

## As Agreed 151

### Chapter 151: Mrs. Gu Came

Shu Pan had finally recovered from her illness, and during these days, Gu Shaoting had been visiting. She considered his role as Joy's father and didn't object to his visits.

However, he was becoming a bit too persistent. Every time he came, he would linger and insist on staying for dinner. He even made specific requests for dishes. Shu Pan ignored him and he shut up for good, leaving Shu Pan perplexed, wondering if he was the same Gu Shaoting as before.

Shu Pan was busy in the kitchen when Gu Shaoting arrived again. During dinner, she said, "I'm all better now. You don't have to come over anymore." Gu Shaoting pretended not to hear and continued to eat.

"Joy, be a good girl and eat these meatballs. Eating more will help you grow taller," Shu Pan coaxed Joy.

"Mom, I don't want to eat so much meat. I'll get fat," Joy replied.

Gu Shaoting was left speechless, she was just a child, after all.

"Nonsense, it's your growing phase now. You're as small as a bean sprout. You need to eat more to grow properly," Shu Pan replied, feeling defeated by her daughter's argument. Life had improved a little, and Joy had grown a bit taller. Shu Pan was content with her progress.

"Wang Zihang, that boy, said eating too much will turn you into a pig," Joy's innocent remark amused everyone.

"Don't listen to him. Uncle is a boy too, and I know that eating more will make you grow tall and beautiful," Gu Shaoting quickly chimed in.

Once Joy finished eating, she left the table.

Gu Shaoting finally spoke, "What kindergarten is Joy attending, and what has she learned?"

Shu Pan didn't want to answer his question. She changed the subject, "Are you done eating? I'm clearing the table. Also, I'll be returning to work tomorrow, so you don't need to come over."

"Um... I can come after you finish work," Gu Shaoting mumbled.

"Gu Shaoting, I appreciate your help when I was sick, but now I've recovered.

Besides, you have a fiancée, and I don't want you constantly coming over," Shu Pan didn't want any more trouble.

"I'm here to see Joy. She's my daughter, too, and I've promised to wait for the right time for us to reunite. You can't deprive me of the right to visit her," Gu Shaoting argued reasonably.

Ignoring him, Shu Pan went straight to the kitchen to clean up.

Gu Shaoting watched her in frustration, wondering what excuse he could use to stay longer.

Gu Shaoting hadn't come up with an excuse yet when Song Can found his way to their house.

Song Can got straight to the point, and her first words were, "When will Joy recognize her roots?"

Seeing Song Can once again, Shu Pan was surprisingly not as timid as before.

"Joy is my child, Mrs. Gu," Shu Pan replied calmly.

"Shu Pan, our Gu family's descendants cannot remain outside. You're a divorced single woman with a child, and it's not easy to find someone," Song Can explained earnestly.

“My affairs are not your concern. But right now, Joy’s last name is Shu, not Gu,” Shu Pan asserted as a protective mother.

Normally, she seemed quite approachable, but when it came to matters involving her child, she became like a fierce mother bear, fiercely defending against any threats.

“Shu Pan, turning down a drink when it’s offered means you’ve got to take a penalty shot...” Song Can threatened.

Indeed, it was like mother, like son. Their way of speaking was quite similar.

“Huh, Mrs. Gu, you can have as many grandsons as you like through your son and his future wife,” Shu Pan smiled lightly. “You...” Song Can was left seething with anger..

## Chapter 152: Anger

“Don’t get too cocky. Let’s see what you’ve got to compete with us,” Song Can said in extreme anger.

After saying that, she walked away.

Shu Pan stared at her retreating figure, lost in thought for a moment. She truly regretted coming to Bin City. She shouldn’t have come in the first place. If she hadn’t, they wouldn’t have discovered Joy’s existence.

However, given her current situation, she could only go with the flow.

Lately, Gu Shaoting had softened his stance and hadn’t pushed for Joy’s custody. She didn’t know what he was really thinking, as he was always inscrutable.

She had promised Mrs. Wen that she wouldn't have any connection with Wen Chi, and she couldn't break her word.

When would fate truly favor her?

Back at the Gu family's mansion, Song Can was so angry that she threw her bag on the sofa, and Gu Shaoting raised an eyebrow.

"What's wrong? Who made you so angry?" he asked.

"Who else? It's your ex-wife! You said Joy is my granddaughter, so why can't we acknowledge her? What's wrong with you?" Song Can exclaimed.

"Did you go see Shu Pan?" Gu Shaoting asked hastily.

"Mom, I'll handle this matter. Please don't get involved anymore," Gu Shaoting sighed, fearing that his mother had messed things up.

He had worked hard to improve his relationship with Shu Pan. While he could insist on claiming Joy, he realized, as He Ming had pointed out, that it might not be in Joy's best interest, and he didn't want to hurt Shu Pan.

Every time he saw Shu Pan unhappy, it made him feel uncomfortable, but he couldn't understand what was happening to him.

"I was about to talk to you too. We haven't seen you around lately. Tong Fei has come a few times and hasn't seen you. She's your fiancée. Can't you be more attentive?" Song Can suddenly remembered that she hadn't seen Gu Shaoting much recently, despite the fact that the company was doing well and there wasn't much for him to do.

"I've been busy with some things," Gu Shaoting replied vaguely.

“Anyway, I don’t care. You need to make Joy acknowledge her roots soon.

You’ve been engaged to Tong Fei for a while now. When are you planning to get married?” Song Can looked around and realized that everyone else had grandchildren while she was still alone. She was getting impatient.

Now that she finally found out that she had a granddaughter. How could she not be anxious.

Now that she had finally found out about her granddaughter, was she not in a hurry?

“Mom, it’s not urgent. We’ll take our time with this matter. I need to think about my marriage with Tong Fei,” Gu Shaoting increasingly felt the need to carefully consider his marriage to Tong Fei. He was becoming more and more averse to the idea.

Initially, after his separation from Shu Pan, he had been indifferent to everything, and Tong Fei happened to be around, so they got engaged. He had probably lost his feelings for her long ago. When she had left for abroad to pursue her career, he had stopped feeling the same way about her, and when she returned, his initial affection had faded.

However, now, when he saw Shu Pan, he experienced a strange feeling.

Seeing Shu Pan and Joy now brought him a sense of peace. He longed to be with Shu Pan and Joy, and he couldn’t afford to make Shu Pan angry.

Now he found all sorts of excuses to get closer to them every day.

Unfortunately, the person Joy loved the most now was someone called Uncle Wen. He was consumed by jealousy.

Now when Shu Pan saw him, she was cold and distant, and with this move from his mother, he was probably going to be placed on her blacklist. She might think he and his mother were in cahoots, and all his previous efforts would go to waste.

With these thoughts, he immediately dialed Shu Pan's number. It rang for a long time, but no one answered. In the end, he had no choice but to hang up, deciding he needed to visit in person to explain..

## Chapter 153: An Explanation

Gu Shaoting thought for a moment, then immediately grabbed his car keys and headed to Shu Pan's house.

"Where are you going, Shaoting? I just told Tong Fei you're at home," Song Can called after him.

He halted his steps, paused for a moment, and then said, "I have something to do and won't be back here tonight."

Song Can stomped her foot in frustration, finding her son increasingly

Not long after Gu Shaoting left, Tong Fei arrived. She was dressed in the latest autumn fashion, wearing high heels, and exuding elegance.

"Auntie, look at what I brought you!" Tong Fei raised the paper bag in her hand and cheerfully said, the bag bearing the logo of a certain clothing brand.

"Why spend so much? I have everything she needs," Song Can took the bag, smiling. Tong Fei was very skilled at making her happy.

"What are you talking about? I picked this out for you when I was abroad shooting advertisements. It's the latest model, not yet available in China," Tong Fei knew that Song Can had a special liking for this brand of clothing, especially the limited editions, so she always knew how to cater to her preferences, making her beam with joy.

“Let me see.” After speaking, she opened the paper bag, took out the clothes inside, and compared them to herself, her face filled with a satisfied smile.

“Hey, Auntie, where’s Shaoting? Is he not at home?” Tong Fei had been here for a while but hadn’t seen Gu Shaoting.

“Oh, he just had to step out,” Song Can said somewhat apologetically. She couldn’t fathom what Gu Shaoting was thinking. He knew Tong Fei was coming, yet he left.

Tong Fei’s expression suddenly darkened. She pretended not to care and said, “Shaoting has been very busy lately, I haven’t seen him in a while.”

“Yeah, he’s probably busy with company matters,” Song Can replied, noticing Tong Fei’s displeased expression. She felt somewhat at a loss.

Seeing Song Can’s guilty look, Tong Fei didn’t say anything further.

However, Tong Fei already harbored suspicions. Since Gu Shaoting had revealed to her that he had a daughter with Shu Pan, they had been meeting less frequently. What bothered her the most was his growing impatience with her.

She had actually visited his company, but he was always elusive, so the excuse of a busy company seemed dubious.

She didn’t dare to confront Gu Shaoting for fear of upsetting him, so she had to endure it. She felt truly humbled in her love for him.

After leaving Gu Family’s mansion, she quickly took out her phone and called her assistant, Zhou.

“Zhou, find someone to help us investigate what Shaoting has been busy with lately,” Tong Fei instructed.

“Alright, Miss Fei,” Xiao Zhou replied before hanging up to arrange it.

Gu Shaoting arrived at Shu Pan’s house, and indeed, Shu Pan stopped him at the door.

“Don’t come over so often. Your mother just left,” Shu Pan said, visibly annoyed and feeling restless.

“Shu Pan, please open the door. Let me explain. I didn’t know my mom was coming to see you, and her attitude doesn’t represent my stance,” Gu Shaoting shouted from the staircase.

Worried about disturbing the neighbors, Shu Pan reluctantly opened the door to let him in.

“Regardless, you’re not taking Joy away. I won’t let go,” Shu Pan made her stance clear to Gu Shaoting.

“I promised I would give Joy time to adjust, and I will also handle my own matters. Please give me some time,” Gu Shaoting assured.

Shu Pan was utterly confused, wondering what he meant by “his matters.” What did his personal affairs have to do with her? She found the whole situation perplexing.

“In any case, just handle your own affairs. We don’t want to be involved,” Shu Pan retorted with a displeased expression..

## Chapter 154: A Warning

“I understand. Please don’t be angry. I’ll handle it,” Gu Shaoting quickly responded.

The next day, Zhou brought news to Tong Fei, confirming her suspicions. Gu Shaoting had been spending most of his free time at Shu Pan’s place, officially to visit his daughter, but who knew what was going on behind the scenes?



Tong Fei's heart turned as cold as ice when she learned of this development. She knew Gu Shaoting had a different kind of affection for Shu Pan. They had been together for so long but had never fully committed to each other, always stopping short when things got serious.

She had been bothered by this for a long time, and now, with Shu Pan reentering his life, she was worried they might rekindle their relationship. Tong Fei couldn't control Gu Shaoting's actions, but she could reach out to Shu

Pan.

Around noon, Tong Fei called Shu Pan. Shu Pan didn't pick up initially, but Tong Fei persisted and kept calling.

The last time, Shu Pan finally answered. Before she could speak, the other party did, "Shu Pan, let's meet."

Shu Pan hesitated momentarily, unsure of the caller's identity. Just as she was contemplating, the voice continued, "I'm Tong Fei, let's meet."

The commanding tone made Shu Pan uncomfortable. She initially intended to hang up but reconsidered when Tong Fei added, "If you don't meet, I will personally come to your workplace."

Fearing that her presence might cause trouble, Shu Pan agreed to meet Tong Fei at a designated time to find out what she wanted.

Tong Fei still exuded a strong aura, no matter when.

"Miss Tong, I don't know what you want to discuss. Do we have to meet?" Shu Pan's tone was cold, although deep inside, she couldn't help but wonder why she seemed to attract trouble lately.

"Miss Shu, I thought someone as clever as you would already know why I'm looking for you," Tong Fei responded, her words laced with sarcasm and an air of arrogance, causing bystanders to raise an eyebrow.

"Miss Tong, if you have something to say, please be straightforward. I don't understand your cryptic messages," Shu Pan remarked, genuinely thinking of herself as quite patient.

"Miss Shu, I'm aware that you and Shaoting have a daughter. If I marry him, I will treat her as my own. I hope you won't misunderstand Shaoting's intentions. His frequent visits to your house are for the sake of the child," Tong Fei said, displaying a sense of magnanimity. She quickly changed the subject, "I hope you don't misconstrue Shaoting's actions."

Shu Pan stared at her, feeling like she hadn't fully grasped what Tong Fei meant.

"Miss Shu, you don't have to worry about my daughter. The sooner you marry Mr. Gu, the better. I wish you two a future with many children," Shu Pan said, thinking that Tong Fei must be out of her mind. What was she thinking?

"Miss Shu, you're better off not using the child as an excuse to cling to Shaoting," Tong Fei bluntly stated her true intentions today.

"Miss Shu, if you're so concerned, you should tie down Mr. Gu yourself. In fact, he's been frequently visiting my house, and I find it quite troubling," Shu Pan said, sounding casual.

"Don't think you're so triumphant just because you have a daughter. Shaoting treats you well because of your daughter," Tong Fei remarked, feeling that Shu Pan had become a bit too self-assured, and she wondered where this confidence came from.

"Shu Pan, I'm warning you again, don't hope for anything with Shaoting. Give up on that thought sooner rather than later, or bear the consequences," Tong Fei said fiercely, her beautiful face appearing somewhat fierce. Shu Pan was truly at a loss, wondering why all of this was on her..

Chapter 155: Breaking Off the Engagement

“Miss Tong, as I’ve said, please take care of your fiancé. I’m rather busy, so I won’t keep you company any longer,” Shu Pan stated before getting up and leaving.

Tong Fei watched her walk away, biting her lip. Her hand gripping her handbag was turning white, and internally, she was consumed with anger.

She abruptly stood up and headed out, her graceful posture hiding the fact that she was on the verge of a breakdown.

Starting her car, she drove in the direction of Gu Group.

At Gu Group, everyone knew that Tong Fei was Mr. Gu’s fiancée, so they would greet her when they saw her. Tong Fei relished in the honor this status brought her.

Upon reaching the CEO’s office, Tong Fei knocked and entered. Gu Shaoting was working on something and didn’t immediately notice her.

“Shaoting, are you busy?” Tong Fei was the first to speak.

Gu Shaoting finally looked at her seriously, his dark and sweeping eyelashes revealing a hint of unease.

Tong Fei’s heart raced, feeling somewhat guilty, thinking that Gu Shaoting might know about her visit to Shu Pan.

“Oh, you’re here. Please, take a seat. I also have something to discuss with you,” Gu Shaoting said as he stood up and took a seat opposite her.

“Tong Fei, we’ve been together for a few years now. How do you feel about it?” Gu Shaoting’s mellifluous voice had a noticeable tinge of coldness.

Tong Fei's heart skipped a beat. She didn't know what Gu Shaoting wanted to talk about, and her heart raced as she cautiously replied, "Shaoting, what do you want to say?"

"Let's break off the engagement," Gu Shaoting stated straightforwardly. He felt relieved after saying it.

"I don't agree," Tong Fei vehemently opposed. "I don't want to break off the engagement. Please, Shaoting, don't be so cruel to me."

"Tong Fei, during the time we've been together, you must have noticed that our relationship has always been quite plain. I haven't been able to develop feelings for anyone else, and I've always felt indifferent. But now, I have a daughter with Shu Pan, and I want to provide her with a complete family."

"When we get married, I'll treat the child as my own, and we can also give her a warm home. Or have you discovered that you've fallen in love with Shu Pan and you're looking for reasons to break up with me?"

Tong Fei's concern for Gu Shaoting had reached an almost obsessive and irrational level.

"Tong Fei, it's a waste of time for both of us to continue like this. Why make things difficult? I'm sorry for what I've done to you. If you have any requests, feel free to ask, and I'll do my best to fulfill them, minimizing the damage."

"I don't want anything. I just want you, Shaoting. I'll listen to you from now on and won't do anything you don't like. Can you please not mention breaking off the engagement again?" Tong Fei pleaded.

She couldn't break off the engagement with Gu Shaoting, or she would become the subject of ridicule in high society, and her job would be affected. Now she carried the title of Gu Shaoting's fiancée on her shoulders, and many people were giving her extra credit for that. Her work was coming in constantly. If they broke off the engagement... she really didn't dare to think about the consequences.

"Tong Fei..." Gu Shaoting wanted to snap her out of it. He felt that she had fallen into a pathological state.

“Breaking off the engagement would be good for you too. You can find someone who loves you and takes good care of you. You’re a good girl, and if you face any difficulties in the future, I’ll help you. Your job won’t be affected either,” Gu Shaoting also understood her concerns..

## Chapter 156: Thick Skin

Upon hearing Gu Shaoting’s words, Tong Fei clenched her fists, unaware that her fingernails had pierced her palms deeply.

“Shaoting, please don’t say such things again. You’re still busy, so I won’t bother you. I’ll leave now,” Tong Fei said, hastily picking up her bag.

She had a stern expression, and the employees in the company automatically avoided her. She left behind an angry silhouette.

Gu Shaoting, feeling helpless, ran his hand through his hair. How could he minimize the damage?

Suddenly, he felt overwhelmed.

After sitting for a while, he thought for a moment and called Shu Pan. “Panpan, are you free tonight? I’d like to take you and Joy out for dinner.”

Shu Pan was startled by his address, and goosebumps formed all over her body.

“No need, Joy and I will have dinner at home tonight. I’ve already bought the groceries, and Joy wants to eat cola chicken wings,” Shu Pan promptly declined.

Gu Shaoting, upon hearing Shu Pan’s voice, felt much calmer.

“I like cola chicken wings too. Make a bit more, and I’ll join you for dinner tonight,” Gu Shaoting chatted with her as if he were discussing household matters with his wife.

Shu Pan furrowed her brows. This person acted so familiar, as if they had a very close relationship.

"I'm sorry, I bought a small portion. How about next time?" Shu Pan's refusal was quite clear.

"In that case, I'll stop by the supermarket after work to get more. You carry on with your tasks, and we'll see each other tonight," Gu Shaoting said before Shu Pan could respond and promptly hung up.

He was actually worried that Shu Pan might reject him again.

Shu Pan looked bewildered, staring at the disconnected phone call.

Did this person not understand plain language? Shu Pan helplessly put her phone away and decided to finish her work quickly before going home to cook dinner.

It wasn't yet time to finish work when Gu Shaoting left his office. His colleagues were all puzzled, as the overtime enthusiast, Mr. Gu, had left unusually early today.

Gu Shaoting drove to the supermarket and filled two large bags with groceries.

When he arrived at Shu Pan's house, they were both at home, and Shu Pan, who knew it was him, reluctantly opened the door.

"You should come here less. You have a fiancée, and it's not appropriate for people to see you coming here. Besides, we've already divorced, so it doesn't matter," she said, feeling uncomfortable at the thought of Tong Fei's tone.

Gu Shaoting handed her the items he had bought and replied with frustration, "I'm here to see Joy. Who says anything else?"

Then, he walked past Shu Pan and straight into the house. "Joy, my little princess, Uncle Gu is here..."

Before long, Joy came bouncing out, saying, "Hello, Uncle Gu."

As soon as she finished speaking, she turned to Shu Pan and asked, "Mom, when is Uncle Wen coming back? He promised to take me to the zoo to see peacocks."

"Uncle Wen will be back soon, be a good girl," Shu Pan comforted her.

Gu Shaoting stood to the side, feeling like an invisible man. He couldn't participate in the conversation and found himself entirely superfluous.

He had heard Joy mention this Uncle Wen too many times, and this person seemed to seriously threaten his position.

"Joy, it's the weekend, and you don't have to go to school. How about Uncle Gu takes you to the zoo?" Gu Shaoting tried to please her.

"No, I've already made plans with Uncle Wen. We'll go when he comes back," Joy said, infuriating Gu Shaoting.

"I'll go cook dinner," Shu Pan, checking the time, realized it was getting late. She walked into the kitchen, watching her busy figure. Gu Shaoting, standing at the door, unconsciously smiled with a hint of indulgence..

Chapter 157: Are You Crazy?

After having a hearty meal at Shu Pan's house, Gu Shaoting reluctantly left and returned to the Gu Family's mansion. Lately, he had been spending most of his time at the Gu Family mansion, rarely going back to his own place.

His grandfather was still staying with his uncle's family, and he planned to bring his grandfather back home after formally recognizing Joy as his family. The old man would be overjoyed for sure.

As he entered the living room, he saw Song Can sitting on the sofa, her face pale. The room was dimly lit, and Song Can sat in silence.

"Mom, why are you sitting here like this?" Gu Shaoting sat down beside her.

"Shaoting, have you gone mad? You want to break off the engagement with Tong Fei? Aren't our family's scandals enough for you?" Song Can scolded loudly.

"Mom, please calm down and listen to me. I really have no feelings for Tong Fei. Even if we get married, we'd just be strangers. Ending the engagement now is in everyone's best interest. And with Joy in the picture, I owe her so much. I want to give her a warm family," Gu Shaoting calmly explained, hoping for his mother's support.

"Joy is our Gu family's descendant, and we must acknowledge her. But there's no conflict between that and your marriage to Tong Fei. Son, we can't act like this. Where will you leave her reputation?" Song Can strongly argued. She was furious when Tong Fei called her this afternoon to inform her of this situation. "Mom, I know I made a mistake, but I can't keep owing her and her daughter. I

genuinely messed up before, and now I have a chance to make amends. Actually, if I marry Tong Fei like this, it wouldn't be fair to her either. She deserves better," Gu Shaoting kept persuading, but he was resolute in his decision.

"Shaoting, the way you're handling this..., " Song Can shook her head with a mix of anger and helplessness, unsure how to face Tong Fei herself.

Shu Pan's attitude towards him was subtle, sometimes ignoring him. Even if it wasn't for Joy, he wanted to win back Shu Pan. Recent interactions had made him increasingly sure of his feelings for her. He only experienced that heart-pounding feeling when he saw her.

He still held some resentment towards Shu Laide, but that animosity gradually faded as time passed.



Given the current situation, he realized that winning back Shu Pan might be a long and challenging journey, but he was mentally prepared for it.

Despite the deepening twilight, Gu Shaoting felt no drowsiness.

Gu Shaoting thought he had reached an understanding with Tong Fei, but in reality, he hadn't. Tong Fei directed her resentment towards Shu Pan due to Gu Shaoting's decision to end the engagement.

"Shu Pan, I won't let you off the hook," Tong Fei said with determination.

She knew that Gu Shaoting intended to follow through with ending the engagement. Even though she mentioned it to Song Can, she doubted it would make any difference. A growing sense of frustration was building inside her.

If she and Gu Shaoting ended their engagement, it was likely that her endorsements and advertisements would decrease significantly. Not only would she become a laughingstock, but her career would also take a nosedive. She absolutely refused to let this happen.

She sat on the sofa, not moving a muscle, holding her phone in her hand, torn between emotions and rationality.

In the end, her resentment triumphed over reason. She picked up her phone, dialed a number, and after a while, the call was answered. She gently addressed the person on the other end, "Lord Long...."

## Chapter 158: Lord Long

Lord Long, also known as Long Sanwei, was a well-known underworld figure who was notorious for his ruthless and brutal methods. He often helped people resolve troublesome matters.

Tong Fei's acquaintance with Lord Long had a history of its own.

When Tong Fei was just starting her career and working in a nightclub, she met Lord Long. She even spent some time with him. However, Lord Long had peculiar tastes that Tong Fei couldn't handle, which frightened her. Fortunately, he eventually shifted his attention elsewhere, gradually letting her go. He even lent her a helping hand, allowing her to establish herself in the modeling industry.

In reality, this was her deep, dark secret, buried at the bottom of her heart. Whenever she thought about it, she was filled with fear and didn't want to revisit those memories.

However, this time, she felt trapped with no way out, so she took a desperate step and contacted Lord Long, hoping he could help her get out of her troubles.

At the moment, there was only one thing on her mind, and that was to seek revenge against Shu Pan. Tong Fei's beautiful eyes seemed to be filled with blazing fury. Only by dealing with Shu Pan could she find some peace and relieve her deep-seated hatred.

But at the same time, she was aware that she had to pay a price. For a woman of her beauty, the only thing she had to offer was her own self. However, the current Tong Fei didn't seem to care.

She was determined to make Shu Pan pay a heavy price.

In the upscale hotel suite, Tong Fei held a glass of red wine, sitting alone by the window, silently savoring it.

The room was as warm as spring, and she wore a wine-red silk lace dress that complemented her snowy white complexion.

At this moment, she was a bit nervous, and her hand holding the red wine glass trembled slightly. But her gaze was firm, cold, with a piercing clarity, and a faint, eerie smile played on her lips.

To gather her courage, she downed the wine in her glass, the wine as red as blood, flowing down her throat.

She had no way back now, and she kept murmuring to herself, "Shu Pan, you deserve this..."

As she whispered to herself, the door to the luxurious suite swung open. A man in his fifties entered, with a fierce and intimidating demeanor. There were faint tattoos visible on his arms.

“Lord Long,” Tong Fei approached him, pressing close to Long Sanwei.

“Haha... Beauty, it’s been a long time. Lord Long missed you terribly,” Long Sanwei embraced her and then pulled down the strap of her dress. The two of them tumbled onto the bed.

“Lord Long, you must do the thing I asked you for...” Tong Fei cooed. “Don’t worry, it’s not the time to talk about that now. Let me enjoy myself first,” Long Sanwei was eager.

Before long, the room was filled with the sounds of a woman’s moans and a man’s heavy breathing.

Soon, the room was filled with a passionate atmosphere.

Torn nightwear and scattered underwear were strewn across the floor.

When Tong Fei woke up, she was alone in the room. Lord Long had already left. She looked at the bruises on her body, thinking of what was about to happen to Shu Pan. She began to smile, chuckling softly, and as she laughed, tears started falling one by one involuntarily.

She slowly stood up, donned the hotel suite’s bathrobe. Suddenly, she angrily threw the wine glass in her hand, and it hit the floor, producing a crisp sound as glass shards scattered all over.

Looking out the room’s window, she saw people below, small as ants, working diligently for their daily meals. Yet, with just a bit of feminine charm, she could secure wealth and prosperity. Her heart found balance again.. What was there to be unhappy about?

Chapter 159: The Past

Ye Xiaomeng had been shuttling between the headquarters and the branch office recently, tirelessly back and forth.

“Xiaomeng, can your body handle this? Working so hard every day, you seem like a man. It worries me,” He Ming’s tone sounded like that of a nagging spouse. He hadn’t seen Ye Xiaomeng in quite a while, and today was a rare opportunity to meet.

“I’m fine. I find it quite fulfilling. I used to think that having a man’s love meant I didn’t need to work so hard. But I was wrong,” Ye Xiaomeng spoke thoughtfully.

“Xiaomeng, let me take care of you,” He Ming held her hand, saying earnestly.

“He Ming, you really don’t need to have any psychological burden. That night was an accident, and you don’t need to take responsibility for me. And you know what? I almost got married once, and I even had a miscarriage. I have a painful past,” as she spoke, tears started flowing from Ye Xiaomeng’s eyes.

“Xiaomeng, you know I don’t mind...” He Ming hastily said.

“But I do,” Ye Xiaomeng couldn’t overcome the fear in her heart.

“I won’t pressure you, but you can’t avoid me either. Let’s go with the flow,” He Ming’s eyes seemed like they could shed tears.

Ye Xiaomeng glanced at him and didn’t say anything more.

The next day, Ye Xiaomeng arrived carrying bags big and small to visit Joy.

“Sweetie, do you miss your godmother?” Ye Xiaomeng pretended to speak in a child’s voice.

“Yes,” Joy happily hugged her.

"You love children so much. It's time for you to have one of your own," Shu Pan felt that it had been a long time, and it was time to face it.

"Spare me, please. I don't even have a partner. This time coming back home is just to be tortured by my parents. They've tried everything, from crying to throwing tantrums. Honestly, I'm quite content now," Ye Xiaomeng said nonchalantly.

"You, I don't know how to talk to you," Shu Pan looked at her, shaking her head helplessly.

"Girl, do you know? Su Yuan got divorced, and I heard it was quite a scandal. I also heard that it affected his career, and he had to go abroad," Ye Xiaomeng spoke mysteriously.

"Oh, that's their business. Marriage requires effort from both people. Sigh!" Shu Pan sighed. She had been sending money to him every month, and she never thought it had been so much.

"I'm afraid you might soften up. Remember, don't trust any remorseful man," Ye Xiaomeng had turned into something of a love expert.

"You take care of yourself, and quickly find me a brother-in-law." "Enough, you bossy lady." Ye Xiaomeng took Joy and left the room, ignoring

Shu Pan.

Shu Pan watched them close the door, and she finally came back to her senses. In her mind, she kept replaying what Gu Shaoting had said on the phone last night.

He had told her, "Shu Pan, I've already informed Tong Fei about our divorce. Let's be together for Joy's sake and give her a complete family."

"Gu Shaoting, have you forgotten that my dad is your enemy?" Shu Pan brought it up deliberately, as it had been the reason for their divorce.

"I will try to slowly forget."

Shu Pan heard his words and paused for a moment.

"Gu Shaoting, I don't want to sacrifice myself anymore. Joy is still young, and it's better for her to be with me. When she grows up, she can choose for herself whom she wants to be with," Shu Pan firmly rejected.

She couldn't forget the hardships of these past few years and, more importantly, the ruthless determination he had shown when he wanted the divorce.

She had endured the most difficult times and was heading in a better direction. She didn't want any more entanglements with him..

#### Chapter 160: Something Happened

Due to Shu Pan's rejection, Gu Shaoting felt restless all day long. He couldn't muster enthusiasm for anything.

One day, after finishing work, Shu Pan hurried to the kindergarten to pick up Joy. Joy didn't seem to be in good spirits that day, and Shu Pan was worried that she might be sick.

When she arrived at the kindergarten, the teacher informed her that Joy had a slight fever and was feeling down.

Shu Pan was extremely concerned. She touched Joy's forehead, and it felt warm. "Mom, I'm not feeling well," Joy said weakly and kept asking Shu Pan to hold her.

Desperate to help her daughter, Shu Pan comforted Joy while heading to the pharmacy to buy some medicine. The autumn air was chilly, and Shu Pan unconsciously held Joy tightly, feeling that the whole world was in her arms.

While walking forward, Shu Pan received a call from Gu Shaoting. "Panpan, where are you and Joy? Why haven't you come home yet?"

Evidently, Gu Shaoting was already near her home. Otherwise, he wouldn't have known they weren't home yet.

"Well... Joy has a slight fever, and I'm taking her to buy some medicine," Shu Pan didn't hide anything from Gu Shaoting.

"In which location are you? I'll come to find you," Gu Shaoting asked with immediate concern when he heard that Joy wasn't feeling well. He started walking in the direction of the pharmacy as he spoke on the phone.

"We're planning to buy medicine at the pharmacy near the intersection just ahead of the kindergarten," Shu Pan replied, her voice slightly strained as she was panting for breath.

"Wait for me at the intersection. I'm almost there," Gu Shaoting said while heading towards the pharmacy.

Shu Pan paused for a moment, her arms tired from carrying Joy. As they stood at the intersection to rest, a car without a license plate suddenly sped toward them. The car seemed out of control and didn't respond to the driver. "Panpan, be careful!" In the nick of time, Gu Shaoting rushed over, pushed Shu Pan out of the way, and there was a loud "bang." Gu Shaoting's body fell straight to the ground in front of Shu Pan.

Seeing that they had hit a person, the car quickly reversed and sped away.

"Gu Shaoting, how are you?" Shu Pan was terrified, her face pale as she quickly put down Joy and ran to Gu Shaoting's side.

Gu Shaoting lay there with his eyes closed, completely still. Shu Pan called out to him loudly, but there was no response. Suddenly, she noticed a puddle of blood on the ground and gasped for breath.

She shakily took her phone out of her pocket and dialed 120. Meanwhile, Joy was standing beside her, crying. "Mom, is Uncle Gu going to die?"

"Uncle Gu is a good person, he'll be fine," Shu Pan said to Joy while attempting to comfort herself as well. She was extremely frightened.

She couldn't believe what would have happened if Gu Shaoting hadn't pushed her and Joy out of harm's way. She had just noticed that the car had no license plate, and it was heading in their direction. Was it an accident or intentional? She couldn't quite figure it out.

At the moment, the most crucial thing was to take care of Gu Shaoting. The rest could be dealt with later.

Fortunately, an ambulance from a nearby hospital arrived quickly. Doctors carefully lifted the unconscious Gu Shaoting into the ambulance.

Shu Pan got into the ambulance with Joy, looking at Gu Shaoting's pale, lifeless face. Her fear was growing by the minute..