

As Agreed 231

Chapter 231: Slightly Touched

Ye Xiaomeng suddenly felt her heartbeat accelerate. She couldn't help but feel hot as she sensed the man's breath next to her.

When He Ming stopped to wait for a green light, he turned to look at her.

"What's wrong? Why is your face so red? Are you feeling hot?"

Ye Xiaomeng was at a loss and said hurriedly, "It's okay. This happens to me occasionally, especially when I'm riding in a car."

Her very far-fetched reason seemed to have fooled He Ming.

The restaurant was quite crowded when the two of them arrived that they barely found a table by the window.

He Ming knew that Xiaomeng was hungry, so he quickly called a waiter over to take their order.

While waiting for their food, He Ming hesitated for a bit before he asked Xiaomeng, "Xiaomeng, a friend of mine, more like a sister, is having a birthday party tomorrow night. Are you free to go with me?"

Ye Xiaomeng's eyes widened. "Why should I attend your friend's birthday party. I'm meeting Shu Pan and Joy tomorrow anyway."

He Ming nodded. He had actually expected her answer, but he thought that he should still ask. His principle was to be honest with her and explain clearly his whereabouts, especially when meeting other women because it would be difficult to explain if she misunderstood.

Their dishes were finally served, and the stone pot fish smelled wonderful.

Xiaomeng was so hungry that her stomach was growling. She immediately started eating and He Ming looked at her with a doting smile.

Xiaomeng thought that the man was strange for smiling foolishly so often.

Xiaomeng actually understood He Ming's intentions, but would she trust him again?

He Ming didn't feel hungry and just picked up food for Xiaomeng.

"Enough, I'll do it myself." Xiaomeng complained. If she continued to eat like this, she would become a fatty.

"It's okay. Eat more. Women need to be a little chubby to look good. What's so good about looking like a human jerky?" He Ming felt that Xiaomeng was still thin. She ate a lot, but she didn't seem to put on weight.

"Nonsense. If that's the case, why are women constantly on a diet?" Xiao Meng said indignantly.

"I don't know about others, but I think you're still a little thin. Eat more." He Ming coaxed her unperturbedly.

Xiaomeng was a little stunned when she heard this. She felt her heart skip a beat because it sounded like a conversation between lovers. She didn't think that she was thin but was happy that another person thought that she had lost weight.

"I'm going on a business trip to H-Province next week for two weeks." Ye Xiaomeng suddenly looked up and told him her schedule. She was probably going to be very busy again. She only found herself such a demanding job because she wanted to forget about her unpleasant experience.

“For so long? Can’t someone else go? You’re a girl. Your health would probably suffer.” He Ming protested with a frown.

“I have no choice. This is my area of expertise. Besides, it’s not my first trip there.” Xiaomeng replied indifferently.

She didn’t know why she told him about her business trip, but she thought they were still friends. She shrugged and dropped the subject.

He Ming was thinking about how he could squeeze out some time to visit her. Sigh, what high maintenance.

After dinner, He Ming took Xiaomeng to the movies again. He picked another movie that she liked. He knew her preferences like the back of his hand.

The dimly lit cinema was mostly empty. He Ming and Ye Xiaomeng were sitting in luxury couple seats with no one around them. He Ming glanced at Xiaomeng from the corner of his eye and saw that she was staring intently at the screen.

But He Ming was distracted. He just kept staring at Xiaomeng..

Chapter 232: A Declaration Of Love

Ye Xiaomeng sensed He Ming’s burning gaze on her. She finally couldn’t take it anymore and turned to look at him.

“What’s wrong? Why are you staring at me?” Ye Xiaomeng asked in confusion. Why was he staring at her when they were watching a movie?

“You’re nicer to watch than the movie.” He Ming said with a smile.

Ye Xiaomeng's face flushed. Fortunately, the cinema was dim. Although she wasn't a shy person, she couldn't help but blush when she heard such words.

Ye Xiaomeng shifted in her seat and straightened her back. She was too embarrassed to look at him, so she looked at the screen and said, "What a smooth talker. Men's sweet talk is nothing but sugar-coated bullets."

He Ming didn't refute. Instead, he said earnestly, "Then let time prove it. I would gladly accept the test."

After saying that, He Ming suddenly reached out and held her hand. Ye

Xiaomeng was startled. "What's happening? You are scaring me."

"Xiaomeng, I'm serious. Be my girlfriend. I swear on my life that I'll protect you for the rest of your life." He Ming put away his usually smiley face and said seriously.

Ye Xiaomeng felt a wave of heat wrap around her hand. His hand was indeed as slender and strong as she had imagined. She felt a sense of security when he held her hand.

Ye Xiaomeng let him hold her hand and said to him in a very serious tone, "I'm very serious and I expect fairness. If give 10% to someone, I expect to receive 10% from him. If you're just fooling around, please give up as soon as possible."

"Xiaomeng, I'm not fooling around. I'll say it again, let time prove it but I'll need you to open your heart and accept me slowly." He Ming finally saw a glimmer of hope. He was finally not the only person in this relationship.

They no longer paid attention to what was playing on screen.

After the movie, He Ming sent Xiaomeng home. He giggled a few times on the way and Ye Xiaomeng couldn't help but call him a fool.

The next day, He Ming arrived at the office early to deal with work. Because of the positive response to his declaration of love to Ye Xiaomeng, he was in high spirits all day. Anyone with a discerning eye could see that he had good news.

Gu Shaoting tried to get information out of him for a long time but He Ming kept his mouth shut. He didn't want to hurt Gu Shaoting because there seemed to be no hope between him and Shu Pan.

He just moved his relationship forward with Ye Xiaomeng and wanted to spend

every moment with her. However, he had accepted Hu Shanshan's invitation out of obligation, so he left the office after work in the afternoon.

It didn't seem nice to attend someone's birthday party empty-handed. As a boorish person, He Ming couldn't decide what to buy for Hu Shanshan.

After thinking for a long time, he finally decided to get her a bracelet. It was of classic design and expensive. He Ming even instructed the salesperson to gift wrap the bracelet.

As he was walking out of the jewelry shop, he saw a bracelet in the display window on the left, which looked simple and elegant.

He immediately thought of Ye Xiaomeng when he saw the bracelet. He called the salesperson over and asked her to wrap it up for him.

He Ming wondered if Xiaomeng would be happy when she received his gift. In any case, he would pluck stars out of the sky if she liked them.

Seeing that night was falling and the evening breeze was picking up, He Ming quickened his pace.

When he arrived at Shining Gold, he saw a long line of luxury cars at the entrance of the hotel.

As soon as he walked into the banquet hall, he saw that many of his customers were there..

Chapter 233: At The Birthday Party

He Ming saw Hu Shanshan in a short cream dress. The off-shoulder style accentuated her fair and slender neck. Her back was exposed, and she looked sexy and charming.

Hu Shanshan was surrounded by a group of young men who were all from rich families judging from the clothes they wore. Everyone was flattering her.

He Ming didn't know Hu Shanshan's family background, but judging from the situation, it was definitely not simple.

Hu Shanshan had a smile on her face, but her eyes were fixed at the entrance to the banquet hall.

Soon, she saw He Ming. She walked through the crowds toward him like a butterfly dancing gracefully.

"Brother He, it's so great that you're finally here. I thought you weren't coming." Hu Shanshan said coquettishly, her voice filled with joy.

"I promised you that I would come. Here, happy birthday." He Ming handed her the gift wrapped bracelet.

"Brother He, you shouldn't have. Thank you. I'm so happy." Hu Shanshan smiled.

"I hope you like it." He Ming wanted to leave as soon as possible, wondering what Xiaomeng had been busy with today...

"Come, let me introduce you." Hu Shanshan led He Ming to a very well-dressed woman. She was holding a glass of red wine and entertaining the people around her.

"Brother He, this is my mother." Hu Shanshan introduced.

"Hello, Auntie." He Ming greeted first out of politeness.

"He Ming, right? Look at you all grown up now. Although I'm close with your mother, I hardly see you." Hu Shanshan's mother said with a smile, looking He Ming up and down the whole time like she was perusing a son-in-law whom she liked.

He Ming was tall and handsome, while Hu Shanshan was delicate and charming.

"Shanshan, take good care of He Ming." Mrs. Hu turned her head and instructed Shanshan. She then said to He Ming, "Sorry for not entertaining you. You young people should have fun together."

Shanshan dragged He Ming to introduce him to her friends. He Ming was really regretting it now.

Why did he come? Even if his mother held a knife to his neck, he shouldn't have come. He was really stuck now.

He Ming forced a smile as he hoped for time to pass quickly.

When Hu Shanshan was entertaining her friends, He Ming slipped out to the balcony of the banquet hall and dialed Ye Xiaomeng's number.

His call was picked up after a long time. "What are you doing?" He Ming's voice was magnetic. It sounded magical to Ye Xiaomeng.

"I'm still playing with Joy at Shu Pan's house. I haven't seen her in a long time. She's so cute now." Ye Xiaomeng made Joy laughed so hard that her laughter could be heard through the phone.

"I'll pick you up later." He Ming said.

"Aren't you busy? Can you leave?" Ye Xiaomeng asked. She wasn't too far away from home anyway, so it didn't matter.

Just as He Ming was about to reply, Hu Shanshan walked over with a glass of champagne. "Brother He, you are here. You really made me look all over for you!"

Because she was standing close to him, Hu Shanshan's every word was transmitted through the phone and heard clearly by Ye Xiaomeng. She frowned and hung up the phone when He Ming didn't say another word.

"I came out to get some fresh air." He Ming immediately pressed the phone to his ear after he said that but the call had already ended.

He Ming was burning with anxiety, wishing he could grow a pair of wings and fly back. He was worried that Ye Xiaomeng would misunderstand the situation..

Chapter 234: A Tiny Scheme

When Ye Xiaomeng heard a woman's coquettish voice on the other end of the call, she hung up on reflex.

But on hindsight, she was a little angry. He was clearly with another woman, yet he hypocritically called her to tell her that he would pick her up.

Shu Pan looked at Ye Xiaomeng's angry face and asked in confusion, "Which idiot provoked you now?"

"A leopard can never change its spots. All men are scumbags." The more Ye Xiaomeng spoke, the angrier she got.

Shu Pan was confused. She didn't know why her friend was upset and didn't know how to comfort her.

Ye Xiaomeng looked at her friend's confused face. Afraid that she would worry, she quickly said, "It's nothing. I'm just throwing a tantrum with a friend." Ye Xiaomeng combed her hair with her fingers after she finished.

Shu Pan knew that she was feeling guilty. "You're in love."

Shu Pan's tone was very certain. After all, they had been good friends for years and she knew Ye Xiaomeng very well.

"It's still early days. I'll tell you when it's serious." Ye Xiaomeng said while she thought Shu Pan should become a fortune-teller because she was always right about everything. She didn't seem to have any secrets in front of her. After all, they had known each other for so long and knew each other well.

Shu Pan threw her an "I Knew It" 100K but even if it was true, she was very happy for her friend.

Meanwhile, He Ming was as anxious as a bee in a jar trying to find its way out.

"It's almost time to cut the cake. Brother He, let's go in." Hu Shanshan looked at He Ming with her sparkly eyes.

Although He Ming was anxious, he was here at Hu Shanshan's birthday party so he couldn't refuse her. He figured he would just wait until the party was over before he ran back to Xiaomeng and apologized.

Seeing Hu Shanshan's pleading gaze, He Ming kept his phone and walked into the banquet hall with her.

Ye Xiaomeng looked at the black screen on her phone and felt a little disappointed. She thought that he'd call her back immediately to explain.

Haha, she had overestimated herself. So, this was the feeling of being in love:

sweet and sour, gains mixed with losses.

“Godmother, are you unhappy? You are not playing with me.” Joy suddenly ran over and hugged her.

Ye Xiaomeng caught her and said, “Godmother is very happy. I love playing with Joy. Let’s start a new game.”

Ye Xiaomeng threw that little bit of nonsense to the back of her mind, picked up Joy, and started playing with her again.

The birthday cake was pushed out. It was a three-layer pink cake, a fine-looking piece of edible art. Hu Shanshan stood next to the cake like a princess with all her guests surrounding her.

But she pulled He Ming tightly to stand beside her, the intent behind her action obvious.

He Ming couldn’t embarrass her at such an occasion, but in his heart, he told himself to stay away from her in the future.

Amidst everyone’s anticipation and blessings, Hu Shanshan finally cut the cake and the party was coming to an end.

He Ming heaved a sigh of relief and said goodbye to Hu Shanshan.

“Brother He, is something bothering you? You’ve been distracted all night.” Hu Shanshan asked despite knowing the reason. She saw He Ming when he went out to the balcony. She thought that he was just going for a smoke. But when he didn’t come back after a long time, she went out to find him.

She heard him talking on the phone when she got close. She could guess from He Ming’s gentle tone who he was talking with so she deliberately spoke up. She wasn’t far from his phone, so she knew that the person he was speaking with could hear her.

But she was asking him now with an innocent and concerned expression on her face, which made He Ming feel bad. It wasn't the best behavior he had exhibited at her birthday party.

"Oh, it's just something I have to deal with at work." He Ming explained..

Chapter 235: A Confession

Hu Shanshan nodded and said, "Brother He, I won't hold you back then. All the best." Hu Shanshan put up a considerate front.

Because she couldn't keep his heart even if she kept his person. She had plenty of time. The winner would be the person who had the last laugh.

He Ming left quickly.

Hu Shanshan watched him walk away with affection.

"Shanshan, is that your Prince Charming?" One of Hu Shanshan's good friends came over when she saw He Ming leave.

"Yeah, isn't he handsome?" Hu Shanshan asked proudly.

"To be able to catch the eye of First Young Miss Hu must be the best of the best." Her friend said fawningly. There was nothing Hu Shanshan couldn't get since young, including love.

Hu Shanshan enjoyed this kind of flattery and went back to the party with her friend.

As soon as He Ming walked out of the hotel, he called Ye Xiaomeng, but she didn't pick up for the longest time. He Ming figured that she must be upset with him that she didn't answer his call.

But in all honesty, Xiaomeng had simply thrown her phone aside to play with Joy. The little girl was a little excited tonight and kept asking her to play with her.

He Ming checked his watch. It was past 9 O'clock. He figured that Xiaomeng must have gone home.

He drove to her place. Her apartment looked dark.

He Ming felt a little helpless and called Xiaomeng again. This time, his call was picked up very quickly.

"Xiaomeng, where are you? Why aren't you home yet?" He Ming asked anxiously.

"I'm still at Shu Pan's place. Joy just fell asleep. I was just about to leave." Ye Xiaomeng wondered how he knew that she was not home yet.

"I'm downstairs of your place now. Wait for me at Shu Pan's. I'll be there soon." He Ming instructed.

"Aren't you at a birthday party? Why are you back so early?" Ye Xiaomeng looked at the time and realized that it wasn't that late.

"I was. Let's talk later. Bye now." He Ming hung up the phone and immediately drove to Shu Pan's place.

When he arrived, Ye Xiaomeng was already waiting downstairs. She looked a little lonely shrouded in darkness.

"Xiaomeng." He Ming called out to her. Ye Xiaomeng looked up at him, slung her bag over the shoulder and got into the car.

He Ming looked into her clear eyes, which were filled with fatigue. Her eyes were as clear as water. Through the dim yellow light in the car, his face was clearly reflected in her clear dark eyes.

He Ming saw that she was a little tired, so he lowered her seat for her. When he leaned over, she could clearly feel his breath on her face. "Xiaomeng..." He Ming called out again softly.

"Hmm?" Xiaomeng responded.

"Um... The voice you heard on the phone just now was the birthday girl at her party today. She's the daughter of my mother's friend. She's more like a younger sister..."

Before He Ming could finish, he saw Ye Xiaomeng frown.

Damn! Another sister? Could she ever escape from this curse?

Cheng Yang was like that. Would He Ming be like that too?

To her, the word "sister" was fiercer than a tiger.

"There's really nothing between us. I'll stay far away from her in the future." He Ming said nervously when he saw Xiaomeng's silence.

"I didn't think too much about it. She's the daughter of your mother's friend. It's only right for you to be nice to her." He Ming heaved a sigh of relief when he heard this.

"I know my limits. You must be tired. I'll send you home." He Ming patted her head and said intimately.

Ye Xiaomeng nodded. She felt a little strange, but after watching his nervous explanation, she decided to put him under probation..

Chapter 236: The CEO Is Coming

Shu Pan's mornings were chaotic like war, because with Joy, there are tons of nitty-gritties she had to handle every morning.

She had just stepped into the office when the managing director sent an email asking everyone to prepare for a meeting with the CEO this afternoon to discuss everyone's projects.

Gu Group was one of the largest companies in the country. Many companies clamored to work with them. Now that her company was a subsidiary of Gu Group, it had also become quite popular.

However, the tender issuer this time, Su Corporation, was a dark horse for winning the bid for two pieces of land sold by the government; they were now looking for partners. Many companies were eager to put in a bid, and her company was no exception.

The tender issued by Su Corporation was now a key project for the company. After all, they had just been acquired and everyone was eager to perform.

It was understandable that everyone valued such a project, but Shu Pan felt a little uncomfortable at the thought of Gu Shaoting coming to the office in the afternoon. She hoped that he wouldn't throw out any surprises.

Shu Pan was a little distracted because of him but she pulled her focus back so that her work wouldn't be affected.

"Shu Pan, the CEO is coming here for a meeting this afternoon. Do you want to go home and dress up?" Tang Wei whispered to Shu Pan.

Shu Pan held her forehead in exasperation. "The CEO is coming here for a

meeting, not to watch a beauty pageant."

"I just can't stand that plastic surgery addict. The moment she got the email from the managing director about the CEO coming this afternoon, she said that she needs to go out later at noon. She's probably going home to change." Tang Wei said begrudgingly.

"You can also go home and change?" Shu Pan didn't understand why Tang Wei was so angry.

"Do you think I don't want to? But look at my figure and looks. It's useless even if I put on an empress' outfit. I have that bit of self-awareness, but you are different. You have the right curves, a pleasant personality, and you are a domestic goddess. Plus, you're making a presentation to the CEO later. So, you must first beat her in terms of appearance." Tang Wei used all the positive adjectives she could think of, hoping that Shu Pan would beat MO Lan.

"Stop, I'm definitely not the person you are talking about. Besides, I'm not interested in seducing the CEO. I believe that if the CEO decides to put our team in charge, it's because of our capability, not our looks." Shu Pan replied with a smile as she surrendered to Tang Wei's warped logic.

"What a waste of the good looks that the heavens gave you." Tang Wei said regretfully. She just didn't want to see MO Lan's smug look.

Shu Pan didn't want to discuss this with Tang Wei anymore and walked away.

In the afternoon, Shu Pan and a few colleagues in her team went into the conference room ahead of time to get the meeting materials ready. They had started preparation when the tender was issued so they weren't panicking now.

"Shu Pan, I'm rooting for you. Everyone here recognizes your capabilities and wishes you the best. Don't worry too much." Tang Wei knew that Shu Pan was slightly nervous because she would be presenting for their team.

Tang Wei was in the same project team now. Shu Pan was the team lead and she was the deputy, an arrangement determined after the company was acquired.

Another male colleague also leaned over and said, "Shu Pan, I believe we can do it."

Shu Pan, who was calm initially, got nervous again when she heard what they said

Shu Pan was now in charge of the team. She felt that she had the greatest responsibility and needed to consider things more comprehensively than the rest.

She knew that Gu Shaoting kept his work and personal life separate. She was not worried that he would go easy on her. After all, this was about the company's interests and reputation..

Chapter 237: A Burning Gaze

But she figured that she would still be nervous when she saw Gu Shaoting.

However, she must prepare herself well. She wouldn't let him think less of her.

Just as Shu Pan was deep in thought, MO Lan walked in.

At first glance, those who didn't know better would really think that she was here to participate in a beauty pageant. She was dressed in a pink suit with a lacey camisole underneath. Her knee-length skirt wrapped tightly around her perky buttocks and made her walk very sexy.

MO Lan attracted everyone's attention as soon as she walked in. Her well-groomed eyebrows were slightly raised, and her red lips were fiery. She looked very imposing.

Tang Wei pursed her lips and said angrily, "Just as I thought. So flirtatious."

Shu Pan quickly pulled her back and told her not to make a sound. Although Tang Wei spoke softly but loose lips could open Pandora's box.

"What's there to be afraid of? I didn't say her name. It's none of my business if she takes it personally."
Tang Wei said indifferently.

“Look through the information again so you don’t mess up when the CEO is here later. Maybe he’ll take a fancy to you.” Shu Pan quickly found something for her to do and even joked.

“I detest that. How can you rub it in when you know that I have no chance?” Tang Wei glared at Shu Pan.

Shu Pan pursed her lips and smiled. She didn’t say more and focused on reading the materials.

People trickled into the conference room and the spacious conference room became lively as everyone waited for the CEO.

“CEO Gil...”

Someone called out outside the door, and everyone immediately looked to the entrance of the conference room. Shu Pan was no exception. The CEO was finally here.

She looked up and saw Gu Shaoting walking in elegantly, accompanied by two directors.

He looked dazzling. No matter the occasion or place, he always attracted everyone’s attention.

He was wearing a tailored silver-gray suit with a white shirt and a blue-and-white striped tie. His expression was serious, making him look even colder.

“Hello, CEO Gu!” Everyone greeted him. Shu Pan remained seated.

“Everyone, please take a seat.” Gu Shaoting nodded and sat at the head of the conference table. He then signaled the director next to him to start the meeting.

Seeing that Gu Shaoting wasn’t looking in her direction, Shu Pan finally heaved a sigh of relief.

Actually, Gu Shaoting was very serious about his work. He was more rigorous than she had imagined when it came to keeping his work and personal life

separate.

Little did Shu Pan know what Gu Shaoting was thinking. He acquired her company not only because of the company's potential, but also because Shu Pan worked here. He wanted to be closer to her, but he didn't want to disgust her, so he could only take things slowly, one step at a time.

Shu Pan was the leader of her team, so she was naturally the one explaining the details of their project.

Shu Pan stood up under Gu Shaoting's fiery gaze and stood in front of the big screen before she started her presentation.

Because Shu Pan was a very serious person and she was well-prepared, she presented confidently without showing any nervousness despite the rather large audience.

Slowly, she got into a flow and her presentation became more captivating the more she spoke. Everyone saw CEO Gu nod intermittently as he whisper to the director seated next to him.

When her presentation ended, Shu Pan received a round of applause.

Just as Shu Pan was about to take a bow and thank everyone, she felt a burning gaze on her.

She braced herself, looked up and met Gu Shaoting's deep and unfathomable eyes..

Chapter 238: Drawing Attention

Just when Shu Pan thought that Gu Shaoting was going to say something, he revealed a polite smile without saying a word.

To anyone in the room, it was nothing but a courteous interaction between a superior and a subordinate, without any personal feelings.

Gu Shaoting knew that it was what Shu Pan expected, so he was happy to play along. However, he was a businessman, and he expected a return on his investment eventually.

Shu Pan returned him a polite smile too. She was also quite adept at keeping her work and personal life separate.

Shu Pan went back to her seat. Next up was MO Lan's team. Her team lead was supposed to give the presentation, but he was on a business trip, so MO Lan took his place.

MO Lan rolled her chair back and walked gracefully up to the big screen, her perfume lingered in the air as she moved.

MO Lan was well-prepared too, but because she wanted to appear delicate in front of the CEO, she didn't sound very natural.

"So fake..." Tang Wei couldn't help but blurt out.

Shu Pan quickly tugged at her sleeve to stop her from talking nonsense. Although she was the only one who heard what she said, it would be troublesome if someone else heard it.

MO Lan's pretentious presentation finally ended.

She looked at Gu Shaoting throughout her presentation and saw him frown and relax at different times. She was also very nervous as it was a good opportunity for her to show off.

She wanted to amaze everyone and draw the CEO's attention.

Of course, her painstaking efforts were not in vain. She had indeed succeeded in drawing Gu Shaoting's attention.

But what Gu Shaoting was thinking was how shameless this woman was to seduce a man during a work presentation...

He had met his fair share of shameless women but none of them had used .S11Ch

a tactic to get his attention. He was a person who never mixed business with pleasure.

Although he had acquired this company because of Shu Pan, the company had great prospects. He also knew that Shu Pan wasn't someone who expected special treatment. Besides, she didn't even give him any opportunity to treat her differently.

Therefore, he couldn't help but frown when he saw this woman flirting with him during a work presentation.

The director beside him saw his frown and quickly asked him what was wrong.

Gu Shaoting shook his head.

After both teams finished their presentation, Gu Shaoting gave his comments and personally endorsed the proposal from Shu Pan's team.

Shu Pan could not help but heave a sigh of relief. At last, her team's effort on all the pre-work didn't go to waste.

Therefore, it was decided that Shu Pan's team would submit their proposal and negotiate from there.

MO Lan's face burned with righteous indignation.

She didn't know where she went wrong. Why wasn't the CEO moved?

She clenched her fists so tightly that her knuckles turned white.

She probably didn't expect Gu Shaoting to already see her as a vase. He would never choose someone who tried to win a project using her beauty because someone who did that could very well use the same method to draw the attention of their business partners.

When the meeting ended, the members in Shu Pan's team were all very excited. After all, if they won the bid, their bonuses would be very generous. For a moment, they forgot that the CEO was still in the room.

Gu Shaoting had a cold and distant expression throughout the meeting. Everyone was nervous with such a big shot present.

But they were now talking happily as they walked out of the conference room, leaving behind their nervousness.

The male team member from before placed his hand on Shu Pan's shoulder and said happily, "Shu Pan, I knew we could do it. This is so great."

Shu Pan was so happy that she didn't notice how intimate the male team member was with her. She even smiled and nodded. "Yes, everyone has worked hard. We'll need to work even harder now to win the bid.."

Chapter 239: Feeling Jealous

Gu Shaoting saw the intimate gesture and his brows furrowed so deeply that mosquitoes could be trapped to death on his forehead. He stared at the hand on Shu Pan's shoulder, willing for it to break.

His eyes were like daggers that could cut the man into a thousand pieces.

He suppressed his emotions and collected himself before he said to the director beside him, "Make it a rule that people shouldn't put their arms around each other's shoulders in the office. What a disgrace." His cold voice revealed his displeasure.

The director was also a shrewd person. After being in his position for so long, he knew how to read people. He also saw what happened just now. Although he didn't quite understand the CEO's reason, he chose to follow his orders.

"Will do. CEO Gu." The director replied quickly.

"The name of the presenter just now is Shu Pan, right?" Gu Shaoting asked with feigned ignorance.

"Yes. Her name is Shu Pan." The director replied. He was worried if Shu Pan had offended the CEO that he was paying so much attention to her.

"I have some questions for her about the project. Ask her to see me in my office later." Gu Shaoting ordered before he turned to leave the conference room.

"Alright." The director followed him out.

"Shu Pan, wait a moment." The director who had just left the conference room caught up with Shu Pan and called out to her.

Shu Pan's paused in her movement and stopped. She turned around politely and asked, "Director Wang, are you looking for me? Is something the matter?"

"Yes, Shu Pan. Since you are now in charge of the bid for the tender issued by Su Corporation and know the project best, the CEO would like to confirm some details with you." Director Wang was still confused about the CEO's actual reason but he conveyed his request.

Since the CEO had asked to see Shu Pan about the project, the others were smart enough to quickly find an excuse to dodge any potential bullets.

MO Lan heard Director Wang as well and gritted her teeth in hatred. Why must all the good things happen to Shu Pan?

It happened the last time when they were entertaining the CEO, and it was happening again. Both their proposals were alike, yet the CEO liked hers better. Why?

MO Lan glared at Shu Pan viciously before she stomped out angrily.

Tang Wei was delighted when she saw that. Finally, someone had put MO Lan in her place. This woman should have been taught a lesson long ago.

Shu Pan nodded. "Let me put my things away first before I go over."

When Shu Pan was back at her desk, Tang Wei walked over with a smile and commented, "Shu Pan, keep up the good work! I shouldn't have underestimated you. It's so satisfying to see MO Lan defeated. I feel half my frustration gone already. I'm so envious of you for having alone time with the

CEO later. I'm rooting for you."

Tang Wei then made a cheering gesture to Shu Pan.

"Talking nonsense again. It's a meeting about work. If you really want to see the CEO, you can come with me to his office." Shu Pan knew what Tang Wei was implying.

"Hey buddy, are we still friends or not? Do you need to hit my sore spot every time?" Tang Wei pretended to punch Shu Pan in her shoulder.

"I'd better go now." Shu Pan picked up the proposal, ready to leave.

“When a man and a woman are alone together, it’s like dry wood near a raging fire. Something passionate could happen...” Tang Wei joked.

Shu Pan rolled her eyes at Tang Wei and left.

Standing outside Gu Shaoting’s office, Shu Pan raised her hand and knocked twice on the door. “Enter.” Gu Shaoting’s voice sounded from inside the room.

Shu Pan pushed the door open and saw Gu Shaoting staring out the window. It seemed that no matter where he was, his office always had floor-to-ceiling windows. It was his habit to stand by the windows when he needed to think and to stare out the windows as he thought hard..

Chapter 240: Keeping Work And Personal Life Separate

Shu Pan looked at Gu Shaoting’s profile. His facial features were well-defined, with a regal nose and he was tall and muscular. His appearance seemed flawless from every angle.

Sun rays Deerinz through the windows fell on his hair, giving it a golden hue.

Gu Shaoting seemed to have heard her footsteps, so he turned his head. “Shu

Pan...”

“CEO Gu, why did you ask to see me?” Shu Pan stood a few steps away from him to put some distance between them.

“There are no outsiders here. Don’t call me CEO Gu.” Gu Shaoting walked up to her.

Shu Pan retreated subconsciously. "We are at work now. Please let's just focus on that."

When Gu Shaoting heard that, he frowned slightly and narrowed his black eyes, signs that he was getting angry. But because of his good upbringing and manners, he didn't let his anger show.

After a long pause, he said, "Shu Pan, I hope that you'll keep your distance from other men. I know that it's a huge ask since we are not in a relationship anymore, but I still feel uncomfortable when I see you behaving intimately with other men."

Gu Shaoting took a deep breath before he said this. Shu Pan didn't expect those words at all and blushed instantly.

"CEO Gu, I'm sorry. I'll be more careful in the future." Shu Pan pursed her lips.

Gu Shaoting's eyes were smoldering as his anger rose from being called "CEO Gut" again.

"If there's nothing else, I'll get back to work." All Shu Pan wanted to do now was to leave. She knew that Gu Shaoting didn't want to talk to her about the project. He was being a nuisance asking her here to tell her to behave.

"Um... Let's leave together after work later. I won't be going back to Gu Corporation today. I want to pick Joy up with you. I haven't seen the little girl for a few days." Gu Shaoting quickly revealed his purpose.

He had reaped what he sowed and was stuck now. He was struggling whether to tell Shu Pan that he had recovered his memories.

If he didn't tell her, the road to reuniting with Joy would be even longer.

"I can pick her up myself. Don't you have a lot work? Don't let this get in the way." Shu Pan felt that he was paying too much attention to Joy. Could this be the so-called natural paternal bond?

"I'm not busy today. Why don't I pick Joy up first before I pick you up here?" Gu Shaoting suggested as he figured that Shu Pan wouldn't leave work early. It would be very late by the time she picked Joy up.

Shu Pan gave it some thought and decided to give in. Gu Shaoting wasn't someone who would change his mind easily. If she didn't agree, he would pester her, and she didn't want to suffer that.

"Let's talk later. I'm busy." Shu Pan left after saying that.

Gu Shaoting looked at the time. It was still early, but he was thinking about Joy. The more he thought about her, the less interest he had about work. He simply sat at his desk and stared blankly at his computer screen.

Gu Shaoting didn't even notice when Secretary Zhang knocked on the door and came in with a stack of documents.

Secretary Zhang walked up to his desk and was about to pass him the documents when he saw Gu Shaoting's blank stare and worrisome face.

"Are all women so stubborn?" Gu Shaoting's sudden speech startled Secretary Zhang.

Secretary Zhang was stunned for a moment before he realized what was going on. He knew about CEO Gu and the former Mrs. Gu. He knew that Shu Pan had been keeping a low profile to avoid gossip. That was also why he addressed her as Ms. Shu, as if they hadn't met before.

Secretary Zhang comforted, "I think she needs time to heal from being hurt before. Give her time. I believe that she will slowly accept you.."