pursuing her was evidence that the issue lay with Gu Shaoting.

In the beginning, she thought it was because he had just divorced Shu Pan that he wasn't used to it. However, now that it had been such a long time, he should have adapted. She planned to think of a way to figure this out when she returned from her overseas advertising shoot.

Gu Shaoting watched Tong Fei for a moment as she fell into thought, then bid her goodbye. He stepped on the accelerator, and the car sped away.

While waiting at a traffic light, Gu Shaoting suddenly thought that it had been a long time since he had been to Shuimu Qinghua. After some contemplation, he decided to drive there.

After his divorce, he had seldom visited the place. He had a small apartment not far from the company where he usually rested.

Upon returning home, the room was silent and pristine. Sister Zhang took care of it, so everything was neat. He gazed at the spacious interior, feeling a sense of emptiness. There was no liveliness.

He glanced at the bedroom, where the bed was neatly made with the pillows arranged perfectly. Then, he walked into the study, where Shu Pan's reference books had once been placed. Now, the space was empty.

He noticed a corner of paper sticking out from the bottom of the cabinet. When he pulled it out, he was stunned. The portrait on the paper was incredibly familiar—it was a portrait of himself.

Evidently, it was a painting by Shu Pan, as it was accompanied by English writing that read, 'My husband.'

The portrait was astonishingly lifelike, capturing his deep-set eyes, high nose, and intense gaze. It was clear that the artist had poured a lot of emotion into this work.

Gu Shaoting touched the portrait with his hand, feeling an indescribable emotion. He placed it in a drawer and lit a cigarette.

Sitting at the desk, he exhaled smoke, lost in thought. He wasn't sure what he was contemplating, and the cigarette burned down to his fingers without him realizing.

The next day, when he returned to the office, He Ming walked in. "Brother Ting, what can I do for you?"

He had received a phone call from Gu Shaoting early in the morning, so he rushed over, thinking it was something urgent.

“Oh, I want to renovate the villa in Tongyuan. Can you help me find a renovation company? It needs to be done as soon as possible.”

“Is this sudden? You’ve owned it for quite some time now. Don’t you have

several places to stay already?” He Ming marveled at the world of the wealthy. Although he considered himself middle-class, compared to Gu Shaoting, he felt like a small fish in a big pond.

“Regardless, it’s always needed to be renovated. The environment in Tongyuan is excellent, and it’s a key project for the Gu Group. Now it has been developed well.” Gu Shaoting had kept one of the best properties for himself.

“Why? Are you planning to get married to Tong Fei? Thinking of renovating it as your new home?” He Ming couldn’t think of any other reason..

Chapter 104: Renovating the Villa

Gu Shaoting looked at him and said, “Put away your curiosity, you’ll find out in due time.”

“It’s easy for me to find a designer, but it’s your house we’re renovating. What style do you want?” He Ming had to remind him. What if the renovation didn’t turn out as he wanted?

“Well, you can renovate it according to the style of Shuimu Qinghua,” Gu Shaoting thought for a moment, then replied.

“But that was something Shu Pan was involved in, and many of the ideas were hers. Now you’re getting married to Tong Fei, don’t you think you should ask for her input?” He Ming rarely brought up Shu Pan in front of Gu Shaoting, as it could be a sensitive topic.

“Let’s start by getting the designers to produce some concept sketches, and we can decide from there,” Gu Shaoting said as he looked at some documents.

“Heh, Brother Ting, are you really planning to step into the marriage pit again?” He Ming’s motto was not to hang all one’s hopes on a single tree.

The world outside was so exciting. There was really no need to rush into the pit of marriage so quickly. At least that’s how He Ming felt now, but in the future, he would understand that even if you want to hang on a single tree, you still need the tree’s permission.

“My family keeps urging me, and I have to give them an answer,” Gu Shaoting had thought all night last night. Whenever he saw or thought about things related to Shu Pan, he would get deeply entangled and couldn’t let go.

After all, yesterday is already in the past, and now he should look forward to the future. Continually reminiscing and thinking about his ex-wife didn’t seem like a good sign.

If he married Tong Fei, perhaps he could put an end to this phenomenon.

“Alright, I know a reputable renovation company. They renovated my house, have you heard of ‘Sunrise Architecture’?” He Ming figured that anyone in the industry should be familiar with them.

“Yeah, I’ve heard of them. Then please contact them for me. Thanks,” Gu Shaoting handed He Ming the villa keys.

“Okay, don’t worry. I’ll make sure you bring the beauty back home,” He Ming teased.

Gu Shaoting couldn’t help but roll his eyes at him.

Shu Pan arrived at the office early because her residence was relatively far from the company, so she took the bus to work.

A busy day of work would make her forget all her troubles.

Shortly after, the director walked in, clapping his hands to get everyone's attention. He signaled for quiet and then instructed everyone to gather in the conference room for a meeting.

During the meeting, the director assigned work tasks. Since it was the peak

"Now, everyone has tight schedules with their ongoing projects, and I appreciate your hard work. Yesterday, an old client called and said they have a villa that needs renovation. Price is not an issue. The most important thing is to create a design that satisfies them," the director's words motivated the team.

In the current market, many clients expected the best results at the lowest cost. Clients with no budget constraints were truly rare.

"Director, I don't have any ongoing projects at the moment. My last project was completed in the last couple of days. Let me take this one," designer Chen Xiang immediately spoke up. He knew this was a lucrative opportunity.

No one else said anything after hearing Chen Xiang's request. Shu Pan's current project was nearing completion as well, but since Chen Xiang had already spoken, she had to remain silent.

Seeing that no one else had spoken up, the director assigned the project to Chen Xiang.

After the meeting ended, Shu Pan packed her things and left the conference room.

She planned to finish her current project and then ask the director for further assignments because, after all, their salary was tied to their performance.

Shu Pan's current goal was to make money because Joy would soon start school..

Chapter 105: Encounter

Chen Xiang's efficiency at work was remarkable. After receiving the job, he immediately contacted Mr. He, the client. Mr. He informed him that the villa requiring renovation was located in Tongyuan.

They agreed on a meeting time at the villa in Tongyuan for an on-site inspection and measurements.

As Chen Xiang entered Tongyuan, he could hardly believe his eyes. Despite having designed many houses in upscale residential areas before, Tongyuan surpassed them all.

Tongyuan was vast in size, with extensive greenery. The entire residential area was designed with a combination of strip landscaping and courtyard landscaping, blending the characteristics of a southern river town with modern urban styles.

After finally locating the villa the customer mentioned, Chen Xiang met Mr. He, only to find out that he was actually Mr. He Ming.

The two of them quickly got to the point and discussed the project.

As Chen Xiang measured the site, he explained to Mr. He Ming, "Let's get the design sketches done as soon as possible. After all, it's for my good friend, and he will have the final say. He prefers a warm and homely feeling."

"Sure, thank you, Mr. He," Chen Xiang replied, and he left after inspecting the site.

A few days later, Chen Xiang came up with a rough design sketch and planned to show it to Mr. He Ming for an initial review before proceeding with the detailed drawings.

To his surprise, when Mr. He Ming showed it to Gu Shaoting, he immediately vetoed the design, stating that he didn't want to live in a cold and soulless house with no personality despite its luxury.

Mr. He Ming conveyed Gu Shaoting's message tactfully and informed the director at Sunrise, hoping to find a more sensitive designer.

Regrettably, the director had no choice left to make the switch. and

conveniently, Shu Pan was available to take over the project. When Chen Xiang handed over the work to her, she expressed her apologies, but Chen Xiang reassured her that as long as the customer was satisfied, it didn't matter who did the job.

Every customer had different requirements and preferences, and it was impossible to please everyone.

Chen Xiang then briefed Shu Pan on the internal design of the villa and the measurements he had taken. This way, Shu Pan could create initial sketches to show the client, saving time before another on-site inspection.

Based on her experience and the client's requests, Shu Pan worked diligently to create the design sketches. When she sent the design sketches to the client, she felt anxious throughout the day.

Finally, in the afternoon, good news arrived. The client was very satisfied with the initial draft. Shu Pan could finally relax and made plans to meet the client on-site the next day to discuss the details.

The following day, Shu Pan dressed slightly more formally because of the client meeting. It was one of the few outfits in her wardrobe that she could confidently wear.

She looked at herself in the mirror—her lustrous black hair was tied into a ponytail, a light green top with a frill collar, and white cropped jeans. She wore medium-heeled pumps, giving her a somewhat innocent yet sexy look.

Satisfied with her appearance, Shu Pan grabbed a small leather bag and carried a large fabric bag as she left.

Arriving at the villa's entrance, she rang the doorbell, and the person who opened the door inside was taken aback.

To her surprise, it was Mr. He Ming, and Shu Pan was equally astonished, unable to close her mouth.

“Shu Pan, why are you here? ... Are you the designer responsible for decorating this villa?” Mr. He Ming spoke with a loss of his usual composure.

“Yes, it’s me. What a coincidence! Long time no see, how have you been?” Shu Pan greeted him like an old friend..

Chapter 106: View of One’s Back

“I’m doing well. When did you return to Bin City?” He Ming looked at Shu Pan, who appeared even thinner than before, giving off a pitiful vibe.

It seemed they were well aware of her departure. He just hadn’t been paying attention lately, so he didn’t know when she had returned.

“I’ve been back for a while. I’ve been working at Sunrise Architecture,” Shu Pan replied, cooperative in her responses.

“You may not know, but this villa belongs to Shaoting. He plans to marry Tong Fei, so he’s preparing to renovate the villa,” He Ming felt it necessary to tell her the truth to prevent any potential issues later.

“Oh, congratulations to them,” Shu Pan replied politely upon hearing their names, her expression indifferent, and her demeanor distant, as if it had nothing to do with her.

He Ming furrowed his brow, finding Shu Pan’s behavior somewhat unbelievable. “Thank you on their behalf,” He Ming initiated, realizing that this was the only option at the moment.

“Do you need to consult Mr. Gu’s opinion first? Should I let him know that I am the designer? If he doesn’t agree, we can still consider changing the designer,” Shu Pan offered a suggestion, concerned that Gu Shaoting might change his mind once he realized it was her working on the project.

"I'll talk to him. Come in and take the measurements you need," He Ming opened the door and invited Shu Pan inside.

Shu Pan observed that the villa was located in the most beautiful part of Tongyuan and had at least 300 square meters, larger than Shuimu Qinghua. She silently reproached herself for thinking about the past again.

Efficiently, she recorded the necessary data and then said her goodbyes to He Ming.

After she left, He Ming couldn't help but reflect on the twists and turns of life.

Just as she exited Tongyuan, a black Mercedes suddenly passed by. Gu Shaoting was sitting in the back seat, and in a momentary glance outside, he was completely stunned.

"Wait..." Gu Shaoting called out, and the driver quickly pulled over to the side of the road.

Gu Shaoting's eyes were fixed firmly on the figure in the light green top who had just emerged from Tongyuan. She had taken him completely by surprise. That figure was one he couldn't be more familiar with. He had resolved to forget the past completely, but this figure had created ripples in his heart once again.

In a hazy moment, her light green top seemed refreshingly vivid, her hair tied in a ponytail swaying gently as she walked.

Gu Shaoting couldn't discern her expression, but he could always imagine her face in his mind.

He couldn't help but furrow his brow.

He had once asked himself what his feelings were for Shu Pan, but in the end, he had found no answer.

Gu Shaoting remained standing there, unmoving.

Not far away, Shu Pan anxiously waited for her ride. Since this was a high-end residential area, most residents had private cars, and the wait for a bus was quite long.

Fortunately, the bus arrived, and Shu Pan hurriedly got in. It wasn't until Shu Pan had left that Gu Shaoting finally returned to his car.

The driver noticed him lost in thought, unsure of what he was contemplating, and didn't dare to disturb him. Only when Gu Shaoting snapped back to reality did he instruct the driver to start the car.

Upon reaching his designated parking spot, Gu Shaoting got out of the car and headed towards the villa.

He had seen a design sketch that seemed oddly familiar, so he decided to come and take a look. The warmth depicted in the drawings was precisely what he needed.

Shortly, He Ming came over and opened the door for him..

Chapter 107: Unexpected Results

As soon as He Ming saw that it was Gu Shaoting, he was a bit surprised and asked, "Didn't you say you didn't have time to come over?"

"Just passing by, so I thought I'd take a look. Has the designer arrived?" Gu Shaoting walked around the villa.

"Just left a moment ago. Did you happen to see someone you know on your way here?" He Ming asked tentatively.

"Who? I didn't see anyone," Gu Shaoting replied absentmindedly.

"In fact, I just found out recently that the effect sketch you liked was drawn by Shu Pan," He Ming said discreetly, glancing at Gu Shaoting from the corner of

his eye.

Gu Shaoting was momentarily stunned and remained silent for a long time. To conceal his surprise, he eventually asked, "Who? Shu Pan?"

"Yes, how about it? Do you mind?" He Ming was uncertain about what Gu Shaoting was thinking.

"What's there to mind? It doesn't matter who does it, as long as they do a good job," Gu Shaoting pretended to be nonchalant.

"That's good then." He Ming breathed a sigh of relief. He was worried that Gu Shaoting would object.

"That's good then." He Ming breathed a sigh of relief. He was worried that Gu Shaoting would object.

To meet his standards might seem simple, but it was not easy at all. However, based on his personality, He Ming believed that Gu Shaoting did not want to see Shu Pan, so he was genuinely surprised by his response.

"Great, then please follow up on this. I'll come by when I have the time," Gu Shaoting, unusually invested in the matter, said.

He Ming gave him a strange look.

He Ming informed Shu Pan and conveyed Gu Shaoting's intentions, which also surprised Shu Pan.

She had assumed that Gu Shaoting would be the last person to want to see her, especially since she was encroaching on his territory. However, she was not one to hold grudges unnecessarily, and to her, he was now a stranger.

So she promised He Ming that she would do her best with the design to put Mr. Guts mind at ease.

After days of continuous discussions with He Ming on the design sketches, they mostly reached a consensus. All that remained was to proceed with construction according to the drawings.

Fortunately, Shu Pan was not worried about Gu Shaoting ultimately disapproving of the design sketches, because He Ming would always ensure that Gu Shaoting had the final say during their discussions.

Once the drawings were approved, construction began in earnest.

As a designer, Shu Pan had to constantly explain some details to the construction workers to achieve the best results.

However, luckily for her, Gu Shaoting never showed up on-site during her visits, avoiding any awkward encounters.

After another busy day at the villa construction site and her office, Shu Pan looked exhausted. Her face appeared even more slender.

Finally, it was time to go home. At noon, Wen Chi called her to arrange dinner plans, and she figured he must be waiting outside by now.

She quickly packed her things and clocked out on time.

“Shu Pan, why the rush? Are you going on a date?” Some colleagues teased her because she was usually the last to leave. Her behavior today was indeed unusual.

“Don’t make things up.” Shu Pan replied casually as she headed towards the exit.

Sure enough, she spotted Wen Chi’s car parked on the opposite side of the company’s street from a distance. She maneuvered past the passing vehicles and lightly tapped on the car window.

Wen Chi understood and opened the car door. As soon as Shu Pan got in, Wen Chi fixed his gaze on her, as if there was something dirty on her face.

Shu Pan couldn't help but touch her face. "What's wrong?"

Wen Chi finally snapped out of it, somewhat incredulous, and replied, "Is your company mistreating its employees? How come I haven't seen you for just a few days, and you've become so thin? Are you pushing yourself too hard? Is your company down to just one employee?"

Chapter 108: Meeting

Shu Pan couldn't help but roll her eyes at him and said in resignation, "You're exaggerating too much. I've just been a bit busy lately."

"Tonight, I'll take you to eat something good to replenish your energy." As soon as Wen Chi finished speaking, the car moved forward.

Shu Pan was too tired to respond, so Wen Chi looked at her and said, "Shu Pan, if you have any difficulties, you can talk to me. You don't have to exhaust yourself like this. Can a young girl like you handle all this?"

Shu Pan looked at him and replied, "Who has an easy job? You're even busier, performing surgeries all day, requiring you to stand for long hours with intense concentration. What I do is nothing compared to that."

Wen Chi smiled and said, "I'm a man, I can handle it."

Shu Pan couldn't help but snort and said with a grin, "Male chauvinism."

The two of them chatted and laughed, and soon the car stopped at the entrance of a Western restaurant.

“You don’t really want to eat at this Western restaurant, do you? Are you crazy? Just look at the ambiance, how much will it cost?” Shu Pan quickly tried to stop him.

“It’s okay, just once in a while.” Wen Chi said nonchalantly.

Shu Pan looked at him with a concerned expression, and Wen Chi jokingly added, “If you run out of money later, you can stay and wash dishes, okay?”

Shu Pan glared at him and then said fiercely, “I’ll eat extravagantly later, bankrupting you.”

Wen Chi looked at her exaggerated expression and nodded, saying, “Good resolution, I’ll be watching.”

The two of them entered the Western restaurant side by side. As they pushed open the heavy door, they were greeted by a luxurious, spacious interior. Splendid crystal chandeliers cast a soft light, creating an elegant and serene atmosphere throughout the restaurant. The gentle saxophone music filled the air, like an invisible mist spreading and calming the soul, making everyone feel at ease. Polite waiters, quiet guests, occasional soft laughter—the environment was tranquil and beautiful.

Guided by the waiter, Wen Chi and Shu Pan took their seats by the window.

Shu Pan looked at the menu handed to her by the waiter and was slightly startled because it only had pictures of the dishes without prices.

She flipped through it and then said to Wen Chi, “You go ahead and order, I’m fine with anything.” She also reminded him to order sparingly.

While they were busy ordering, a strikingly attractive couple entered the restaurant. The man was tall and handsome, and the woman was tall and slender.

They sat at a nearby table.

“Do you see that? Isn’t that Tong Fei?” someone at the neighboring table whispered to their companion.

“Yes, her figure is amazing, not a trace of excess fat, huh?” The companion replied with envy in their tone.

Shu Pan heard the name Tong Fei and couldn’t help but become curious. She turned her head slightly to glance at their table.

It was Gu Shaoting and Tong Fei. Shu Pan once again marveled at how small the world was. Despite not crossing paths for such a long time, they had recently started to have some contact due to the design and renovation project, and now they bumped into each other while having dinner.

Shu Pan turned her head back, and at that moment, the waiter served their food.

“What’s wrong? Do you know them?” Wen Chi asked in confusion when he

noticed Shu Pan looking in that direction.

“No, that’s the supermodel Tong Fei. You’ve probably seen her on TV or in magazines, right?” Shu Pan said quietly.

“I don’t really pay attention to that. I’m not interested in these things. Let’s hurry up and eat while it’s hot,” Wen Chi said as he spooned some soup for her.

Shu Pan nodded and quietly savored the delicious dishes. Knowing that it was expensive, she savored every bite of her food, with everything else fading into the background for the moment..

Chapter 109: Jealousy

The French escargot and cream of mushroom soup at the restaurant were exceptionally delicious, considered signature dishes.

Shu Pan enjoyed her meal thoroughly, and watching her eat so enthusiastically, Wen Chi also found his appetite increasing.

As for Gu Shaoting, who was not far away, he had actually noticed Shu Pan since they entered the restaurant. Of course, he also saw the man sitting across from Shu Pan. Seeing the man's handsome appearance and refined demeanor, he felt a mix of emotions and discomfort.

"Shaoting, what's wrong? You seem a bit distracted," Tong Fei's gentle voice filled with concern.

She had also noticed Shu Pan and was somewhat annoyed by the choice of this restaurant. Annoying people always seemed to appear in your life at the most unexpected moments, causing disruptions.

"It's nothing, just thinking about work," Gu Shaoting replied casually, not wanting to engage in further conversation.

Tong Fei lowered her head obediently and continued eating, refraining from asking more questions, as she knew that pressing further wouldn't yield any answers.

Tong Fei ate slowly, taking small spoonfuls, as models needed to maintain their figures and couldn't indulge in large meals. Her stomach had become accustomed to small portions, and she would feel full after just a little.

Seeing her eating like a bird, Gu Shaoting lost his appetite as well, especially after the scene he witnessed earlier. He put down his spoon.

"Shaoting, I heard from Auntie that your villa in Tongyuan is under renovation. Can I visit it sometime when you're free? I also enjoy reading about interior design," Tong Fei tentatively inquired.

She had heard from Auntie that Gu Shaoting was renovating the villa, probably preparing a new home. She felt delighted, thinking that Gu Shaoting hadn't told her about it to give her a surprise.

But she couldn't help mentioning it, as she thought about becoming the mistress of the villa in the future. She wanted to see if the interior design matched her taste.

"Oh, you can visit when you have time. I've entrusted the renovation to a company," Gu Shaoting replied casually, downplaying it.

"Okay," Tong Fei replied softly.

After Wen Chi and Shu Pan finished their meal, Wen Chi signaled the waiter to pay the bill, and then they left.

Gu Shaoting looked at the empty seats, feeling like something was missing, an emptiness in his heart.

He couldn't help but wonder if all men had this kind of feeling, that even if they didn't want a woman, they still didn't want to see her with someone else?

Was that man Shu Pan's boyfriend or suitor? He saw the affection in Wen Chi's eyes, a gaze that a man directed at a woman, so passionate and affectionate. Before long, Gu Shaoting also settled the bill and then drove Tong Fei home.

Tonight, he felt particularly restless and couldn't find relief.

"Ming, come out for a drink now, at our usual place," Gu Shaoting didn't want to go back to his empty home.

"Sure, I'll be there in a moment." For He Ming, whose nightlife was quite active, this kind of request was easy to fulfill.

When He Ming arrived, Gu Shaoting was sitting on the sofa, legs crossed, and a cigarette in his mouth.

“What’s wrong, Brother Ting? You look troubled. Tell your brother what’s bothering you, and I’ll analyze it for you,” He Ming said nonchalantly.

“Am I supposed to feel happy that you find my troubles amusing? Are you trying to make fun of me?” Gu Shaoting’s gaze pierced like an arrow.

He Ming quickly raised his hands in a surrendering gesture and said,

“Misunderstanding! I wouldn’t dare. I just can’t figure it out. The corporation is thriving, you have a beautiful woman, and you’re on the path to settling down..

What could be bothering you?”

Chapter 110: Picking up Joy

Gu Shaoting glanced at him but didn’t say anything. In truth, what He Ming said was correct. Indeed, he had everything that others dreamed of, and there was nothing for him to be dissatisfied with.

Feeling down just because he saw his ex-wife being pursued by someone else would be ridiculous to admit to anyone, wouldn’t it?

“Have you been in contact with Shu Pan recently? Did she mention anything about her boyfriend?” Gu Shaoting couldn’t help but ask.

“No, we’ve only talked about work. Why, does Shu Pan have a boyfriend now? Well, it’s normal. After all, it’s been a long time since your divorce. Even if she remarries, it’s just a part of life,” He Ming said, adding a pinch of salt to his wounds.

Gu Shaoting began to doubt whether inviting He Ming for a drink was the right decision.

Everything He Ming said was, in fact, true, but he had a way of delivering unwelcome truths.

Gu Shaoting poured himself a glass of wine and downed it in a few gulps, hoping that alcohol could help numb his lingering unease.

Days always slipped through one's fingers like fine sand, quietly and unnoticed. It was already late August, and the scorching sun was gradually replaced by cooler winds.

With only ten days left until September, Shu Pan calculated the days and realized it was time to prepare for Joy's enrollment in a kindergarten in Bin City.

Taking advantage of the weekend, Shu Pan returned to Lotus Town. She had informed Auntie Lu in advance, so Joy's belongings were already packed and ready.

Shu Pan stayed in Lotus Town for one night and, the next day, she took Joy on a car ride back to Bin City.

Initially, Auntie Lu wanted to come along to help for a few days to ensure a smooth transition for Joy and give Shu Pan some support. However, due to Shu Laide's poor health, he needed someone to care for him, so Auntie Lu had to postpone her plans.

Joy, on her first outing, sat in the car, gazing in wonder at everything around her. She looked excited, examining this and that. Shu Pan watched her innocent face and felt guilty that such a small thing could bring her so much happiness.

"Mom, this car is so big! Aren't Grandpa and Grandma coming with us?" Joy was reluctant to leave them behind.

"Joy, you're going to school. Grandma has to stay home to take care of Grandpa, so it's just us going out. We'll bring them along another time, okay?" Shu Pan comforted her.

"Okay, but I'll miss them a lot." Joy's tone was still downcast, and Shu Pan affectionately touched her head, feeling her pain.

However, children's natures were usually quite simple, and soon Joy was captivated by the scenery outside and the new things she encountered, gradually forgetting the earlier topic.

"Mom, look, the buildings here are so tall, and there are so many flowers." When they entered the city, Joy made another discovery.

"Yes, do you like it? We'll be living here with Mommy from now on," Shu Pan smiled at Joy's excitement.

"I like it," Joy nodded. Back at home, after unpacking their things, Shu Pan began preparing a delicious meal for Joy.

"Mom, are we going to live here from now on?" Joy spoke with childlike innocence.

"Yes, sweetheart, do you like it? Mommy bought you your favorite Hello Kitty and placed it by your bedside," Shu Pan wanted to provide the best for Joy.

"That's awesome, Mommy! Thank you! I love you so much!" Joy exclaimed and gave Shu Pan a hug and a kiss.