

As Agreed 111

Chapter 111: Going to Kindergarten

Because she had to take Joy for a kindergarten interview, Shu Pan had to take a day off from work. This was the first time she had requested a day off since joining “Sunrise Architecture, ” but her manager quickly approved it.

Early the next morning, Shu Pan dressed Joy and they left home ahead of schedule. Joy was wearing a neat dress and carrying a small backpack, bouncing with excitement.

For convenience in drop-off and pick- up, Shu Pan had chosen kindergartens in their neighborhood. Due to her limited financial situation, she couldn’t afford a public kindergarten, so Joy was enrolled in a simple private kindergarten called “Qiming Star.”

However, Shu Pan had secretly observed the kindergarten several times, and it had good teachers and a nice environment. Other parents’ reviews of it were also favorable.

When they arrived at Qiming Star Kindergarten, the principal welcomed them. Since it was summer school, there weren’t many children around.

“Hello, little one, what’s your name?” The principal squatted down to ask Joy. “I’m Shu Joy, and I’m over three years old,” Joy replied, her voice clear and loud.

The principal patted her head.

Seeing the slide in the kindergarten, Joy seemed eager to try it out. She asked

Shu Pan in a soft voice, “Mom, can I go play on the slide?”

“Of course, sweetheart. You can go play, and I’ll have a chat with your mom.” The principal said kindly.

“Go ahead, Joy.” Shu Pan encouraged her.

Joy ran toward the slide like a happy little bird.

“Ms. Shu, if I may ask, where is Joy’s dad? Why isn’t he here together? Parents are the best teachers for children,” the principal inquired.

“Principal, Joy’s dad and I are divorced, and now Joy stays with me,” Shu Pan replied, feeling a bit embarrassed as divorce wasn’t something to be proud of.

“I see. Well, it must be challenging for you. We not only focus on the children’s physical health but also pay attention to their psychological well-being. However, it’s clear that Joy is an optimistic and cheerful child, and you’ve done a great job in raising her,” the principal’s words made Shu Pan feel somewhat relieved.

“Principal, since I work during the day, I’d like to start bringing Joy here from tomorrow to let her adapt for a few days. Then she can officially start in September,” Shu Pan thought this arrangement would be best because she had no one to care for Joy during the day.

“That’s perfectly fine. Don’t worry. We treat all the children here as if they were our own,” the principal reassured Shu Pan.

After leaving the kindergarten, Shu Pan held Joy’s hand and took her to the mall. She planned to spend her free time with Joy, making up for any previous regrets.

“Mom, where are we going now?” Joy asked, holding Shu Pan’s hand and wearing a naive and cheerful smile.

“Mommy will take you to a big mall, and if we find something suitable, I’d like to buy you a couple of dresses,” Shu Pan patiently answered her question.

“Mommy, will that cost a lot of money?” Joy probably had been influenced by Auntie Lu’s frequent teachings about the family’s financial situation, so at a young age, she was already very thrifty.

It was often said that girls should be raised in affluence, but Shu Pan knew that with her current financial situation, she couldn’t fully provide for Joy’s needs. Still, she didn’t want her daughter to worry about money at such a young age.

“No, sweetheart, Mommy has a job now, so we have money. We won’t buy a lot, and we won’t buy expensive things,” Shu Pan reassured her and patted her head.

The mall was filled with a dazzling array of products, overwhelming to the eye.

Shu Pan tightly held Joy’s hand, afraid of being separated in the crowded space.

They explored the mall, looking here and there, both of them enjoying the experience..

Chapter 112: One More Child i s Room

After dropping Joy off at kindergarten, Shu Pan rushed to the company. Fortunately, Joy was understanding and didn’t cry or make a fuss.

Around noon, Shu Pan received a call from the construction foreman at the Tongyuan Villa project. He explained that the client was not satisfied with some of the designs and requested modifications.

Upon hearing this, Shu Pan furrowed her brows. Weren’t these designs already confirmed? Modifying them now would not only increase costs but also delay the project. She tried to reassure the foreman and then promptly headed to the construction site.

When she arrived, to her surprise, she saw Gu Shaoting and Tong Fei standing together as if they were a couple.

“Mr. Gu, Ms. Tong, hello. I’m the designer for the villa renovation. May I ask which part of the plans needs to be modified?” Shu Pan acted as if she didn’t know them, maintaining a professional demeanor.

When Gu Shaoting heard Shu Pan address him as “Mr. Gu” and completely ignored him like a stranger, he felt a surge of anger. His face suddenly darkened, but he remained silent, like a statue.

Tong Fei, upon seeing Shu Pan, was even more dumbfounded. She looked at her in astonishment, unable to close her mouth.

Then, she couldn’t help but think that Shu Pan was truly persistent, showing up everywhere. Why did it seem that the more she disliked someone, the more often she encountered them?

The calmest of the three was Shu Pan herself because she had already pictured this scenario in her mind.

“No wonder, I thought the design looked too mediocre. It pales in comparison to those designs by renowned designers,” Tong Fei remarked with a mocking tone.

She then turned to Gu Shaoting and said, “Shaoting, for such a well-renovated house, why did you just randomly hire a designer? I know many famous designers. Do you need me to introduce them to you?”

Tong Fei acted as if she hadn’t seen Shu Pan and made the suggestion directly to Gu Shaoting.

“No need. I think it’s pretty good, and changing designers would be troublesome. We just need to make a minor adjustment.” Gu Shaoting politely declined her proposal.

Tong Fei, who had initially been smiling, froze upon hearing Gu Shaoting’s response. She didn’t know what to say anymore.

“Mr. Gu, do you know which part of the plans you want to modify? Because we have already signed an agreement based on the approved plans. If we make changes according to the reviewed plans, any additional costs will be your responsibility,” Shu Pan confidently addressed the situation.

‘Money isn’t an issue. I just want to add one more room for the children. The initial design only had one,’ Gu Shaoting pointed to the design sketches.

“Are you planning to decorate two children’s rooms?” Shu Pan asked in surprise, as most people typically only had one.

It seemed that Gu Shaoting was planning to have two children. Shu Pan couldn’t help but imagine that he must not dislike children in general. He just disliked the idea of having children with her.

Unwittingly, this matter had become a psychological obstacle for her that she couldn’t overcome.

“Yes, with such a spacious villa, it’s definitely for more than one child. I’ll cover the additional costs,” Gu Shaoting said, deliberately keeping the conversation on this topic.

Shu Pan felt like her heart was being pricked with needles. She forced a smile and said, “Okay, I’ll go back and make the changes for your review.”

Tong Fei, standing on the sidelines, finally revealed a knowing smile.

It turned out that Gu Shaoting had planned this far ahead. However, when she thought about it further, she realized she was a model. If she had children, wouldn’t it ruin her career? And two children? She started to feel a bit unsettled..

Chapter 113: Where Is My Father?

Gu Shaoting looked at Shu Pan and merely nodded without saying much. His expression was difficult to decipher, showing a hint of complexity. Seeing this, Tong Fei was worried that there might be some underlying connection between them. She stepped forward, gently taking Gu Shaoting’s hand, and coquettishly said, “Shaoting, I’m hungry. Let’s go.”

Tong Fei didn't want to give Gu Shaoting and Shu Pan too much opportunity to talk. She had noticed that every time they met, Gu Shaoting seemed to change in some way.

She was concerned that everything she had carefully planned would go to waste.

Gu Shaoting remained silent and allowed Tong Fei to lead him away. Only he knew that when he saw Shu Pan, his heart was beating rapidly.

He had only used the excuse of changing the plans to see her. After all, the initial design had been fine. However, not long after Tong Fei called him and expressed her intention to visit, he had no choice but to agree. He also genuinely wanted to hear her input.

But who could have foreseen that she would come and criticize everything, making him feel slightly upset, as if others were criticizing his work? He couldn't understand why he had such thoughts.

After Gu Shaoting and Tong Fei left, Shu Pan focused on discussing the project details with the construction workers, aiming for the best results.

After finishing work, Shu Pan hurriedly rushed to the kindergarten to pick up Joy. On the way, Joy seemed a bit subdued, unlike her usual self, full of questions and chatter. Shu Pan was puzzled. Wasn't Joy excited to go to school today?

Shu Pan couldn't help but ask Joy, "What's wrong, my little princess? You seem really unhappy today."

"Is everyone supposed to have a dad, Mom?" Joy asked curiously.

"Of course, everyone has a mom and a dad," Shu Pan replied. However, as soon as she said that, Joy burst into tears.

Shu Pan was taken aback. What had happened at kindergarten today to suddenly bring up the topic of "dads"? She hadn't planned to tell Joy about this until she was older. Children's worlds were so simple, and Shu Pan didn't want adult complications to affect her.

"But Zhang Zihan and Wang Keke have dads, right? Why don't I have one? They said kids without dads are adopted," Joy said.

Joy's words left Shu Pan speechless.

She hesitated for a moment before explaining, 'Well, you do have a dad. It's just that your dad is working in a faraway place.'

"When will he come back? Does Dad know about me?" Joy's eyes were filled with longing.

"I believe he'll be back soon. You just have to be a good girl," Shu Pan replied, feeling a pang of sadness. She suddenly realized that Joy needed a father figure in her life.

The role of a father was of paramount importance, and she had been neglecting this issue all along, assuming that Joy was still too young to understand. However, with the environment she was now exposed to, Joy would gradually come to understand it.

Shu Pan thought to herself that she had been too self-centered and hadn't considered everything carefully when she decided to bring Joy into the world..

Chapter 114: Like a Family

After returning home, Shu Pan settled Joy, and after they had eaten, she sat down at the computer to modify the day's drawings.

She planned to convert one of the rooms on the second floor of the villa into a children's room. This room was not far from the master bedroom on the second floor.

Since Gu Shaoting hadn't specifically instructed which room to convert, she had to consider practicality and aesthetics.

As she worked on the drawings, she glanced at Joy, who was happily playing on the bed. A sense of guilt washed over her. "My child, you're a child who wasn't eagerly anticipated by your father, so you have to be strong."

The next day happened to be Saturday, and Wen Chi called Shu Pan early in the morning. "Did you bring Joy to Binjiang?"

"Yeah, how did you know?" Shu Pan was a bit surprised.

"I called Auntie, and she told me. Why didn't you tell me?" Wen Chi reproached her.

"I just brought her back to Bin City." Shu Pan replied helplessly.

"You don't have to work today, right? It's Saturday." Wen Chi suddenly changed the topic.

"Yeah, what's up?" Shu Pan had to ask.

"Nothing, can't I just call you?" Wen Chi said, a bit irritably. "The weather is great today, how about we take Joy to the amusement park?"

Wen Chi's suggestion caught Shu Pan off guard, but she thought it was indeed a good idea.

"Sure, but aren't you supposed to be working today? The hospital is always busy." Shu Pan asked, concerned about his schedule.

"I'm human too, and I need rest. I've always believed in work-life balance, unlike some people." Wen Chi's voice hinted at something, and he was referring to someone specific.

Shu Pan sighed silently.

“Okay, then get ready, and we’ll meet at the intersection with Joy in a while.” Wen Chi instructed.

“Alright, thank you.” Shu Pan had spent the night thinking about it, and she believed she needed to consider herself and give herself a chance.

When Wen Chi arrived at the intersection, he saw Shu Pan and Joy wearing matching parent-child outfits. Both of them were dressed in white shirts and overalls, looking very cute.

His heart warmed at the sight, and he couldn’t help but sigh with emotion.

“How fortunate would one be to have a wife and daughter like this?”

He got lost in his thoughts for a moment before coming back to reality.

“Hello, beauties, please get in the car.” Wen Chi stepped out of the car and opened the door, making a gentlemanly invitation.

“Hello, Uncle Wen.” Joy’s voice was sweet, as if she had just eaten candy.

“Hello, little beauty. Please sit down, and we’re off.” Wen Chi focused on driving, being cautious with the traffic around them.

Soon, they arrived at Binjiang’s largest amusement park.

“Wow, there are so many fun things here!” It was Joy’s first time, and she was jumping with excitement.

“Come on,” Wen Chi said as he lifted Joy onto his shoulders.

Joy giggled happily, her smile as bright as a blooming flower.

“Wen Chi, please put her down and let her walk. She’s quite heavy, and you must be tired,” Shu Pan suggested when she noticed.

“It’s alright, I can handle it,” Wen Chi continued walking.

Wen Chi bought many tickets, and he accompanied Joy on the mini-train, bumper cars, and other rides.

Shu Pan couldn’t help but feel her eyes moisten as she watched them.

To outsiders, they appeared to be a loving family.

She was aware of Wen Chi’s feelings, but she had chosen to ignore them,

fearing she would be a hindrance.

However, today’s scene truly touched her heart. She saw him patiently teaching and entertaining Joy. He must be a good father.

Perhaps she should follow her instincts and give Wen Chi and herself a chance.

That was what she thought, but reality often had its own plans, contrary to one’s wishes..

Chapter 115: True Confession

Wen Chi was having a blast with Joy. It seemed like Joy had never been this happy before.

Everywhere they went, Joy was pulling her “Uncle Wen” along. Shu Pan couldn’t help but feel a bit helpless and felt that she was redundant. She simply didn’t have the energy to be as wild as they were.

Finally, around noon, they took a break, and everyone was starving. Wen Chi suggested taking Joy to KFC. Shu Pan frowned slightly, showing some disapproval.

Wen Chi convinced her by saying that it was something kids loved and that it was okay to indulge occasionally. Joy clapped her hands in delight upon hearing this because she had seen it on TV.

Since it was two against one, with the majority in favor, Shu Pan reluctantly agreed.

As it was a weekend, KFC was crowded, and they had to wait for a table. Shu Pan was about to go and order when Wen Chi quickly stopped her. “It’s crowded, I’ll go. You watch Joy.”

Wen Chi walked away gracefully, leaving Shu Pan looking at him standing in the queue, where he seemed to shine brightly, outshining those around him.

Finally, it was Wen Chi’s turn to order. He spoke softly to the cashier, ordering a family bucket and an additional serving of fries that Joy had been wanting for a while.

Shu Pan was defeated once again by him. It seemed like he was spoiling the little girl beyond measure. Perhaps, in the future, Joy’s favorite person would be Uncle Wen.

Shu Pan couldn’t help but admonish Wen Chi. “Why did you buy so much? You’ve made her idolize you.”

“We’re out for fun, don’t be a spoilsport. Joy, let’s dig in!” With those words, Joy started enjoying her fries with gusto, rotating her shiny little eyes.

After Joy had eaten her fill, she noticed a small amusement park inside KFC. It was right next to their table, and she looked at it eagerly. Then she asked Shu Pan, “Mom, can I go play for a while?”

"You can, but be careful, and stay inside. Don't go too far," Shu Pan patted her head and watched as Joy entered the play area.

"Shu Pan, we've known each other for a few years now, right? What do you think of me?" Wen Chi suddenly asked Shu Pan, taking her by surprise as she sipped her juice. She almost choked on it before swallowing hard, then responded seriously, "You're great, your medical skills are superb, and you're kind to your patients. When we first met, you were so helpful to me."

Wen Chi looked intently at her and continued, "Don't give me too much credit. Do you think I would be suitable to be your boyfriend?"

Wen Chi's unexpected confession startled Shu Pan. Although she had mentioned giving him and herself a chance, she hadn't fully considered it yet. Now, faced with Wen Chi's confession, she didn't know how to react.

"Wen Chi, you have a great profession, a good personality, and you're handsome. You deserve someone better. Look at me, I'm a divorced woman with a daughter..." Shu Pan spoke candidly to Wen Chi, hoping that his confession wasn't out of pity or a sudden impulse.

"Shu Pan, I'm a man with rational thinking. My profession requires careful consideration, and it's not just hormones acting up. Let me take care of you, alright?" Wen Chi said seriously. Although he sometimes seemed carefree, he approached serious matters with deep thought.

Looking at his expression, which didn't seem like a joke, Shu Pan finally spoke slowly, "Wen Chi, it's too sudden.. Let me think about it, okay?"

Chapter 116: Force Marriage

Wen Chi heard Shu Pan's response about considering it instead of an immediate rejection, and a smile appeared on his face. "I may have been impulsive. Alright, take your time to think, but I won't accept a refusal."

Shu Pan couldn't help but find his domineering response somewhat amusing.

Since it was getting late, Joy had worn herself out from playing and fell asleep on Shu Pan's lap once they were back in the car.

Wen Chi dropped them off at their doorstep. "Wen Chi, thank you for spending the day with Joy. It's clear she had a great time," Shu Pan sincerely thanked him.

"What nonsense are you talking about? I really like Joy. I'll treat her as my own," Wen Chi understood what mattered to Shu Pan, and he made a commitment.

Indeed, when Shu Pan heard this, she was deeply moved. At this moment, she didn't know how to respond. She pretended to reach for the car door with her hand, but Wen Chi had already stepped out of the car to open the door for her.

Bending down, he reached out to take Joy from Shu Pan's arms. Although Joy was still small, holding her for a while had made Shu Pan's hands feel a bit numb.

After placing Joy on the bed, Wen Chi checked the time. He told Shu Pan that he had some matters to attend to and would contact her later.

Once he left, Shu Pan slumped onto the sofa. Her thoughts returned to Wen Chi's sudden confession, and even now, she found it hard to believe.

She was grateful to Wen Chi and felt a certain fondness for him, but it wasn't love. She didn't immediately accept Wen Chi because of this. It wouldn't be fair to him either.

She felt overwhelmed with confusion and decided to go with the flow for now.

Gu Shaoting had been bombarded with calls from Song Can, urging him to return home. He had been quite busy at work lately, but he couldn't withstand her relentless phone calls.

As soon as he arrived at the Gu family's mansion, he saw Song Can sitting in the living room. "Mom, couldn't you have discussed whatever it is over the phone?" Gu Shaoting asked, seeing her relaxed demeanor and sensing that it wasn't an urgent matter.

"Do you remember that I'm your mother? You're so busy that you don't have time to come home," Song Can said, slightly irritated.

"Are you more concerned about making money or your lifelong commitment?" Song Can became increasingly frustrated with his seemingly nonchalant attitude toward marriage.

"Mom, there's no rush. Marriage is something that should happen naturally," Gu Shaoting replied, feeling a headache coming on. His mother took this matter very seriously.

"Shaoting, you agreed to date Tong Fei of your own accord. No one forced you. You've been together for several years now, and it's not going anywhere. That girl can't afford to wait forever," Song Can grew increasingly agitated as she spoke.

"Are you still thinking about Shu Pan? Is that why you keep procrastinating?" Song Can believed this was highly likely, as Gu Shaoting had spent the past few years with only Shu Pan or Tong Fei.

Gu Shaoting remained silent, neither confirming nor explaining. His demeanor made Song Can even more frustrated. She had a kind of exasperated resentment, feeling that he was being very uncooperative.

"As the president of the Gu Group, do you really need to obsess over a lower-class woman like her, or the one you abandoned?" Song Can didn't like

Shu Pan at all, finding her petty and not fit for the role of her son's wife.

"Mom, you're going too far with your words. What do you want from me?" Gu Shaoting was truly at a loss with Song Can. His thoughts were now a tangled mess, and he could no longer understand his own heart..

Chapter 117: Ye Xiaomeng Came Back

“My point is, you should get engaged to Tong Fei as soon as possible. She’s the spokesperson for the group, and your marriage to her would make a great story,” Song Can had been talking about various things, but this was her real purpose.

“Well, I have plans for it. You don’t need to worry too much,” Gu Shaoting sat down next to Song Can, half-hugging her.

“Last time, you said you wanted to go abroad with some aunties for a trip. How’s the arrangement going? Do you want my help?” Now, Gu Shaoting just wanted some peace and quiet. He had already experienced his mother’s crying, nagging, and emotional blackmail.

“You find me annoying, don’t you? Your lifelong commitment isn’t settled yet, and you expect me to have the mood for a vacation?” Song Can persisted until the end, refusing to compromise.

“Can we talk about it when you come back from your trip? Your Highness,” Gu Shaoting finally gave in. After all, it was just a matter of time.

Time was often the best medicine for healing wounds. This was especially true for Ye Xiaomeng, who had relocated to S City to escape Cheng Yang and her past in Bin City.

Now, with the company expanding its operations, they needed someone to be based in Bin City. Ye Xiaomeng had volunteered to return.

Several years had passed, and many of the painful memories had faded. It was time for her to face everything, especially since her friends were still in Bin City. She didn’t need to punish herself for someone else’s mistakes.

Ye Xiaomeng knew that Shu Pan and Joy were in Bin City. She hadn't returned since leaving, so this time, she planned to surprise them.

After handling everything in S City, Ye Xiaomeng eagerly packed her bags and took a car back to Bin City.

When she set foot in Bin City, she felt a bit apprehensive. Everything here was both familiar and unfamiliar.

Pushing her suitcase, she planned to go to Shu Pan's home. She had kept the address Shu Pan had given her when she first arrived in Bin City.

Bin City had changed a lot over the past few years. Ye Xiaomeng watched the bustling city with people and traffic everywhere.

As she waited for a car, she didn't notice a black car pulling up suddenly. Ye Xiaomeng was startled and, because she was wearing high heels, twisted her ankle while stepping back.

The car came to a halt not far away, the tires screeching loudly against the ground. A handsome man in a well-fitted suit stepped out of the car, looking like a businessman.

"Sir, do you even know how to drive? Didn't you see someone standing here before you charged over?" Ye Xiaomeng tried to take the initiative because she had experienced similar situations before, and now she had a bit of a complex about it.

"Lady, let's be reasonable. This is a driving lane, and you're standing here waiting for a car?" He Ming, the man who had just gotten out of the car, was truly irritated. He had encountered some unfortunate incidents early in the morning.

"No one was using this lane, and you just rushed over," Ye Xiaomeng said loudly to conceal her guilt.

"No wonder Confucius said, 'Only children and women are difficult to raise,'" He Ming had no experience dealing with feisty women, so he believed that remaining silent was the wisest choice.

“Ouch, my foot hurts!” Suddenly, Ye Xiaomeng cried out in pain as her ankle throbbed.

“Did you twist it?” He had to squat down and take a look at Ye Xiaomeng’s injured foot. He had only now noticed her attractive appearance, her well-shaped figure, and her long, fair legs. Her twisted ankle was slightly swollen.

“Can you endure the pain while I reset it?” He said before gently twisting her ankle back into place, producing a sharp snap..

Chapter 118: Happy Reunion

Ye Xiaomeng was in tears from the pain.

“Alright, just be careful,” He Ming stood up and said to Ye Xiaomeng.

“You’re leaving just like that?” Ye Xiaomeng heard his words and realized he intended to leave.

“Then what else should I do? Your foot isn’t seriously injured. Let me give you some honest advice: don’t wear such high heels with such thin heels in the future. They’re trouble waiting to happen,” He Ming thought women were nothing but trouble, always causing issues wherever they went.

“You’re the one who caused me to twist my ankle, so you should be responsible for taking me home,” Ye Xiaomeng was a bit unreasonable, but she had waited for a long time without a car in sight. She didn’t want to wait any longer, so she decided to rely on this man to take her home.

“Is your name Rogue?” He Ming found this situation inexplicable. “Forget it, I don’t have anything important to do anyway. Get in the car.”

“Please put my luggage in the trunk, thank you,” Ye Xiaomeng instructed He Ming.

Is there anyone more shameless than her? He Ming silently thought to himself. But he didn't say much and just placed her suitcase in the trunk before starting the car.

"Please take me to this address," Ye Xiaomeng showed He Ming the address Shu Pan had given her.

He Ming helplessly glanced at it. It was quite far, but he sighed and accepted his fate.

During the journey, neither of them spoke, and the atmosphere was a bit awkward.

Finally, the car stopped at the designated location. He Ming quickly opened the trunk, placed the luggage on the ground, and Ye Xiaomeng got out of the car.

As she said, "Thank you," He Ming had already driven away. She remarked to herself that he was quite impolite, not realizing that He Ming just wanted to get away from her to avoid any further trouble.

Arriving at Shu Pan's house, it was the weekend, and Ye Xiaomeng knew that both Shu Pan and Joy would be at home. She knocked on the door, and Shu Pan came over to open it.

Shu Pan couldn't believe her eyes and had to rub them again until Ye Xiaomeng spoke, "Surprised, huh?"

"Xiaomeng, why didn't you tell us in advance? We could have picked you up,"

"I wanted to give you a surprise. How's my goddaughter?" Ye Xiaomeng tousled her short hair.

"Godmother, I'm here!" Joy heard Ye Xiaomeng's voice and quickly came out.

"Wow, my sweet Joy, godmother missed you so much."

Ye Xiaomeng picked up Joy, and Shu Pan watched their exaggerated performance, feeling both amused and touched.

“Oh,” Ye Xiaomeng winced again as her ankle still hurt.

“What happened?” Shu Pan leaned in and asked.

“I just ran into a lunatic who scared me with his car and twisted my ankle,” Ye Xiaomeng said as she looked at her foot. It still hurt a bit, but it shouldn’t be a major issue.

“Well, that’s a relief. Come inside. I’ll cook. You should rest for a bit,” Shu Pan reassured her.

During dinner, Ye Xiaomeng told Shu Pan that she had transferred to Bin City for work. Seeing Ye Xiaomeng confidently talking about her life, Shu Pan knew that she had transformed and become a different person.

In the past, due to Cheng Yang, Ye Xiaomeng had simply coasted through her job. Now, she could make her own way in the world.

The world was changing, and so were the people in it.

“After dinner, let’s go out for a walk. It’s been a while since I’ve strolled around Bin City. It feels like I’ve been away for ages,” Ye Xiaomeng suggested.

“Sure, I’ll follow your lead,” Shu Pan smiled and nodded..

Chapter 119: Deja Vu

Because Ye Xiaomeng had returned, Shu Pan felt that life had become much more exciting.

Ye Xiaomeng stayed in a company-provided single apartment, and whenever she had free time, she would come to Shu Pan's house to spend time with Joy.

On this particular weekend, Shu Pan was supposed to have a day off, but due to some unfinished work that had tight deadlines, she needed to go back to the office to do overtime.

Ye Xiaomeng happened to have free time. "Don't worry, today I'll take care of

Joy for you. You can focus on your work."

"That's great. If you weren't here, I was thinking of enrolling her in full-day kindergarten," Shu Pan finally felt relieved. Occasionally, one day of overtime work was enough to make her feel overwhelmed.

"Joy, sweetheart, godmother will take you to enjoy some good food and have fun today. Are you excited?" Ye Xiaomeng turned to Joy, hugging her and giving her kisses.

"But Mommy's not coming?" Joy seemed a bit unwilling and had a hint of moodiness on her face.

"Mommy has to work, so you'll go out and have fun with godmother first.

Mommy will come to find you both after work, okay?" Shu Pan coaxed Joy.

"Okay," the little one finally agreed.

Ye Xiaomeng had never taken care of children before and wasn't very confident, but she thought of taking Joy to the mall, which kids should enjoy since it's crowded and lively. She also wanted to buy a couple of outfits for Joy since she knew her friend Shu Pan was usually frugal and reluctant to spend. As expected, the weekend mall was bustling with people. Ye Xiaomeng tightly held Joy's little hand.

"Sweetie, hold onto godmother's hand tightly, so you don't get lost."

"Okay, godmother," Joy's tender voice melted hearts.

Ye Xiaomeng took Joy from one shop to another. In a children's clothing store, she bought two new outfits for her.

"Godmother, I already have many pretty clothes. You don't need to buy more," Joy held Ye Xiaomeng's hand and stopped her from paying.

"Sweetie, it's fine. These are gifts from godmother. Godmother wants to dress you up like a beautiful little princess," Ye Xiaomeng inexplicably felt like crying. Her voice trembled, and she felt sorry for Shu Pan's hardships and for Joy, who had to be so mature at such a young age.

It was an age when children should be carefree and cherished by their parents, but because of her father's heartlessness, she and her daughter had suffered.

Ye Xiaomeng held the shopping bags in one hand and Joy's hand in the other. Just around the corner, Joy was pushed from behind, making her lose her balance and bump into the person in front.

Song Can felt like she had chosen the wrong day to go ring shopping with Tong Fei. The mall was crowded today, and just like that, she got bumped from behind.

She turned around and saw that she had been bumped into by a little girl. Perhaps because she had collided with someone, the little girl looked frightened, likely worried about being scolded.

With a face filled with fear, she looked at Song Can. Her dark, innocent eyes made it hard to scold her. She kept apologizing, "Granny, I'm sorry, I accidentally bumped into you."

Before she could say anything, Tong Fei had already spoken harshly, "Whose child is this, rushing around and bumping into people like that?"

Because of Tong Fei's stern words, the little girl's eyes started to well up.

Song Can's brows furrowed slightly as she looked at the child's features.. She had a strange feeling of familiarity, but they had just met today, hadn't they? Where could she have seen her before?

Chapter 120: Bewitched

“The child has already apologized, and it’s crowded here today, she was bumped into from behind. What do you want, anyway?” Ye Xiaomeng, seeing the distressed look on Joy’s face, immediately raised her head and glared at Tong Fei fiercely.

Tong Fei, in her stylish outfit and sunglasses, looked like a fashionable woman. She wore a serious expression and said, “You’re her mother? Children need to be educated from a young age. Your parenting seems to have failed miserably.”

“Look at you all dressed up and yet speaking so harshly?” Ye Xiaomeng appeared unwilling to back down. She hadn’t expected this person, who looked so polished, to be so unreasonable.

Seeing that Song Can didn’t say anything on the side, Tong Fei couldn’t continue acting unreasonably.

“Auntie, are you okay?” Tong Fei observed Song Can carefully.

“Oh, I’m fine. I was lost in thought just now.” Song Can shook her head while looking at Tong Fei, and suddenly, she remembered. The girl’s eyebrows and eyes resembled Shaoting’s. No wonder she looked so familiar.

She felt like she was going a bit crazy, how could the girl resemble Shaoting?

Well, maybe she was just imagining things, wishing for a grandchild so much that she was seeing things.

They should get married soon and have children.

“Little girl, Granny is fine. Be more careful next time,” Song Can, who usually had a serious demeanor, rarely showed such kindness to a child.

Seeing how Song Can spoke, Tong Fei didn't say much more.

She held Song Can's hand and urged, "Auntie, let's go. It's time for our appointment, and we shouldn't be late."

"Alright, let's go." As they left, Song Can couldn't help but cast one more glance at Joy.

Once they were gone, Ye Xiaomeng squatted down to check on Joy. "Joy, don't be afraid. It wasn't your fault, and that lady said it's okay, right? Let's go. Your mommy is probably on her way to find us."

"Okay, let's go quickly, so mommy can find us easily." The little girl brightened up when she talked about her mom.

"Tong Fei, Shaoting is usually very busy, and I guess you're the one handling a lot of the engagement preparations," Song Can said apologetically. Although Gu Shaoting had agreed to the engagement, he was always indecisive when it came to wedding planning. He claimed to be busy and let them make decisions themselves.

That was why they were here today picking out the engagement ring, and when she mentioned it to him this morning, he seemed indifferent.

"Let them choose themselves. As long as they like it, price isn't an issue." He thought.

He just didn't understand the significance of an engagement ring for women and for marriage.

This morning, Tong Fei knew that Gu Shaoting was too busy to accompany her to choose the ring, and she looked disappointed all day. Song Can couldn't bear to see her like this, so she spent the day with her.

"It's okay, Auntie. I understand that Shaoting is busy. It's the same if we choose it ourselves. Sometimes, men's tastes are unreliable," Tong Fei showed an understanding smile.

"If you can understand, that's good. Later, I'll have the manager bring over the best, shiniest, and biggest diamond ring for you to choose from," Song Can patted Tong Fei's hand and said confidently.

"Great," Tong Fei smiled and nodded.

When Shu Pan finally arrived, both Ye Xiaomeng and Joy were exhausted from shopping. Ye Xiaomeng suggested finding a place to have a drink and rest their feet.

Shu Pan said with a touch of annoyance, "I told you not to go through so much trouble, spending all this money."

"It's nothing. The most important thing is that we ran into someone who thinks too highly of herself. She really ruined the mood," Ye Xiaomeng grumbled, still frustrated..