

## As Agreed 121

### Chapter 121: Encouragement for Each Other

After listening to what Ye Xiaomeng said, Shu Pan fell silent for a moment. Then, she gently patted Joy's head and said, "Sweetie, you did a great job. When you make a mistake, it's important to admit it and apologize. But the lady this morning was probably in a bad mood, so don't take her words to heart."

"Okay, I understand, Mom. Can I have a piece of cake now?" Joy's eyes lit up as

she saw the assortment of cakes in the kitchen.

Children's minds were indeed simple, and their moods changed quickly.

"Sure, you can have one." Shu Pan occasionally indulged her daughter's small requests, as long as it made her happy.

"Mom, have you ever regretted it?" Ye Xiaomeng suddenly asked.

"No, I don't regret it. Joy is my everything. You don't know, all these years, she has been my motivation," Shu Pan replied firmly.

"Every time I ask you, your answer is always the same. Are you being naive?" Ye Xiaomeng shook her head.

"What about you, Xiaomeng? Are you and Cheng Yang really impossible?" Shu Pan took the opportunity to ask. Even though time had passed, some wounds, even if they had scabbed over, would still bleed and hurt if torn open.

“It’s impossible. I gave up on that the moment our child was gone. The love we had for so many years vanished at that moment,” Ye Xiaomeng replied with a calm expression, but only she knew the pain she felt.

“Sweetie, if you meet someone suitable, don’t give up. Being alone is too hard, especially with Joy,” Ye Xiaomeng said, feeling deeply for her friend’s situation.

“Well, there is someone, but he makes me feel a bit guilty. I don’t want to burden him,” Shu Pan said, thinking about Wen Chi with a heavy heart. “Girl, you need to bravely pursue your own happiness. After all, he knows your situation now, and if he’s pursuing you, it means he doesn’t mind,” Ye Xiaomeng encouraged her friend not to miss out on a chance for happiness.

“I know, I’ll think about it. And don’t give up if you meet someone good,” Shu Pan replied, worried that her friend might miss out on love.

“Actually, Cheng Yang has come to my house several times, begging for my forgiveness. He was very sincere, and even my parents were moved by him. To say I’m not moved would be a lie, but when I think about the scene at the wedding, I can’t get past it,” Ye Xiaomeng said, her voice tinged with pain.

“Xiaomeng, don’t dwell on it. Take it slow,” Shu Pan comforted her, believing that there would be a rainbow after the rain.

Song Can and Tong Fei had come to “Eternal” to choose a diamond ring. Just as the name “Eternal” implied, they hoped for eternal love.

This was a well-known jewelry store in Bin City, and its name attracted many people to shop for engagement rings.

Since Song Can and Tong Fei were VIP customers at the store, the manager welcomed them and led them to the VIP room.

They were shown the latest designs to choose from.

Tong Fei, being a former model with a keen sense of fashion, quickly found the one she liked. She took out her phone and dialed Gu Shaoting's number. "Shaoting, are you busy? I've chosen the ring."

"That's great! The most important thing is that you like it," Gu Shaoting replied.

"But because it's the latest design, it's a bit expensive," Tong Fei said. In reality, given her financial situation, she could easily afford the ring. However, because it was an engagement ring, what mattered most to her was Gu Shaoting's unlimited love and care.

As expected, Gu Shaoting said, "It doesn't matter if it's expensive. What's important is that it suits your taste. You decide." Gu Shaoting wanted to compensate her for everything..

Chapter 122: Do You Have Children?

Tong Fei hung up the phone with a satisfied smile, and Song Can noticed her slightly upturned lips, knowing that she was pleased with Gu Shaoting's response.

"Auntie, what do you think of these wedding rings?" Tong Fei immediately showed them to Song Can.

"They're lovely. Your taste is the best, and you don't need my opinion," Song Can replied cheerfully. "After you two get married, make sure to give me a cute grandson."

Tong Fei blushed, but at the same time, she felt conflicted. What if she had a child and her figure changed? She needed to think carefully about this matter.

After buying the rings, Song Can and Tong Fei spent a long time shopping around before Song Can finally returned home.

Not long after she had sat down, Gu Shaoting surprisingly returned from outside. It seemed the sun was about to rise from the west.

"I can't be mistaken, can I? You've come back so early? Have you finished everything?" Song Can sarcastically remarked.

Gu Shaoting turned a deaf ear and said, "I've finished. Thank you for your hard work today."

"It's not hard, I'm just worried that Tong Fei might have some thoughts," Song Can sighed, feeling anxious about her son's wedding.

"I'll explain it to her," Gu Shaoting replied indifferently.

"Shaoting, I want to ask you something. Have you left any 'seeds' outside in recent years? Could there be children born to you that you don't know about?" Song Can asked with uncertainty.

"Why would you say that? Mom, what are you thinking? I can count the number of women who have been intimate with me using one hand. How could there be children I don't know about?" Gu Shaoting was somewhat exasperated and couldn't fathom where Song Can was getting these notions.

"Today, I met a little girl at the mall. She had a ponytail, those bright black eyes, and a straight little nose. She looked like she was made from the same mold as you," Song Can explained vividly.

Gu Shaoting immediately refuted, "It couldn't be my daughter; my daughter hasn't been born yet." He thought about it and realized that if he did have a daughter, it would only be with Shu Pan. However, he quickly dismissed the thought because he made sure she took birth control pills every time, so there was no chance.

"After you get married, remember to try harder with Tong Fei," Song Can said, looking disappointed. The girl had called her "Grandma" in such a soft and tender voice that it melted her heart.

"Alright, don't overthink it. Let things take their course," Gu Shaoting suggested, thinking perhaps Song Can had too much time on her hands.

Hearing Song Can's words, Gu Shaoting suddenly thought that if he hadn't divorced Shu Pan and gone through all those ups and downs, he might have children old enough to play around by now.

But in life, how many things could you really predict in advance?

Since their last encounter during the villa renovation, he hadn't run into her again. He had tried a few times to coincidentally meet her but had no luck, and it left him feeling a bit down.

Now that he was engaged to Tong Fei, he planned to settle down with her. Still, his heart seemed increasingly difficult to manage, as thoughts of Shu Pan, her shy face, and her perfectly proportioned body kept coming to mind.

At home, Shu Pan sneezed several times, feeling as if someone was talking about her. She suddenly remembered that it had been a long time since she had taken Joy to visit her father and Auntie Lu in Lotus Town.

She planned to take Joy there this weekend because her father's health was not good, and that was her greatest concern. She also wanted Joy to bring some happiness to them.

Watching the tired but happy Joy, Shu Pan felt a sense of peace in her heart. Everything would be okay, and she seriously contemplated her own life

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Chapter 123: First Encounter

Shu Pan followed through with her plan. When the weekend arrived, she packed their belongings and took Joy to Lotus Town.

Joy held her doll, asking questions along the way, clearly enjoying herself.

“Mom, are we going to see Grandpa and Grandma? Will we come back to our current home?” Joy asked innocently.

“Of course, we’ll come back. You have school, and I have work. You can invite

Grandpa and Grandma to our current home,” Shu Pan replied in a gentle tone.

“Okay, if I don’t go back, my kindergarten friends will miss me,” Joy said confidently.

Shu Pan couldn’t help but laugh. This child’s self-love knew no bounds.

“Brother Ting, what’s going on? You sounded like you were in a hurry early in the morning,” He Ming, who rarely had the chance to sleep in on weekends, complained. He had initially been ready to vent his frustration to the other side until he saw it was Gu Shaoting calling. At that moment, he managed to suppress his irritation.

“What’s wrong? Not getting enough laid lately? You seem quite agitated,” Gu Shaoting teased him for once.

“Get lost! You think I’m you?” He Ming hit the nail on the head, knowing that Gu Shaoting had been leading a simple and ascetic life since his divorce from

Shu Pan.

Indeed, on the other end of the phone call, Gu Shaoting’s face darkened upon hearing the truth. Even though He Ming couldn’t see his expression, he could guess what was going on in Gu Shaoting’s mind.

“Hehe, Brother Ting, just kidding. You haven’t told me what’s going on yet,” He Ming quickly changed the subject, eager to steer clear of any more of Gu Shaoting’s landmines.

“Hurry up and get ready. Accompany me on a trip to Lotus Town,” Gu Shaoting’s voice returned to its usual cold tone.

“Why go to Lotus Town? Is it for an inspection? Isn’t everything fine at the resort?” He Ming asked in confusion.

“There’s something I need to deal with, and I also want to clear my mind. I’ve been feeling quite restless lately,” Gu Shaoting said in a gloomy tone.

“Aren’t you getting married to Tong Fei? Do you have pre-wedding jitters?” He Ming found it strange that Gu Shaoting didn’t seem to have any excitement about being the groom.

Gu Shaoting didn’t respond. He simply urged He Ming to get ready quickly.

When they arrived in Lotus Town, it was already noon. They had a meal at a local restaurant and then strolled along a riverbank.

Joy, who had accompanied Shu Pan to the market, couldn’t help but be drawn to a stall selling rabbits.

“Mom, look, these rabbits are so cute!” Joy played with the rabbits.

“Alright, Joy, we’ll only look for a while, and then we have to go back. Otherwise, Grandpa and Grandma will worry,” Shu Pan said, watching her daughter’s enthusiasm and going along with it.

“He Ming, look over there. Isn’t that Shu Pan? Why does this woman look so much like her?” He Ming suddenly pointed to someone not far away.

As soon as Gu Shaoting heard Shu Pan’s name, he immediately looked in the direction He Ming was pointing. In the blurry distance, he saw a woman with a slender figure, holding a little girl’s hand, walking in the opposite direction.

Gu Shaoting furrowed his brow slightly. Because they were a bit far away, he couldn't see clearly. He quickened his pace to catch up and take a closer look, but when they reached a bend in the road, he lost sight of them.

He felt a bit frustrated, thinking he had been too slow. However, he was also puzzled. Why was Shu Pan here? Wasn't she working in Bin City? And who was the little girl with her? A friend's child, perhaps?

"How was it? Was it Shu pan?" He Ming asked as he caught up.

"I'm not sure. I couldn't see her face clearly," Gu Shaoting sighed, looking somewhat helpless..

#### Chapter 124: Be My Girlfriend

He Ming suddenly looked at Gu Shaoting with a strange expression. "Brother Ting, do you think your behavior is normal? It seems like whenever Shu Pan is mentioned, you tend to lose control. Do you like Shu Pan?"

He Ming asked cautiously.

"I'm not sure. Probably, whenever I see Shu Pan now or anything related to her is mentioned, I feel my heart racing, and I seem to lose control," Gu Shaoting sounded somewhat lost, his handsome face displaying a hint of confusion.

"But aren't you engaged to Tong Fei? This..." He Ming found the whole situation quite messy.

"Alright, let's drop it. Let's go," Gu Shaoting said and started walking ahead, ignoring He Ming. He Ming felt somewhat puzzled and had to quicken his pace to catch up.

Shu Pan and Joy returned reluctantly from Lotus Town to Bin City in the afternoon, where the warm sunlight lazily bathed the surroundings.



Shu Pan was about to go out to buy groceries when Wen Chi's call came in. "Pan, what are you up to? Have you made up your mind? Can you give me an answer?"

Wen Chi had been feeling restless these past few days, not contacting Shu Pan and hoping to give her time to think. Today, unable to endure any longer and seeing that Shu Pan hadn't contacted him either, he started to feel anxious and quickly made the call.

"Do you have time tonight? Come over for dinner," Shu Pan didn't provide a direct response.

"I'm free. It's been a while since I had your home-cooked meal. I want to have your braised fish," he wasn't being shy about it at all.

"Alright, see you tonight," she hung up the phone, and Shu Pan couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

She had made up her mind, decided to give herself and Wen Chi a chance. Regardless of what might happen in the future, she wanted to make the most of the present.

With a clear decision in mind, she felt much lighter and didn't need to be constantly entangled in this matter.

In the evening, Wen Chi arrived. He was wearing a checkered shirt with a beige cardigan over it, paired with khaki-colored casual pants. He looked refined and cultured. His fair and smooth skin, captivating peach-blossom eyes, straight nose, and charming curves made him quite eye-catching.

Shu Pan once again marveled at how fortunate she was to have earned his affection. She couldn't help but wonder about the good karma she must have accumulated over several lifetimes.

"Joy, look at what Uncle Wen brought for you," Wen Chi, after entering the house, put down the bag he was carrying and took out a set of Peppa Pig plush toys from one of the bags.

Seeing them, Joy's face lit up with joy. "Uncle Wen, thank you! I love them. I'll sleep with them tonight."

“Why do you keep buying her toys? She already has so many. You’re spoiling her,” Shu Pan playfully scolded Wen Chi while smiling.

“It’s alright, girls need to be pampered, to be spoiled like little princesses,” Wen Chi looked at Joy indulgently.

Shu Pan shook her head, helpless against him. She knew that saying more wouldn’t make a difference.

With the toys in hand, Joy happily went back to her room to play. Wen Chi, with his charming peach-blossom eyes, looked directly at Shu Pan, saying, “Be my girlfriend, Pan.”

Wen Chi’s tone was gentle yet firm.

“Are you sure? I’m not really deserving of...” Shu Pan hadn’t finished her sentence when Wen Chi covered her mouth with his hand.

“I’m absolutely sure. Promise me, let me take care of you and Joy, Pan,” Wen Chi’s words seemed to carry a magical force that made it impossible to refuse.

“Okay,” Shu Pan nodded shyly.

With a joyful expression, Wen Chi lifted Shu Pan into his arms and twirled her around.

“Put me down, quickly. I’ll cook for you both,” Shu Pan’s cheeks were flushed with embarrassment..

Chapter 125: Warm Escort

Wen Chi gazed at Shu Pan as if his eyes could melt at the view of her, holding

Shu Pan's hand. "I'll help you with cooking."

Amidst a rather leisurely and unhurried meal, it lasted until 8 O'clock. Later, he received a phone call regarding some urgent matters at the hospital where he worked, which forced him to leave.

As he departed, his reluctant expression was genuinely endearing.

"I've just become someone's boyfriend, and I don't want to go back to work," he playfully complained, resembling a mischievous child.

"Quickly go back to work. Otherwise, you'll be late," Shu Pan persuaded him.

Finally, Wen Chi left the house. Shu Pan patted her cheeks with both hands, feeling a lingering warmth.

The next day, Shu Pan opened the door and, hand in hand with Joy, walked downstairs, only to spot a black car parked by the roadside.

As they approached, the car window slowly rolled down, revealing Wen Chi's weary face.

"Why are you here so early?" Shu Pan was a bit surprised.

"I just got off work, thought I'd drop you both off and then catch up on some sleep," Wen Chi said with a cheerful smile. Even though he had stayed up late, all his fatigue seemed to dissipate when he saw them.

"Quit messing around, go back and get some rest. I'll send Joy to school and then take the bus to work; it's very convenient," Shu Pan looked at him with a mixture of gratitude and concern.

"Hurry, get in. You're running late," Wen Chi got out of the car and lifted Joy inside.

Resignedly, Shu Pan joined them in the car.

When they reached the entrance of Shu Pan's workplace, she got out of the car. After some parting words and admonishments from her, Wen Chi reluctantly turned away.

"How about dinner with you and Joy tonight?" Wen Chi suggested.

"Let's talk about it later. You might have other plans or work to attend to," Shu Pan waved her hand as she walked toward her workplace.

"Girl, I'm coming to your place for dinner tonight," Ye Xiaomeng, who had just returned from a business trip, immediately wanted to visit Shu Pan's house.

"You just got back from your business trip?" Shu Pan could hear the exhaustion in her voice.

"Yeah, I'm done with these trips to godforsaken places where even basic necessities are hard to come by. I'll talk to you tonight," Ye Xiaomeng hung up the phone in a hurry.

In the afternoon, Wen Chi sent a message saying he had to attend a meeting at the hospital and wouldn't be free in the evening.

This worked out well because Xiaomeng was coming over, and Shu Pan wasn't mentally prepared to introduce them.

After finishing her work, buying groceries, and preparing dinner, Xiaomeng arrived right around dinner time.

"I'm starving..." Xiaomeng began eating as soon as she sat down.

After a few more bites, she finally had some energy and put down her chopsticks.

“Girl, you’re too good. You’re a model wife and mother. If I were a guy, I’d definitely marry you,” Xiaomeng exclaimed with emotion.

“You’re just talking nonsense. One meal is no big deal.” Shu Pan smiled at her.

“Men have no taste. Look at Su Yuan, he gave up on you and married his current wife. I heard they’re having relationship issues and might get a divorce.” Shu Pan was a bit stunned when she heard what Xiaomeng said. When Su Yuan mentioned divorce, she didn’t take it seriously and thought he was joking. She didn’t expect him to actually consider it.

She owed Su Yuan money, and she had been repaying him little by little every month, promptly depositing it into his account. He initially had reservations but eventually accepted her persistence.

In fact, Su Yuan didn’t want her to repay the debt, and it seemed like their contact would dwindle after she repaid it.

“And then there’s Gu Shaoting, not knowing how to cherish. Girl, you deserve better. You must find happiness,” Xiaomeng grew angrier the more she spoke. Why did she keep running into these lousy men?

Shu Pan looked at Xiaomeng, baffled. They hadn’t even had any alcohol, yet she was talking nonsense.. Why bring up the past like this?

## Chapter 126: Mrs. Wen’s Objection

Shu Pan had actually come to terms with things. If it was not meant to be, one couldn’t force it.

“Xiaomeng, didn’t I mention to you that there’s someone? He’s a doctor, and I’ve agreed to give dating him a try,” Shu Pan looked at her friend, who was so concerned about her, and couldn’t bear to keep it from her.

She decided to see how things would unfold in the future.

“Really? Girl, if you feel good about it, that’s what matters. Next time, let me meet him and I’ll assess him,” Ye Xiaomeng worried that Shu Pan might get hurt again.

“I’m afraid you might scare him away,” Shu Pan joked.

“I’ll talk to him nicely, I won’t scare him off,” Ye Xiaomeng playfully winked at Shu Pan.

“Don’t talk about me, you should also put in some effort. If you find someone good, make sure to seize the opportunity,” Shu Pan said. As soon as she finished speaking, Ye Xiaomeng couldn’t resist rolling her eyes at her.

“All right, Shu, I got it,” Ye Xiaomeng teased.

Lately, Wen Chi had been spending very little time at home, only returning to sleep for a few hours before leaving again. Finally, his behavior caught the attention of his mother.

“Son, what’s been going on with you lately? Why haven’t you been eating at home except for coming back from work to sleep for a few hours?” Wen Chi’s mother frowned, unable to hold back her questions.

“It’s nothing special, just busy chasing after a girl,” Wen Chi didn’t want to reveal too much, and he planned to leave soon.

“Don’t leave, I haven’t finished talking,” Wen Chi’s mother knew his intentions and firmly called him back.

“What does the girl do for a living? What kind of family does she come from? What’s her background?” These were the aspects parents were most concerned about, and Wen Chi’s mother was no exception.

“Mom, I’m interested in the person, not her family background. What does her family have to do with anything?” Wen Chi felt overwhelmed by his mother’s questioning.

He simply liked Shu Pan for who she was.

“Son, in today’s marriages, it’s important to marry a wife with an appropriate family background. Don’t think love is all that matters. You’ll understand after you get married. I’ve been through it all. I’m telling you now to help you avoid taking the wrong path,” Wen Chi’s mother spoke with genuine concern, hoping Wen Chi would listen.

“Mom, trust me, Shu Pan is not like that. She’s kind-hearted and virtuous. Once you spend time with her, you’ll like her too,” Wen Chi tried to reassure his mother, feeling she was overthinking things.

“Bring her home for me to meet when you have a chance,” Wen Chi’s mother decided that no matter what her son said, she needed to see for herself what the girl was like.

“Mom, it’s too early for that. We’ve only just started, and it took me a long time to win her over,” Wen Chi quickly stopped her, afraid his mother would mess things up.

“Chi...” Wen Chi’s mother wanted to continue, but Wen Chi had already left.

Frustrated, she called Wen Chi’s father.

“What kind of father are you? Your son has a girlfriend, do you know?” Wen Chi’s mother was furious.

“When did this happen? I haven’t heard anything about it at the hospital. I guess it’s not a girl from there,” Wen Chi’s father spoke calmly, quite different from his wife.

“I don’t care. I won’t accept a daughter-in-law who doesn’t meet my standards,” Wen Chi’s mother said firmly.

“Our son is grown up and has his own ideas. Why interfere and make yourself unpleasant?” Wen Chi’s father tried to persuade her.

“No, this matter can’t be ignored,” Wen Chi’s mother said and hung up, leaving Wen Chi’s father on the other end of the line uncertain of how to respond..

## Chapter 127: The Engagement

Wen Chi’s father shook his head, sighing, “Ah, children have their own choices.” Mrs. Wen was usually more accommodating on other matters, but when it came to her son Wen Chi’s lifelong decisions, she was not easily swayed.

After hanging up the phone, Mrs. Wen felt a smoldering frustration inside her.

In theory, she hadn’t met the girl yet and shouldn’t be preconceived, but Wen Chi’s attitude had annoyed her.

According to his words, the girl he was interested in was probably quite ordinary, but she was someone he highly valued, as evidenced by his defense of her.

“Adult son is hard to discipline!” It seemed like she would have to find a way to see what kind of girl the girlfriend was.

Time passed quickly, and in the blink of an eye, a month had gone by. The day of Gu Shaoting and Tong Fei’s engagement was fast approaching.

Song Can had been busy with the preparations for their engagement, notifying relatives and friends and booking the hotel.

Gu Shaoting, as usual, was not concerned at all about the engagement preparations.



Song Can was anxious. She was worried that Tong Fei might not feel comfortable. So, she took it upon herself to handle many things.

With only a few days left, Gu Shaoting's suit had not been chosen. Originally, they had planned for a simple engagement ceremony with a grand wedding later. However, Song Can didn't want to make Tong Fei feel uncomfortable and wanted a more significant ceremony.

In her heart, this was her first daughter-in-law truly marrying into the family. When Gu Shaoting married Shu Pan, it was low-key, and many people didn't even know about it.

She wanted the engagement to be well-known and respectable.

She couldn't handle the task of selecting the suit, and this had made her increasingly frustrated.

"Shaoting, do you even realize that your engagement is this weekend?" As soon as the call was connected, Song Can said anxiously.

"Mom, I know. Haven't you already made all the arrangements?" Gu Shaoting had been at the office recently.

"Have you not chosen your suit yet? Pay more attention and take it seriously." Song Can was a bit puzzled, wondering why it seemed like she was pushing him into marriage.

"I know, Mom, I have something to attend to." Gu Shaoting hurriedly hung up the phone.

Standing in his office, Gu Shaoting gazed out of the window with his deep-set eyes. He felt a bit restless, questioning whether getting engaged was the right decision. Recently, he often found himself reminiscing about the moments he had shared with Shu Pan.

However, he also couldn't let Tong Fei down, considering their years-long relationship.

If he were to say he didn't want to get engaged now, where would that leave Tong Fei?

It seemed like there was no turning back now. He picked up his phone and contacted He Ming, instructing him to handle the suit selection.

The day of the engagement arrived as scheduled, and the news spread quickly. Media outlets had gathered outside, and by noon, the hotel was completely crowded

Before long, the guests started arriving, and the atmosphere was lively.

Song Can wore a smiling face as she welcomed relatives and friends, while He Ming helped entertain business associates.

The time for the evening banquet arrived. Suddenly, the massive crystal chandelier in the center of the hall dimmed. Before the guests could understand what was happening, a spotlight shone brightly on the entrance. A delicate foot stepped into the hall, and under the contrast of golden high heels, it emitted a radiant glow, leaving everyone breathless.

Tong Fei, with a charming smile, held Gu Shaoting's arm as they entered the venue. Her bare shoulders were half exposed, and long gemstone earrings swayed with her graceful steps. Her pale yellow dress highlighted her perfect curves, and the fine pleats at the hem of her gown fluttered delicately, captivating everyone's hearts.

In contrast, the future groom, dressed in a tasteful suit, looked dashing and charismatic. However, his expression was serious, and the joy of a typical groom was absent..

Chapter 128: Meeting the Parents

Gu Shaoting couldn't make himself genuinely happy. He felt like a puppet and just wanted everything to end quickly.

The guests couldn't help but praise the soon-to-be-wed couple for their looks and talents. Nearby, Song Can, hearing this, felt even more delighted.

Grandpa Gu did not attend the engagement. Firstly, his health had deteriorated, and secondly, he had no desire to attend. Although Gu Shaoting was his only grandson, his only granddaughter-in-law in his heart was Shu Pan. He couldn't warm up to Tong Fei, so he used excuses to stay away.

Gu Shaoting understood his grandfather's thoughts and didn't say anything. But Tong Fei felt uncomfortable. She couldn't help but think, "We're already engaged, who is Grandpa Gu trying to show this to?"

The engagement banquet brought joy to some and frustration to others. The next day, media outlets were flooded with reports about the couple's union.

Of course, Shu Pan saw the news but simply smiled and let the gossip pass.

Wen Chi and Shu Pan had been together for nearly two months. Wen Chi had always been polite and respectful to Shu Pan.

After dinner one evening, Wen Chi suddenly looked up at Shu Pan and said, "Pan, are you free this weekend? I want to take you to meet my parents, okay?"

Shu Pan, who was in the middle of clearing the dishes, paused when she heard this. Honestly, she was not mentally prepared for this.

"Um... Have you told your parents about us? Do they know about Joy?" She asked nervously.

"I mentioned our relationship to them, but I haven't told them about Joy. That's our thing between us. We like each other, and that's what matters. Don't worry." Wen Chi reassured her with a smile.

Wen Chi had been bothered by his mother's inquiries lately, so he decided to take Shu Pan to meet his parents. He had a feeling that his mother had some reservations, but he hoped that meeting Shu Pan in

person would change her mind. Regardless, he had no intention of letting go of Shu Pan, unless she decided to leave him.

Shu Pan forced a smile, although she felt very nervous. She had the example of Song Can as a mother-in-law, and now she was afraid of meeting elders.

However, she knew that Wen Chi cared about her, and she didn't want to disappoint him. It was something that had to happen sooner or later.

"I'm free this weekend. I'll have Xiaomeng take care of Joy. What does your mother like? I'll prepare a gift for her."

"The best gift is having you there."

Wen Chi was delighted that Shu Pan was taking this step for him.

Shu Pan couldn't sleep all night because she was nervous about meeting Wen Chi's parents.

The next day, she called Ye Xiaomeng and told her about the upcoming meeting. "Girl, things are moving fast, huh? Meeting the parents already?"

Ye Xiaomeng was both surprised and happy for her friend. Meeting the parents indicated that the man was serious about the relationship and not just playing around.

"I'm so nervous and you're joking around like this," Shu Pan chided.

"Silly, every daughter-in-law has to meet her in-laws sooner or later. Don't be so nervous. With Wen Chi by your side, you'll be fine," Ye Xiaomeng reassured her.

"Can you make it this Saturday? Can you help take care of Joy? It wouldn't be convenient to bring her for the first time," Shu Pan asked with difficulty.

“I’m free, don’t worry, I’ll take care of Joy for you,” Ye Xiaomeng readily agreed.

“Xiaomeng, do you have any suggestions for a suitable gift for the first meeting?”

“Health supplements. You can also get a brand-name scarf for his mother,” Ye Xiaomeng suggested.

“Okay, okay, I’ll go shopping at the mall during lunch break,” Shu Pan replied, feeling more confident about the situation..

## Chapter 129: Frustrated and Furious

Shu Pan finally had the day to meet Wen Chi’s parents. She had dropped off Joy at Ye Xiaomeng’s apartment early in the morning. Joy was initially unwilling, but Shu Pan used a mix of persuasion and coercion to get her to agree.

Shu Pan squatted down, patted Joy’s head, and promised that if she behaved, they would go to the zoo next time. Joy had been looking forward to that, so she reluctantly agreed.

Seeing Joy’s unhappy expression, Shu Pan couldn’t help but feel uneasy. She wondered if what she was doing was right. But if she took Joy with her on their first visit and Wen’s parents had objections, it could be embarrassing for her. At least this way, the child wouldn’t witness any potential awkwardness.

Before long, Wen Chi arrived to pick her up. She carried the prepared gift and got into the car. During the drive, she remained silent, and Wen Chi finally noticed something was amiss.

“Pan, what’s wrong?” he asked.

Shu Pan glanced at him and smiled, “Nothing, just a little nervous.”

In reality, Shu Pan was so nervous that she felt her stomach tightening into knots. As they got closer to the Wen family's home, her anxiety only increased.

The car finally came to a stop in front of a small two-story villa. After getting out of the car, Wen Chi held Shu Pan's hand and carried the gift as they walked toward the house.

As they entered the front door, they saw Wen's mother waiting for them in the living room. Wen Chi introduced them to each other.

"Mom, this is just a little something from Shu Pan," Wen Chi handed over the "Just a small token of appreciation. Hope you like it, Auntie," Shu Pan said with a touch of nerves.

"Why go all out? Your presence is enough. I'm not missing anything," Mrs. Wen replied and casually set the gift on the coffee table.

"Dad's got some commitments tonight and won't be joining us for dinner. Let's dig in," Mrs. Wen led them to the dining room.

Over dinner, Mrs. Wen asked casually, "Shu Pan, how's your parents? What's the situation in your family?"

Shu Pan answered honestly, and Mrs. Wen's hand paused briefly before she continued serving dishes.

"Why bring up all these topics during dinner?" Wen Chi interrupted, piling more food onto Shu Pan's plate.

"Just curious, that's all," Mrs. Wen said nonchalantly, feeling a tad uneasy when she saw Wen Chi sticking up for Shu Pan.

"In fact, Auntie, I've been married before, and I've got a daughter named Joy," Shu Pan didn't want to keep it a secret and blurted it out.

“What... married before, and you’ve got a kid? Wen Chi, you trying, to give me a heart attack?” Mrs. Wen was livid.

“Auntie...?” Shu Pan was taken aback.

“Mom, chill out. Let’s have a talk,” Wen Chi reassured her, patting her back.

“Honestly, I didn’t mention it earlier because I was worried you’d judge. It’s not Pan’s fault. I hope you’ll understand.”

“I don’t wanna see you both right now,” Mrs. Wen pointed toward the door.

“Shu Pan, I’m sorry. I’ll explain things to my mom later. Let me take you home first,” Wen Chi apologized with a heavy heart. He realized he hadn’t thought about the possibility of such a strong reaction from his mom.

“No worries. I’ll head back. Take care of Auntie. You don’t need to escort me, it was my bad. I didn’t think about Auntie’s feelings,” Shu Pan said with deep regret.

Shu Pan walked out of the villa, feeling heartbroken. She had thought that things were finally looking up, but it seemed like luck wasn’t on her side after all.

In fact, when she saw the Wen Chi family’s fancy villa, she couldn’t help but feel a sense of unease. As a divorced woman with a child, she couldn’t fathom how she’d be welcomed into such a well-off family.

She walked along the roadside lost in thought, tears streaming down her face..

Chapter 130: A Child Without a Father

Shu Pan mourned her budding love with Wen Chi in her heart. It seemed like it was about to be smothered before it even began.

When she went to pick up Joy, Ye Xiaomeng noticed something was amiss with her. After inquiring, she understood the reason. She patted Shu Pan on the shoulder, conveying understanding without words.

She empathized deeply, knowing that a relationship involved not just two people but two families.

“Xiaomeng, do you think I’ll never find happiness?” Shu Pan said with teary eyes.

“Girl, don’t talk like that. Maybe Wen Chi will convince his parents? You’re a catch, he knows that. If he misses you, it’s his loss,” Ye Xiaomeng hugged her, providing comfort.

“Wen Chi, if you still consider me your mother, you’ll break up with Shu Pan,” Mrs. Wen threatened Wen Chi.

“Mom, it’s not Shu Pan’s fault. I love her for who she is. She’s diligent, caring. If you spend more time with her, you’ll see her true character, and you might grow fond of her,” Wen Chi’s face showed pain due to his mother’s disapproval.

He ran his hand through his hair, and his once sparkling eyes now appeared dull.

“With her background, I just can’t bring myself to like her. There are so many well-bred girls who adore you. Why her?” Mrs. Wen lamented her son’s disregard for her advice.

“Mom, you have to think rationally. It’s the modern age. We don’t need to stick to traditional values like ‘marrying into an appropriate family,’” Wen Chi felt that his mother was stuck in the past.

“Well, I just won’t approve...” Mrs. Wen remained resolute.

Wen Chi glanced at his mother, then walked out in big strides.



He drove around aimlessly, not knowing how to face Shu Pan. He hadn't anticipated such a strong reaction from his mother.

What should he do?

Since their visit to the Wen family, Shu Pan and Wen Chi had silently refrained from contacting each other.

Both needed time to deal with this issue.

Joy had been attending kindergarten for several months, and every day she was as happy as a little bird. Shu Pan was grateful that her daughter had such a cheerful and optimistic personality, unlike herself, who tended to keep things to herself.

One day, while Shu Pan was at work, she received a call from Joy's kindergarten teacher. Her heart skipped a beat. Receiving a call from the teacher during work hours usually meant something had gone wrong.

As expected, as soon as she answered the call, she heard the teacher's urgent voice on the other end. "Joy's mom, we need you to come to the kindergarten. Joy had a fight with one of her classmates."

"What? I'll be there right away," Shu Pan quickly informed her manager and rushed to the kindergarten.

The other child involved in the fight was a boy named Wang Zihang, and his parents had also been called.

At the moment, the two children were sitting by the window, heads down, not uttering a word.

"Oh my, my son Zihang, how could he end up like this?" Wang Zihang's mother anxiously pulled her son to her side, inspecting him closely. She noticed two red scratch marks on Prince Hang's face.

"Mom, it's Joy who scratched me," Wang Zihang immediately complained as soon as he saw his mother.

“It’s because he said I’m a wild child with no dad!” Joy, feeling wrongly accused, protested.

“Joy, what happened?” Shu Pan saw that Joy’s morning braids were all unraveled.

“Mom, Wang Zihang called me a wild child with no dad. I didn’t do anything, and he started it,” Joy felt extremely aggrieved.

“Teacher, does this kindergarten enroll just anyone? It seems we need to consider transferring to another school,” Wang Zihang’s mother criticized, implying something else..