

As Agreed 171

Chapter 171: Living Together

Shu Pan felt like there were a few black lines appearing on her forehead.

“Shut up.” Gu Shaoting was a bit annoyed and embarrassed, suddenly speaking in front of Shu Pan. He seemed a bit awkward.

He Ming chuckled and then asked, “Have you decided where you want to stay? I told you before that you have several properties.”

“I thought about it and decided to go back to Shuimu Qinghua. I feel like the name is very...” Gu Shaoting thought seriously, as if he had decided after careful consideration.

He Ming was stunned, and Shu Pan was equally surprised. She never expected Gu Shaoting to want to return to Shuimu Qinghua. There were many unpleasant memories from there, but, of course, there were also happy moments.

“What’s wrong? Is there anything inappropriate?” Gu Shaoting asked when both of them remained silent.

“Nothing, it’s a quiet environment there, suitable for recuperation.” He Ming explained, having seen him stay there often, there must be some nostalgic memories.

Shu Pan felt like she had just been hit by a barrage of emotions.

On that day, Shu Pan took some time to send Joy back. Joy was excited to see her grandparents soon, as happy as a little bird.

“Mom, when can I see Uncle Gu?” It seemed like they shared the same blood, and Joy asked.

“When you come back from Grandpa’s house, you can see Uncle Gu.” Shu Pan comforted her.

“Great!” Joy was extremely happy.

Shu Pan looked at her and couldn’t help but envy children, innocent and carefree, always happy.

When Shu Pan returned to Bin City, it was already evening.

Shu Pan used to think she would never set foot in the Shuimu Qinghua house again. Who knew fate had other plans?

Stepping inside, Shu Pan felt inexplicably nervous.

Looking at everything in the house, it was the same as when she left, no major changes. It was familiar yet somewhat unfamiliar.

“Panpan, what should we have for dinner tonight?” Gu Shaoting hadn’t seen Shu Pan all afternoon and missed her.

Seeing him look so serious, Shu Pan replied, “What do you want to eat?”

“Anything, just don’t tire yourself too much.” Gu Shaoting looked considerate. Shu Pan was taken aback by his words, finding it hard to believe he had said such things.

Taking advantage of the situation, Shu Pan asked a question, hoping he wouldn’t make things difficult for her.

“Can we discuss something? I’ll start working officially tomorrow. I’ve been delayed with a lot of work recently. Is that okay?” Shu Pan asked.

Gu Shaoting frowned, "What kind of work? Otherwise, you can work in my company. I'll arrange an easier job for you." Gu Shaoting suggested, not wanting to see her busy all the time.

"It's okay, my current job is fine. I don't want to change for now." Shu Pan refused. She just wanted to be away from him for a while. For now, she hoped he would recover, and she didn't want anything else.

Shu Pan still lived in the second bedroom. Everything in the room was the same as when she left. Evidently, someone had come to clean up.

Touching the bedding, Shu Pan sighed. The scent of laundry detergent for the sheets lingered in her nose—fresh and fragrant.

After putting away her things, Shu Pan returned to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Considering he was still a patient, she decided to make what he liked.

Gu Shaoting watched Shu Pan busy herself for him, and the house finally had some vitality. He felt an indescribable sense of tranquility in his heart..

Chapter 172: Mr. Gu

Gu Shaoting thoroughly enjoyed his current life, feeling that he could quickly adjust after amnesia, and the major contributor to this was Shu Pan.

Although Shu Pan denied every time that they were not familiar with each other.

However, he was patient and believed that they had some connection.

Time would prove everything.

While Gu Shaoting was lost in thought, Shu Pan had already cooked the meal.

She held a porcelain plate with a delicious aroma emanating from the dishes inside.

“Mr. Gu, you can have your meal now,” Shu Pan said to him.

As soon as Gu Shaoting heard her address him as Mr. Gu, his face immediately wrinkled, as if he could squeeze mosquitoes to death. Seeing his sudden change, Shu Pan was a bit puzzled.

“What’s wrong?” Shu Pan asked.

“Although you say we’re not familiar, we’re now living under the same roof. Why are you still calling me Mr. Gu? I didn’t hire you as a part-time cleaner. I thought after spending this time together, we were already friends.” Gu Shaoting’s words were full of complaints.

The phrase “Mr. Gu” coming from Shu Pan’s mouth felt like a thorn to him, causing a slight pain.

He was more disappointed because in Shu Pan’s heart, he was probably just an unfamiliar Mr. Gu.

Mr. Gu—polite but distant.

“You can call me Shaoting.” Gu Shaoting saw that Shu Pan remained silent and corrected her.

Actually, Shu Pan didn’t think too much about it. Out of gratitude, she took care of him for a while, and they wouldn’t have any intersection in the future. So, calling him “Mr. Gu” seemed appropriate, and there was nothing wrong with it.

Seeing Gu Shaoting so tangled up, she felt a bit speechless.

“Names don’t matter. Let’s eat quickly. The food will get cold soon.” After placing the plate on the dining table, Shu Pan turned and went back to the kitchen.

When she came out again, she saw that Gu Shaoting was still in the same position, not moving.

“Gu Shaoting, let’s eat.” Shu Pan directly called his name. What’s wrong with this guy? It’s hard to serve him a meal.

“Oh, I got it.” Gu Shaoting, upon hearing Shu Pan call him, happily walked to the dining table.

Shu Pan had already set up two sets of bowls and chopsticks. The two chairs at the dining table were placed opposite each other.

Gu Shaoting pulled out a chair and sat down. He looked at Shu Pan and said, “You should sit down and eat too. After we finish, the auntie tomorrow can clean up the dishes and stuff.”

“It’s okay. Washing the dishes doesn’t take much time.” Shu Pan, while speaking, sat down across from Gu Shaoting.

She was not a noble lady. And there was no need to make it difficult for her own stomach. Eat quickly, rest early, and hopefully, Gu Shaoting would recover his memory tomorrow.

“When you returned here, did you feel any familiarity? For example, the vase next to the TV cabinet, you auctioned it off at a high price...”

Listening to Shu Pan introducing other things in the house, he suddenly stopped picking up the food and looked at her with a playful expression.

“Why are you so familiar with things in my house? Miss Shu Pan, who is not very familiar with me,” he teased.

Shu Pan was suddenly speechless, realizing that she had crossed a line.

How could a stranger go so far as to know everything about someone else's house?

Shu Pan cursed herself for being a fool. Was she such a low-level mistake?

"I...I...heard it from He Ming," Shu Pan, who was originally stuttering, suddenly turned her brain and found a reason.

"Oh...so that's how it is." Gu Shaoting's voice dragged on for a long time, with a subtle joy that was not easily detectable.

"That's right," Shu Pan finished speaking and lowered her head, focusing on eating.

Gu Shaoting looked at her, his smile filled with indulgence..

Chapter 173: Envy

Shu Pan no longer paid attention to Gu Shaoting, just focusing on eating with her head down. Gu Shaoting noticed and reached out to put some meat from the plate into Shu Pan's bowl.

"Have some more meat. You look like a paper-thin figure, ready to topple with a gust of wind," Gu Shaoting said in a gentle tone, causing Shu Pan's heart to flutter.

Shu Pan was momentarily stunned, not expecting such a gesture from Gu Shaoting. She picked a few grains of rice with her chopsticks, chewing slowly, while pondering what Gu Shaoting might mean by this.

But he remained calm and composed, giving away no clues about his intentions.

The next day, Shu Pan left for the company early. Gu Shaoting watched her leave and paced around the house. He wanted to ask her not to go to work, but they had agreed on it, and he couldn't interfere.

So boring! Gu Shaoting rubbed his head in frustration,

"Brother, where are you? I'm so bored at home. I want to visit the company. Is it convenient?" Gu Shaoting, feeling utterly bored, reluctantly called He Ming.

"Um... um... Wait a moment, I'll come pick you up." He Ming on the other end of the phone seemed a bit distracted.

Hearing He Ming's response, Gu Shaoting furrowed his brow, a bit puzzled about what might be happening.

Indeed, something had happened. He Ming was facing pressure from his family to get married and had been introduced to potential girlfriends. He firmly declined, but his family thought he simply hadn't found someone he liked yet and continued the matchmaking efforts.

They even went as far as to say that he could bring his preferred girl home, thinking that would be the only way to prove he was serious. He Ming could only ask his family for more time, as he was still working on winning Ye Xiaomeng's heart and didn't want to complicate matters further.

Shortly after, He Ming drove to Shuimu Qinghua to pick up Gu Shaoting. "Brother Ting, life is so annoying, full of things not going well," He Ming complained as soon as the two got into the car, seeking some comfort.

"Fortunately, I still find life beautiful at the moment. Every day is exciting," Gu Shaoting said cheerfully, displaying a happy and contented demeanor that seemed somewhat provocative.

Taking advantage of a red light, He Ming glanced at Gu Shaoting. Indeed, he looked healthy, radiant, and still exuded a remarkable aura.

"Why, Shu Pan takes good care of you. You seem to be in heaven already in her care," He Ming teased.

“Right? Comparing to the past, I have more than enough now,” Gu Shaoting modestly replied, the happiness in his eyes hard to ignore.

Unable to help himself, He Ming took another look, feeling a bit envious. When would he and Ye Xiaomeng succeed? It seemed like a long and uncertain journey.

Arriving at the company, Gu Shaoting and He Ming walked side by side towards the elevator. He Ming observed Gu Shaoting’s movements, which seemed natural and devoid of any nervousness. He couldn’t help but be suspicious, “Are you really experiencing amnesia, or is it fake?”

“What do you think?” Gu Shaoting answered evasively, making it hard to discern the truth.

“Who would joke about something like this?” Gu Shaoting continued.

He Ming seemed to agree, nodding in acknowledgment.

In the office, Gu Shaoting naturally stood by the floor-to-ceiling window, glanced below, and then asked He Ming, “How’s the company operating lately?”

Any troubles?”

“No, it’s going well. Just that we’ll have to go to France for a few days on business. You’ll have to handle the negotiations.” He Ming checked the memo on the desk and reminded him..

Chapter 174: Wen chi Was Back

Gu Shaoting pressed his temples before speaking, “Business trip?”

“Yeah, can’t someone else go on my behalf? I can’t remember anything,” Gu Shaoting inquired.

“It’s okay, I will go with you. The person we’re dealing with is a major business tycoon, and it’s crucial for the development of our group in the next few years,” He Ming tried to persuade him.

Reluctantly, Gu Shaoting nodded in agreement. The thought of being away for a few days without Shu Pan’s care and her meals made him feel quite disheartened.

“We’ll talk about it later,” Gu Shaoting sat back at his desk and started looking through the files.

He Ming glanced at him and then left the room.

Around noon, Gu Shaoting checked the clock on the wall, and it was already past 12 O’clock. Naturally, he picked up his phone and called Shu Pan. Before the call connected, he pondered on what he would say when she answered.

Just as he was lost in thought, Shu Pan’s soft voice sounded from the other end, “What’s the matter?” She found it strange that he would call her at this time. It couldn’t be something serious, could it?

“I haven’t had lunch, and I’m still at the office,” Gu Shaoting sounded a bit aggrieved.

Shu Pan’s eyes narrowed slightly, and she unconsciously tightened her grip on the phone.

“I can’t leave now. You go eat outside,” she said. In the past, he often didn’t come home for meals, and now he always complained that outside food lacked nutrition and wasn’t as hygienic as what she cooked at home.

“What time will you be home? I can pick you up after work,” Gu Shaoting thought it was a good idea.

“No need, I don’t know when I’ll be done. Don’t bother,” Shu Pan promptly rejected the offer. She didn’t want to trouble him.

“Up to you,” Gu Shaoting’s tone suddenly changed, expressing a hint of annoyance.

Hearing his ambiguous tone, Shu Pan felt a bit helpless. His emotions were like a child’s—coming and going quickly. More importantly, dealing with him was sometimes more challenging than dealing with Joy.

“I’m busy now, find somewhere to eat yourself,” Shu Pan said before hanging up the phone.

Gu Shaoting held the phone in his hand, maintaining the same posture, his eyes emitting a freezing gaze as if capable of freezing a person in place.

Not long after, He Ming came in.

“Let’s go, grab something to eat outside,” He Ming was already quite hungry.

“Let’s go,” His Majesty finally spoke up.

After hanging up the phone, Shu Pan immediately immersed herself in work. She had recently received a design project, keeping her busy. Just as she was engrossed in her work, the phone on her desk rang again.

Glancing at it, she thought it was probably Gu Shaoting again. Only he would be so bored.

The phone stopped for a moment, but soon it rang again, disrupting Shu Pan’s work. Resigned, she picked up the phone and checked. To her surprise, it wasn’t Gu Shaoting but Wen Chi, who was on a business trip.

Because he was away, attending meetings and studying, they had an unspoken agreement not to contact each other much. Now that he called, it probably meant he was back.

“Chi, are you back?” Shu Pan asked as soon as she answered the call.

“Yeah, I just arrived,” Wen Chi replied greedily, wanting to hear more of Shu Pan’s voice. He missed it so much.

“How about I pick you up for dinner after work tonight?” Wen Chi had been looking forward to this moment for a long time.

“It might be a bit late, I still have some work to finish,” Shu Pan thought for a moment and said.

“No problem, see you later,” Wen Chi’s peach blossom eyes happily formed a curved line..

Chapter 175: Jealous (1)

“Sure.” After hanging up the phone, Shu Pan made the most of her time to handle her work.

As the end of the workday approached, colleagues gradually left one by one. Shu Pan, having almost finished her tasks, packed up and left the company. Not far away, Wen Chi leaned against a black car, his arms crossed as he looked towards the entrance of her company.

Seeing Shu Pan coming out, step by step towards him, Wen Chi’s lips curled into a smile.

“Chi, it’s been a while,” Shu Pan smiled slightly, greeting him first.

“Yeah, really missed you and little beauty Joy,” Wen Chi was not subtle at all. These two months on a business trip had been quite agonizing.

Shu Pan blushed and smiled shyly. Seeing her reaction, Wen Chi quickly walked to the other side of the car, opened the door, and gestured for her to get in.

After Shu Pan got into the car, it shot forward like an arrow, making a “whoosh” sound as it drove away.

Gu Shaoting returned home early in the afternoon, eagerly awaiting Shu Pan's return. It was almost half-past six, and there was still no sign of Shu Pan.

Gu Shaoting's forehead was practically creased into a million curves. He couldn't help but feel worried. Why hadn't she come home yet? Normally, she would be home around six.

He kept listening for any movement at the door, but disappointment followed disappointment.

Was it because of her busy work or had something unexpected happened?

He regretted not going to pick her up after work. He should have waited for her at her company to go home together.

Now, he was both worried and hungry. Since Shu Pan had spoiled his taste buds, everything outside tasted bland. His stomach was growling loudly.

Unable to bear the aimless waiting any longer, he took out his phone and dialed Shu Pan's number.

After a while, the call was answered, but the background was noisy, as if someone was talking.

Gu Shaoting heard Shu Pan's voice, but he remained silent, quietly listening, trying to discern something.

"Hello, can you hear me?" Shu Pan couldn't help but call out again, raising her voice involuntarily.

"Yeah, where are you? When are you coming back?" Gu Shaoting's tone was like that of a complaining wife.

"Oh, I'll be back later. I'm having dinner with a friend outside," Shu Pan thought it was better to inform him.

“What? Having dinner outside? With what friend?” Gu Shaoting suddenly asked nervously.

Shu Pan was startled, feeling that he was making a fuss over nothing.

“With my friend. You find something to eat yourself. I’ll be back later,” Shu Pan intended to hang up without saying much.

“Shu Pan, is this how you treat your lifesaver? Letting him go hungry while you enjoy yourself,” Gu Shaoting placed a heavy accusation on her.

“Mr. Gu Shaoting, I don’t think I owe you anything. I took care of you for a while based on morality, but it doesn’t mean I don’t have my own freedom and space,” Shu Pan became annoyed just thinking about it. Why should she?

Before Gu Shaoting could say anything, Shu Pan hung up the phone with a

“snap.”

Gu Shaoting stared blankly at the hung-up phone, feeling disoriented.

The previous Shu Pan was generally obedient, rarely resisting or talking back. What happened today? How could she speak to him like that and dare to hang up on him?

He suddenly felt a tightness in his chest, a breath that seemed painful.

In his mind, he kept wondering who Shu Pan was having dinner with. What friend was she talking about? Why hadn’t he heard her mention it before?

A male friend? Someone she cared about?

Gu Shaoting was restless, staring at the door as if he could pierce it with his gaze..

Chapter 176: Jealous (2)

Gu Shaoting's mood remained unsettled for a long time. He sat quietly on the sofa, wondering when Shu Pan would return.

Around eight o'clock, just as his patience was wearing thin, the front door was unlocked, and he saw Shu Pan enter with her bag.

He stayed seated on the sofa.

When Shu Pan entered, she initially thought no one was at home. The living room light was off, with only a small lamp next to the sofa emitting a dim glow, creating a silent atmosphere.

Seeing the figure on the sofa, Shu Pan was startled.

She noticed Gu Shaoting sitting there, his face dark, motionless.

Breaking the silence, Shu Pan asked, "Have you had dinner?"

Gu Shaoting's face darkened even more for a moment. He looked at her with obvious displeasure, and his tone became cold, as if he were restraining something.

"Do you even remember if I've had dinner? How was your enjoyable chat with your friend?" Gu Shaoting's words had a strange tone.

Ignoring him, Shu Pan crossed the living room to put away her things. At that moment, Gu Shaoting's cold voice sounded again, "Apart from this, do you have anything else to say to me?"

Shu Pan hesitated for a moment, finding it unbelievable. What was there for her to say?

“Nothing, what should I say?” Shu Pan shook her head.

Gu Shaoting felt like he was about to explode. Was she really treating him as if he were nothing?

His face darkened even more, like a dark sky in June. He pursed his lips, not saying anything, but the look in his eyes became somewhat profound.

Seeing that he didn't respond, Shu Pan quickly walked towards the bedroom.

She had barely taken a few steps when Gu Shaoting suddenly grabbed her wrist. She stiffened, instinctively turned back, and met Gu Shaoting's eyes filled with resentment.

“What's wrong?” Shu Pan felt he was acting strangely tonight.

“I'm starving. I want noodles,” Gu Shaoting's tone remained harsh. He felt like he had no dignity. Originally, he wanted to intimidate her with anger, but she ignored him.

Unable to help it, he was really hungry and dizzy. He decided to fill his stomach first before settling the score with her.

“Oh, wait a moment. I'll cook for you once I put my bag away,” Shu Pan suddenly felt a twinge of guilt. Was she being too harsh?

Gu Shaoting finally felt a bit better. Shu Pan finished tidying up and started to cook noodles for him.

Leaning against the door, Gu Shaoting watched as Shu Pan skillfully washed the pot, boiled the water, added the noodles, and finally fried an egg for him.

Her movements were swift and smooth, making Gu Shaoting feel warm inside.

Shu Pan placed the cooked noodles on the dining table. Gu Shaoting enjoyed them as if it were a feast, savoring each bite.

Perhaps it wasn't about whether it tasted good, but rather who cooked it.

"Done. Enjoy your meal," Shu Pan's noodles were fragrant and smooth.

Gu Shaoting ate the noodles heartily, feeling the void in his heart being filled.

Cradling the bowl, he finished the last sip of soup, satisfied, and let out a burp.

Finally, reenergized, Gu Shaoting asked Shu Pan again, "Who did you have dinner with?"

"Someone you don't know," Shu Pan felt it unnecessary to say much.

"Maybe I've met them?" Gu Shaoting was persistent.

"It's a friend I haven't seen in a long time."

"It seems like you had a great chat, coming back so late." Gu Shaoting's tone was sour..

Chapter 177: Tempted

"Yeah, had a good time chatting," Shu Pan casually replied.

Instantly, Gu Shaoting's face darkened, and the sourness in his heart seemed to bubble up.

He pulled back the chair, stood up, and, taking advantage of his height, approached Shu Pan from above.

“I hope that when you say you’re taking care of me, you should show some sincerity. Like tonight, going out with friends without explaining anything, leaving me hungry at home. Don’t you think it’s a bit too much?” Gu Shaoting’s voice was mild as water, his fair face calm, and his black eyes deep and tranquil.

Shu Pan was forced to take a slight step back. She stood her ground, locking eyes with Gu Shaoting, and said seriously, “Taking care of you doesn’t mean I have no personal space. If you’re hungry, you can order takeout or hire someone to cook. I’m not your personal nanny.”

Shu Pan couldn’t stand this unpredictable person. She wasn’t his family or his nanny. There was no need to endure his temper.

Where there’s oppression, there’s resistance. Anyone who didn’t understand that shouldn’t assume she was an easy target.

Gu Shaoting was stunned by Shu Pan’s words. She was articulate and resolute. The worst part was he couldn’t push too hard. What if she got angry and decided to leave?

He suffered internally, his fair face turning slightly red under the assault of her words.

In the end, his self-control prevailed. He quickly regained composure, sighed softly, and said, “Do you still remember why I lost my memory? People with amnesia are very insecure...” After that, he walked away, leaving Shu Pan in contemplation.

Shu Pan pursed her lips, furrowed her brow, and then went into the kitchen to clean the dishes.

When Shu Pan came out of the shower, she noticed that Gu Shaoting was no longer in the living room. Assuming he had returned to his room, she walked into the living room intending to pour herself a glass of water. At that moment, she saw a figure moving on the balcony.

Upon closer inspection, it was Gu Shaoting, his silhouette somewhat lonely, gazing into the pitch-black night with a somewhat desolate expression.

Beside him, there were faint sparks, indicating he was smoking. He brought the cigarette to his lips, took a drag, and exhaled gently.

Apparently, Shu Pan's movement of pouring water had disturbed him. He slowly turned around, his gaze landing on Shu Pan.

Just out of the shower, Shu Pan's skin was dewy and rosy. She was dressed in a set of pink and orange cotton pajamas, looking cute and sweet.

Sensing Gu Shaoting's intense gaze, Shu Pan felt a bit awkward.

Gu Shaoting's gaze was open and unrestrained, with a hint of self-confidence.

He felt his heartbeat quicken, and his mouth became dry.

After taking a couple of sips of water, Shu Pan set the glass down and quickly returned to the bedroom.

Gu Shaoting remained motionless for a long time, seemingly still immersed in the scene just now. He knew it was the feeling of being moved.

Closing the bedroom door, Shu Pan's emotions remained unsettled. She couldn't understand why Gu Shaoting would look at her with such fiery eyes.

However, she soon pushed aside those thoughts and sighed bitterly. Lying on the bed, Shu Pan stared at the ceiling, unable to fall asleep for a long time.

Suddenly, she recalled what Wen Chi had said during dinner.

“Pan, I hope you can be with me.” His tone was so sincere that she was touched, but she dared not agree.

He didn’t fully understand her yet. She wished for a love that had everyone’s blessings. Even if they were together, his mother’s strong opposition would put Wen Chi in a difficult position, and she didn’t want him to become an unfilial son..

Chapter 178: Did He Bully You?

So she didn’t agree and quickly held back her emotions before they deepened.

The disappointment in his eyes was something she couldn’t bear to face. Some people were destined to have no resolution.

The next morning, Ye Xiaomeng called, suggesting that Shu Pan join her for lunch and shopping at noon.

It was a case of great minds thinking alike, as Shu Pan had also wanted to invite Ye Xiaomeng out for some fresh air.

With Joy not around, Shu Pan found the weekend quite unbearable.

As noon approached, Shu Pan quickly prepared a simple meal and set it on the table. She didn’t want Gu Shaoting to use this as an excuse to complicate matters. Fortunately, he had gone out in the morning, mentioning something about revisiting the Gu Family’s ancestral mansion.

Knowing he was out, she felt relieved.

After finishing her tasks, she grabbed her bag and left.

When she arrived, Ye Xiaomeng was already waiting.

“Girl, you’re too slow. Is Gu Shaoting preventing you from going out?” Ye Xiaomeng speculated.

“Where did you come up with that?” Shu Pan smiled.

“Has he bullied you?” Ye Xiaomeng asked anxiously.

“No, everything is fine, Comrade Ye Xiaomeng from the neighborhood committee.” Shu Pan felt warm inside, grateful for her concern anytime, anywhere.

“You’re asking for a beating.” Ye Xiaomeng pretended to slap Shu Pan’s hand.

“Rest assured, I’m fine. Once Joy starts school later, I won’t take care of him anymore, and all debts will be settled. It’s a good thing he has amnesia now. At least, he doesn’t know Joy, and we won’t argue about custody.” Shu Pan said with relief.

“You’re too naive. With his mother around, do you think he won’t know about Joy’s existence?” Ye Xiaomeng shattered Shu Pan’s dreams with her words.

Shu Pan felt a bit disheartened.

“Never mind, we’ll deal with it when come across it. Let’s plan for the present.” Shu Pan decided to take one thing at a time.

“Let’s go, buy some beautiful clothes. The brand you like seems to be on sale.” Shu Pan quickly pulled her towards the mall.

“Let’s go. I won’t go home until I max out my credit cards today.” Ye Xiaomeng said confidently.

Indeed, Ye Xiaomeng turned her bold words into actions.

As if it were free, Ye Xiaomeng bought one item after another. Shu Pan seemed to be working as a laborer, helping Ye Xiaomeng carry the bags.

“Girl, did you find anything you like?” Ye Xiaomeng knew that Shu Pan didn’t like to spend money on clothes.

“No, I’m already a mother, and I don’t pay much attention to these things. You dress up nicely and catch a wealthy husband.” Shu Pan teased her, and it was true.

She didn’t like to dress herself up now. Usually, she went makeup-free with a plain face. Fortunately, her natural beauty made up for it.

“Nonsense. A woman should always dress herself up exquisitely. What if you meet the right person the next second?” Ye Xiaomeng quickly corrected her, urging her not to waste her prime years.

“Alright, alright, love expert.” Shu Pan saw the old Ye Xiaomeng in her, lively and full of vitality, seemingly having truly stepped out of Cheng Yang’s shadow. That was great.

“Let’s go. Your birthday is coming up, and I’ll buy you a set of clothes.” Ye Xiaomeng pushed Shu Pan forward.

The dress had a slim design that accentuated her curves, surprising Ye Xiaomeng. Shu Pan’s figure was unexpectedly good..

Chapter 179: Meeting

“Girl, you should dress up properly. Don’t make yourself look like a nanny.” Ye Xiaomeng suggested as she watched.

Shu Pan smiled and rolled her eyes at her.

“Got it, Beauty Ye. Oh right, have you had any romantic encounters recently? Remember to introduce him to me.” Shu Pan was most concerned about this.

“If I have a boyfriend, I will tell you.” Ye Xiaomeng patted her shoulder.

Immediately, she touched her stomach again, “Girl, let’s grab something to eat.

After all this shopping, I’m both thirsty and hungry.”

“Alright, there’s a café next to the mall, let’s go there; it’s quieter,” Shu Pan also felt a bit tired.

As they passed by the café’s glass window, Ye Xiaomeng casually glanced inside.

In an instant, she froze, unconsciously stopping in her tracks. At the same time, she also grabbed Shu Pan beside her.

“What’s wrong?” Shu Pan, a bit confused, looked at her.

Ye Xiaomeng’s face seemed a bit unnatural, and she quickly said, “I don’t feel like having Western food anymore. How about some spicy fish? I know a place nearby with really good taste.”

‘Why the sudden craving for spicy food?’ Shu Pan was quite puzzled by the sudden change of plans.

“Come on, don’t you know women are fickle? Well, I’m one of them.” Ye Xiaomeng pulled Shu Pan and quickly left.

In the cafe, He Ming sighed as he looked at the woman across from him.

This woman was the daughter of his mother's friend, who had just returned from studying abroad. Originally, he didn't agree to meet her, but his mother resorted to all kinds of tactics, including crying, throwing tantrums, and even threatening to harm herself.

Constant phone bombardment followed, where he mentioned having someone he liked, but they didn't believe him. They thought he was just trying to brush them off.

So, under his mother's pressure, he was forced into this blind date. Although it wasn't true, he couldn't be an unfilial son.

He came with the intention to make it clear that he had no intention of pursuing a relationship.

"Miss Hu, I believe you can tell that I'm not interested in this blind date. I already have someone I like," He Ming stated straightforwardly after sitting down.

"Brother He, just call me Shanshan. Our families are acquainted," the woman across from him smiled gently. Her voice was soft and soothing.

"Shanshan, I assume you also don't want to be here for a blind date. After all, it's the modern era, and everyone prefers free love, right?" He Ming wanted to dispel any thoughts she might have about this arranged meeting.

"I was a bit resistant before coming, but now that I see it's you, He Brother, I

don't think blind dates are that bad. After all, we come from reputable families, and we know each other's backgrounds," Hu Shanshan's words surprised He Ming; they weren't quite in line with his expectations.

"I have many flaws, really. Otherwise, I wouldn't still be single now," He Ming continued to talk about his shortcomings, hoping to leave a negative impression and make it easier to reject her.

But Hu Shanshan was thinking more along the lines of a prodigal son turning over a new leaf. She found He Ming to be honest and believed he wouldn't deceive her emotionally.

“Brother He, you’re being too modest. Although I’ve known you for a short time, I think you’re a good person, honest,” Hu Shanshan said earnestly.

He Ming was stunned by her high praise. If it weren’t for her being his mother’s friend’s daughter, he might have left immediately.

“Shanshan, you don’t really know me yet. I’m older than you, so how about you take me as your real brother? If you ever have any difficulties, you can come to me,” He Ming thought this idea was feasible and wouldn’t offend anyone.

“Brother He, the girl you like must be very beautiful and outstanding,” Hu Shanshan didn’t directly respond to He Ming but instead spoke these words in a slightly mysterious tone..

Chapter 180: Down

“Yeah, in the eyes of others, she might not be considered outstanding, just an ordinary girl. Her personality is easygoing, but in my eyes, she’s the best,” He Ming said, his eyes filled with indulgence.

Hu Shanshan suddenly felt envious of the girl he was talking about.

She thought he must really love that girl because from the moment he entered until now, he hadn’t paid much attention to her. He probably didn’t even know what she looked like.

In his eyes, there was only the girl he liked. He mentioned being a playboy in the past, but now that he had found someone he liked, he was devoted.

She really wanted to see what the girl looked like. But they weren’t married yet, so she still had a chance, right?

“The girl Brother He likes must be the luckiest,” Hu Shanshan’s eyes were full of admiration.

“You’ll also meet your true prince charming,” He Ming reassured with a smile.

“Yeah... Brother He, rest assured, I’ll go back and tell Auntie that we’re not a suitable match,” Hu Shanshan’s smile was a bit bitter. After all, she suffered a setback on her first blind date.

She was really unwilling. She had always been considered a beauty by everyone, and many people pursued her. She just hadn’t found the right person.

Originally, she looked down on blind dates, but her mother used both hard and soft tactics to convince her to come.

At first sight of him, she knew he was the right person. It felt right—his demeanor, his eloquence—she was attracted to him.

Little did she know that he would mention having someone he liked. It seemed he genuinely cared. When He Ming heard Hu Shanshan say this, his eyes were filled with gratitude, and he couldn’t help but breathe a sigh of relief.

He glanced at his watch. It was almost time. He needed to go find Ye Xiaomeng. Due to Gu Shaoting’s amnesia, he hadn’t had the time to see her.

What he didn’t know was that the scene of his blind date was already observed by Ye Xiaomeng. It seemed like his plan to pursue his girl might not go too smoothly.

was a bit puzzled. While shopping, Ye Xiaomeng had been cheerful, but now she seemed somewhat silent, as if something had upset her.

What made it even more confusing was that she had ordered a lot of dishes, and the boiled fish was requested to be extremely spicy. It was outrageous.

Shu Pan quickly stopped the waiter, asking them to bring the boiled fish with a normal level of spiciness, not too much.

“Xiaomeng, what’s wrong? You were fine while shopping just now. How did you suddenly change so much?” Shu Pan was a bit worried, finding her transformation too abrupt.

“Oh, nothing. Just feeling a bit emotional. All crows under the sky are black,” Ye Xiaomeng said in a low and somber voice, with what seemed like teardrops glistening at the corners of her eyes.

Shu Pan looked at her in confusion, feeling a bit unable to keep up with her thoughts.

“It’s okay; I’m starving. I’m going to eat a hearty meal,” Ye Xiaomeng suddenly reverted to her carefree self.

“Alright,” Shu Pan nodded.

Soon, dishes were brought to the table one after another. Ye Xiaomeng picked up her chopsticks and began eating hastily.

She ate quickly, disregarding whether the food was too hot for her mouth.

“Xiaomeng, something is bothering you,” Shu Pan put down her chopsticks, speaking with certainty.

Ye Xiaomeng remained silent, burying her head in eating the fish. Finally, seeing Shu Pan looking anxious, she couldn’t help but say, “There’s really nothing serious. Don’t worry. There’s nothing that can hurt me right now. I just suddenly feel a bit sentimental.”

Ye Xiaomeng didn’t tell Shu Pan about He Ming’s situation, to avoid unnecessary speculation. After all, it was a futile pursuit..