

As Agreed 331

Chapter 331: Beauty Trap

Tong Fei nodded, reassuring Song Can. She knew how to handle things.

After leaving the Gu Family's mansion, Tong Fei got into her car and eagerly took out her phone from her bag, dialing a number.

Soon, the call connected, and a rough male voice came through the phone.

"How's it going, baby? Why do you have time to call me today?" Lord Long saw Tong Fei's number on the caller ID, chuckled, his face with a jiggling layer of fat.

Tong Fei rarely used this number; she specifically used it to contact Lord Long. She wouldn't risk using her regular number to avoid unnecessary complications.

She adopted a humble attitude as she had a favor to ask.

"Lord Long, it's been a while since you contacted me. Did you forget about me, or do you have a new love?" Tong Fei pretended to be coquettish, and her sweet tone was truly tingling.

Of course, Lord Long wasn't an exception. Hearing her voice, he felt satisfied, stroking his male chauvinism.

Thinking about such a charming beauty thinking about him, how could he not feel proud?

However, having been in the game for a while, Lord Long knew Tong Fei wouldn't contact him without a reason. As long as it was within his capabilities, helping her was no big deal. And the allure of that splendid body was a bonus.

With these thoughts, Lord Long couldn't contain his excitement.

"Busy as I am, how could I forget you, baby?" Lord Long's voice sounded loud but gave off a creepy vibe.

Suppressing her discomfort, Tong Fei forced a cheerful smile, "That's good. Are you free tonight? Let's get together."

Lord Long was delighted with Tong Fei's invitation. He had been waiting for this moment. While he occasionally thought of her, her modeling career took her around the world, making it hard to meet. Now that she suggested it, he wouldn't miss the chance.

"Sure, see you at the usual place," Lord Long and Tong Fei often met at a familiar hotel, so it was understood where the "usual place" referred to. "See you tonight," Tong Fei said before ending the call.

She wasn't sure why she did this, feeling a bit pathological. However, she wanted to witness Shu Pan's downfall.

With limited resources, Tong Fei needed to make the most of her situation.

So, Shu Pan, meeting you was my misfortune, but encountering me, you're not lucky either. The drama is just beginning.

Tong Fei started her car, heading home.

She needed to freshen up. A woman must know how to use her advantages to achieve her goals.

As night fell, the sky turned ink-black. Tong Fei, in a tight-fitting outfit, showcased her voluptuous curves and prominent chest. Her body seemed to dance with every breath, her fair face tinted with a hint of blush, exuding a woman's unique charm.

Tong Fei moved gracefully, a living painting. Her beauty, flawless skin, and devilish figure were gifts from the heavens. With a slender waist, round hips, and a pair of perfect legs, she was truly a masterpiece.

To avoid drawing attention, Tong Fei wore a long coat when stepping out of the car. After a quick disguise, she briskly walked to the agreed-upon location. Lord Long seemed impatient, hearing movement outside. He quickly opened the door..

Chapter 332: Reach a Common Understanding

As soon as Tong Fei entered, Long Sanwei had already wrapped his arms around her waist, drawing her closer.

Tong Fei was startled, using her hands to push him away, then coquettishly said, "Brother Long, don't be like this. Let's talk first, okay?"

"Why are you such a killjoy? Speak up, what's the matter?" Long Sanwei's face turned a bit sour due to Tong Fei's rejection.

Seeing his displeasure, Tong Fei became a bit nervous and quickly explained, "There's a woman who has offended me recently, and I want you to teach her a lesson.'

"What kind of woman has no eyes? How do you want me to handle it?" Long Sanwei was shrewd; this was a trivial matter, and he had countless ways to torment someone.

"You know what matters most to a woman? Reputation, right? She loves stealing other women's men, so let her taste her own medicine. You can take some beautiful photos; she's quite good-looking, and you won't lose out," Tong Fei spoke gently, but her words were chilling.

Such malicious words coming from such a charming woman were unexpected.

Long Sanwei couldn't help but look at her with newfound respect. Truly, a woman's heart is as venomous as a hornet's sting.

"Haha, so it's just a little thing. No problem, consider it done. Send me her pictures and let me know where she usually hangs out." Long Sanwei patted the front and readily agreed.

The matter was settled, and both parties reached an understanding.

"Can we stop talking about such dreary topics?" Long Sanwei expressed impatience.

Tong Fei sensed Long Sanwei's irritation and dared not offend him. She would follow his instructions in everything.

Lord Long was truly impressed; this woman was extraordinary, both in figure and looks. However, he had something exciting in store, so he wasn't worried about her disobedience.

Tong Fei had no regrets about her decision. By investing a little, she could achieve the desired results. Why not?

Tong Fei half-closed her eyes, thinking about Gu Shaoting. Only by doing this did she feel a bit better.

Long Sanwei, at an age showing on his face with a rough demeanor and gold teeth, seemed a bit repulsive.

"Brother Long, remember what you promised me," Tong Fei repeated, worried that Long Sanwei might back out. She knew people like him had no reliable credibility; he might agree one moment and change his mind the next. She needed his verbal assurance to believe him.

"Don't worry, send the photos when it's time." Long Sanwei promised. It was just a small matter; why fuss about it?

Long Sanwei was always a man of his word, and he wouldn't tarnish his reputation over such trivial matters. Helping her with this was convenient for his future endeavors. Besides, in his eyes, it wasn't a difficult task; it was a simple matter of lifting a finger.

Tong Fei finally breathed a sigh of relief. Seeing Long Sanwei's agreement, she showed a satisfied smile. Finally, she could be at ease.

Outside the window, the light couldn't penetrate the heavy curtains, leaving the room dimly lit.

Tong Fei fell into a drowsy sleep. Before drifting off, the image of Shu Pan's future flashed in her mind, and she couldn't help but burst into laughter.

Tong Fei was no longer afraid of losing anything. She felt a sense of liberation, willing to sacrifice whatever it took for Shu Pan to suffer..

Chapter 333: An Accident Happened

Early in the morning, Shu Pan got up, hurriedly prepared breakfast, and freshened up. Before long, Joy also woke up.

However, Joy wore a gloomy expression. Why?

Because her beloved Uncle Gu hadn't shown up for two days.

Due to Shu Pan's disdain, Gu Shaoting couldn't do much. Even if he wanted to come, he would face rejection. He was currently troubled.

He thought of using Joy to ease the current situation, but Shu Pan was the one picking up Joy.

She had no intention of dealing with him.

Indeed, whenever Shu Pan thought about Gu Shaoting's deceit and Song Can's arrogant behavior, she felt a surge of anger.

Shu Pan knew why Joy was upset—it had been a while since she saw Uncle Gu.

But Shu Pan wasn't ready to forgive Gu Shaoting; he treated her like a fool.

Would he be happy seeing her feeling guilty and worried?

After dropping Joy off at school, Shu Pan rushed to the company.

Because Joy was a bit difficult in the morning, time was tight.

As the afternoon approached, Shu Pan had everything prepared and planned to pick up Joy right after work.

Previously, Gu Shaoting used to handle this task, so it was early. Shu Pan didn't want to make Joy wait.

As Shu Pan was about to cross the road, a seven-seater van screeched to a sudden stop in front of her, startling her.

The rear door swung open abruptly. Before Shu Pan could react, she was pulled into the van.

The person inside handled her roughly, shoving her onto the back seat and forcefully closing the door. Instructing the driver with a single word, "Go!"

With that command, the van sped away like an arrow released from its bow.

When Shu Pan was pulled into the van, the force used caused her to lie across the back seat.

As the vehicle sped away, Shu Pan's body shook violently.

Up to this point, Shu Pan still didn't understand what was happening.

Finally grabbing onto the back of a seat, she struggled to prop herself up. At this moment, fear gripped her, and her hair was a bit disheveled.

Glancing around the van, she was startled. There were three people inside—the driver, a hefty person in the passenger seat, and the person next to her, who had a fierce and terrifying appearance with a twisted scar on his face.

Looking at these three, they all exuded a strong gangster vibe, clearly not good people.

Shu Pan couldn't fathom why they would kidnap her. She had a humble background and hadn't offended anyone.

Could they have abducted the wrong person?

"Big brother, did you guys make a mistake?" Shu Pan cautiously asked, unable to think of any other possibilities.

The two sitting in the front remained silent as if they couldn't hear. They didn't utter a word.

The person next to her suddenly cleared his throat and said, "No mistake. Is this you?"

Saying that, he handed his phone to her. Shu Pan glanced at it, and yes, it was indeed a picture of her.

She felt a sudden panic. "Big brother, who told you to abduct me?" Shu Pan asked anxiously, tapping on the car window.

“Don’t waste your breath. Don’t talk. We’re just doing a job—settling someone’s debt. Figure out who you’ve offended; you should know better.” Scarface spoke harshly.

Shu Pan’s heart tightened. It was a calamity; whether it was good or bad, she couldn’t escape. How could she escape now when she was in the car? She also couldn’t take out her phone.

She could only wait until the car stopped and then figure out how to break free. She told herself to stay calm and not panic.

Although she said this, she was genuinely scared. She huddled in her seat, waiting for what was to come..

Chapter 334: Kidnapped

Although Shu Pan’s company was located in the city, it was evening, and pedestrians hurriedly passed by, paying no attention to the unusual sight of Shu Pan being pulled into a car.

Shu Pan was now worried about her situation and also concerned that no one would pick up Joy from the kindergarten. She prayed that the teacher would call Gu Shaoting.

If the teacher called her, she wouldn’t be able to answer as Gu Shaoting had left his number with the school.

At this moment, she inexplicably thought of Gu Shaoting, feeling a bit reassured.

The car continued forward. The side windows were covered with curtains, so Shu Pan couldn’t see the outside. She could only observe from the front windshield that the car was heading towards the suburbs.

The population became scarcer, and the road turned into a path. After a few minutes of speeding along, the surroundings transformed into ponds, and there wasn't even a dilapidated house, let alone people.

Shu Pan, who had been trying to stay calm, became nervous again because she couldn't determine their current location. Were they going to silence her permanently?

As Shu Pan thought more, she became more frightened, and her whole body began to tremble.

After an unknown amount of time, the car finally stopped in the yard of a house.

With a screeching brake sound, the passenger door opened. The burly man deftly jumped out and then opened the rear door. Scarface was the first to jump out.

Without any sympathy, he dragged Shu Pan out of the car, grabbed her arm, and pulled her to the entrance of the house.

Taking a look at her surroundings, Shu Pan felt completely chilled. The area was sparsely populated, with a few scattered houses at a considerable distance. Even if she screamed her lungs out, no one would hear.

Shu Pan didn't want to struggle in vain. As a powerless woman, how could she resist three strong young men?

If she resisted, it would undoubtedly be like hitting a rock with an egg.

She could only watch and wait, prepared to make a desperate attempt.

The skinny guy who drove the car also got out. He walked over and forcefully knocked on the door.

Soon, an impatient voice came from inside, "Coming."

Then, the door opened. Shu Pan, holding her bag, was pushed from behind, stumbled, and fell to the ground.

At this moment, Shu Pan looked like a madwoman, disheveled hair, lying on the cement floor.

Because the floor was uneven, Shu Pan felt a dull pain in her knees.

While sitting on the ground, Shu Pan's bag shook a bit. Usually, she set her phone to vibrate when at work, so she was accustomed to it.

Now, she thanked herself for this habit because if they heard the ringtone, her phone would likely be confiscated, and there would be no hope.

Pretending to be in pain, Shu Pan sat on the ground, facing away from them. She subtly reached into her bag, found her phone, and, relying on memory, pressed the answer key.

Then she suddenly spoke loudly, "What are you doing? Why did you bring me here?"

"Stop making noise, woman. Be careful; I won't be gentle with you." The man who opened the door spoke fiercely.

"Don't be disrespectful. Cooperate well, and maybe we'll be gentle with you." The man laughed, his voice tinged with threat.

Shu Pan felt very scared, but she still asked, "Where is this?"

"This is the suburbs. You wouldn't know even if I told you," Scarface responded.

Then, he turned to the others and said, "Don't underestimate this place; it's not easy to find. Really admiring Lord Long."

“That’s right. Haven’t you seen? Lord Long is a prominent figure in the underworld. If we don’t handle this well, we’ll become a laughingstock.” The chubby guy snorted..

Chapter 335: Struggle

“Stop talking, hurry up, the task is more important,” the skinny guy said.

On the other end of the phone, Gu Shaoting couldn’t maintain his composure upon hearing the conversation from Shu Pan’s side.

When it was almost time to finish work today, he received a call from Joy’s kindergarten teacher, informing him that Joy’s mom hadn’t come to pick her up yet.

Several attempts to call her mom went unanswered.

As Shu Pan had been picking up Joy in the past few days, he was unaware of the situation. Even if she was running late, she would usually call to inform them. Now, it was getting late, and Joy was the only child left in the kindergarten. Since her mom wasn’t answering, she asked to call Uncle Gu.

That’s when the teacher contacted Gu Shaoting.

Gu Shaoting had already made several calls at the earliest possible moment, but Shu Pan didn’t answer. He also inquired with his colleagues, and they all said Shu Pan had left the office.

Now, Gu Shaoting was even more anxious, and a bad premonition had taken hold.

He dialed once again, this time with a glimmer of hope, and fortunately, this time she answered.

However, the content of the call left him chilling to the bone. As he suspected, Shu Pan was in trouble—she had been kidnapped.

But how could such an incident happen to an ordinary office worker like her?

Long in the underworld.

How did she get involved with such a figure?

Gu Shaoting quickly called He Ming, asking him to use his connections to reach Lord Long. Since they both had affiliations in both lawful and unlawful circles, they knew people.

After hanging up, Gu Shaoting first went to pick up Joy from the kindergarten. Then, upon meeting He Ming, He Ming suggested letting Xiaomeng take care of Joy, allowing them to focus on finding people.

Gu Shaoting found the suggestion feasible, and the little girl seemed to sense something, obediently following her godmother.

Shu Pan didn't know who had called just now. She hoped it was Gu Shaoting, praying that her plea reached the heavens.

She wasn't sure if her actions just now had any effect, but it was better to have a glimmer of hope than none, right?

"Hurry up, everyone, move quickly. You, set up the camera. You, get her on the sofa. You, take off all her clothes," the skinny guy commanded when he saw everyone hesitating.

Before Shu Pan could figure out what they were planning, someone pulled her up from the floor and grabbed her arms.

Ignoring her struggle, the person dragged her towards the sofa.

Seeing the empty living room with a set of sofas and hearing the man with the camera and their mention of undressing, Shu Pan finally understood what was happening.

They wanted to take explicit photos of her?

Instinctively resisting, she continuously wriggled her body, trying to break free from the man holding onto her. But being a woman, her strength was no match for theirs.

Several men looked excited, as the disheveled but delicately featured Shu Pan, under the light, presented an irresistible allure.

Seeing their malicious expressions, Shu Pan kept moving backward.

Suddenly, she swung her bag at the man holding her. In times of crisis, the force that erupted was often unexpected.

The man, caught off guard, didn't pay attention and was released by Shu Pan.

Without a moment's hesitation, Shu Pan sprinted towards the front door.

Because her shoes had some heels, she couldn't run fast. In the process, one of her shoes came off, so she simply took off the other one..

Chapter 336: Take Pictures

Shu Pan had no time for anything else now. Clenching her teeth, she charged forward, intending to open the door. However, someone caught up with her from behind, like an eagle grabbing a chick, and firmly seized her. The heavy sound of the door closing made Shu Pan lose all hope at that moment, but she refused to accept it and continued her final struggle.

This time, Scarface was prepared, holding Shu Pan tightly. No matter how she struggled, he remained unmoved, dragging her forcefully onto the sofa.

Watching Shu Pan resist, Scarface found her to be a troublesome hostage. He raised his hand and slapped her across the face with a loud “smack.” The sound resonated, leaving a palm print on Shu Pan’s fair face.

As the slap landed, Shu Pan expected to faint from the pain. The force was significant, and her face now felt like it was burning, aching with a stinging sensation.

“Disobey only incurs punishment. Dare to run again, and see how I deal with you?” Scarface threatened.

“Why are you so clueless about cherishing beauty? You’ve turned her face into a pig’s head. How are we going to take pictures later? Moreover, facing a pig’s head, don’t you find it disgusting?” The chubby guy scolded.

“This woman needs discipline if she doesn’t listen.” Scarface held Shu Pan down on the sofa.

Shu Pan was thrown onto the sofa with force.

The next moment, the skinny guy suddenly closed in, bent over, and reached out to grab Shu Pan.

Lowering her head, Shu Pan viciously bit the skinny guy’s hand. He immediately let go, howling in pain.

He continued to curse at Shu Pan with his mouth still in pain.

Seeing an opportunity, Shu Pan quickly got up from the sofa and rushed out, but this time, she wasn’t as fortunate. She was caught again.

The chubby and skinny guys held Shu Pan down together, much like eagles catching a small chick. Their strength was astonishing.

Shu Pan felt a sense of despair. How could she resist two big men? She used her hands to grab their faces and kicked them with her feet.

Because they didn't expect her to resist and her movements were swift and fierce, the men got scratches on their faces. Startled, the men inhaled sharply. This time, they weren't as lenient; their strength increased.

"Get ready with the camera, it's time to take photos." The man spoke, wanting to finish quickly to report to Lord Long.

As they approached, Shu Pan, like a madwoman, struck out in every direction. The men were getting impatient, and their actions became more forceful. However, due to Shu Pan's constant movement and lack of cooperation, it was challenging to capture good shots.

When they got closer, Shu Pan gathered her strength and kicked one of them. Unprepared, the man felt the pain and lifted Shu Pan's face, delivering a harsh slap. "You non-compliant, wretched woman."

Feeling stars in her head and a metallic taste in her mouth, Shu Pan collapsed onto the sofa. Exhausted, she had no strength left.

She didn't know how much longer she could hold on. Her vision was already starting to blur.

"Hurry up, don't waste any more time," the rough-voiced man spoke, avoiding unnecessary delays.

He wanted to finish quickly and report to Lord Long.

A few big men couldn't handle a single woman; saying this out loud would be laughable.

Seeing the desolation on Shu Pan's face, they finally felt a bit more at ease.

This woman was indeed a handful.

The rough-voiced man pressed the shutter, casually taking a few shots, thinking that the lesson was almost taught.

He didn't dare to get closer to Shu Pan again. Truly, one should not underestimate the power of a woman. The place where he was kicked still throbbed with pain..

Chapter 337: He's Here

Shu Pan leaned against the sofa, listening to the sound of the camera shutter, feeling as if she heard the cry of a demon.

Clutching the torn fabric around her collar, Shu Pan curled up, desperately trying to shield herself. Despite her efforts, large patches of fair skin caught the eyes of the men.

Shu Pan could vaguely sense their lecherous gaze. After taking a few pictures to satisfy their boss, the chubby man started to have impure thoughts.

He looked at Shu Pan with burning eyes. At this moment, the delicate and pitiful Xiaomei seemed like a plucked flower, making one irresistibly want to embrace her.

He smiled and approached Shu Pan, intending to reach out and grab her.

In a reflex action, Shu Pan jumped up and grabbed the ashtray on the table, smashing it towards the man's head.

The chubby guy's forehead was cut open, and blood dripped down his face.

Holding his wound, he exclaimed in shock, "D*mn, looking for a fight?"

“First stop the bleeding.” Scarface, observing the deep wound on the man’s forehead and the increasing flow of blood, quickly intervened. This guy was truly impulsive.

Shu Pan was also frightened, but holding the ashtray firmly, she said sternly,

“Anyone who comes over will end up like him. I’ll fight back.”

Having regained some strength, Shu Pan looked at the men with a fierce determination.

The men were stunned by her resolute gaze. For a moment, no one dared to make a move.

They thought they could enjoy some comfort after taking pictures and completing the task.

Little did they know they had picked a thorny rose; she was much more troublesome than they anticipated.

As everyone remained in a standoff, the front door suddenly swung open.

Gu Shaoting rushed in first, his steps unsteady. He had always been calm and collected, but this time he was genuinely terrified by Shu Pan.

Contacting Lord Long through his connections with He Ming, they managed to find this location after inducements and threats.

He feared he might have arrived too late.

He had been accelerating all the way, thankfully reaching in time.

Seeing Shu Pan standing there in tattered clothes, holding the ashtray, her crucial parts still covered, Gu Shaoting’s heart skipped a beat.

“Panpan...” Gu Shaoting took a step forward and then took off his suit, draping it over Shu Pan.

In that moment, seeing her standing intact in front of him, he had never been more thankful to the heavens. He held her tightly, wanting to embrace her.

When Shu Pan heard the sound of “Panpan,” she thought she was dreaming.

She was somewhat incredulous that Gu Shaoting, as she saw him, was so real.

Feeling surrounded by warmth, her anxious heart finally eased a bit.

She was genuinely surprised by Gu Shaoting’s timely arrival, like being acupunctured, her eyes staring straight at him.

“Gu Shaoting...” Shu Pan called him softly, as if confirming if all of this was real.

At the moment Gu Shaoting rushed into the room, everyone inside was dumbfounded.

They hadn’t expected anyone to find this place, let alone enter.

“Who are you?” Scarface asked sharply.

Before anyone could answer, a few people suddenly burst in from outside.

“Don’t move.” He Ming and the accompanying police officers rushed in.

The men were at a loss, not knowing what had happened. They put their hands on their heads and stared at the police in panic.

“You lot, come with us to the police station for questioning.” The police took them away.

He Ming glanced at Gu Shaoting and Shu Pan, then at Shu Pan’s appearance. Worried about any awkwardness, he left first..

Chapter 338: Don’t Be Afraid, I’m Here

After everyone had left, Shu Pan slowly regained a bit of consciousness. She used her hands to adjust the suit jacket, attempting to cover the exposed skin.

“It’s okay, don’t be afraid, I’m here.” The voice was the familiar, crisp tone that could bring her comfort.

Wrapped in Gu Shaoting’s suit jacket, emitting his usual light and pleasant fragrance, it truly was him...

No one knew the shock she felt when she heard him call her “Panpan.”

In that moment, she suddenly felt that everything before didn’t matter. He was like a hero, rescuing her in the darkest hour.

Shu Pan nodded, then huddled her body, leaning against him, and softly started to cry.

The sound was low but intermittent, and Gu Shaoting’s heart squeezed at the sound, feeling a dull pain in his chest.

After a while, he pulled her away from his embrace, her face now covered in tears, with visible imprints of slaps on her cheeks.

These people deserved to die; he would make them pay dearly for hurting her.

There seemed to be a burning fire in Gu Shaoting's eyes as he stared at her swollen face. His heart felt like it was being pricked with needles.

Seeing her tears falling like broken beads, Gu Shaoting silently vowed that these individuals would pay a painful price.

After adjusting his emotions, Gu Shaoting helped Shu Pan out. They still needed to go to the police station to provide statements.

Before leaving, Gu Shaoting also remembered to pick up the camera, taking out the memory card and placing it in a bag.

At the police station, the individuals were taken to a small, chilly room after finishing their statements.

Gu Shaoting accompanied Shu Pan, and there were several interruptions during the recording because Shu Pan kept breaking down, recalling the humiliating scene.

Unable to do anything else, Gu Shaoting could only hold her tightly in his arms.

"Chief Chen, why are you here?" The respectful and alarmed voice of the guards

reached Gu Shaoting's ears.

"Mr. Gu, I'm really sorry. How is Miss Shu now?" Chief Chen asked with concern. He had just found out about this influential figure being here.

Mr. Gu had considerable prestige in Bin City and had a say in both the legal and illegal spheres, so he couldn't be offended.

Now he realized he was late, and his forehead started to sweat.

“Chief Chen, I believe in the fairness of the law. The bad guys should receive the punishment they deserve. I hope you will handle this impartially.” Gu Shaoting’s tone was indifferent, but the meaning was obvious.

“Absolutely, it’s our fault for not handling things properly. Please forgive us.” The middle-aged man apologized respectfully.

Afterwards, he turned and instructed, “Thoroughly interrogate the individuals inside.”

The guard nodded, “Understood.”

Chief Chen looked at Gu Shaoting in his hand-cut suit. Even though he wore the suit jacket over Miss Shu, revealing only a white high-quality shirt, he didn’t lose his handsome image.

With his usual polite smile on his face, there was an inscrutable gleam in his eyes that sent a chill down one’s spine.

Gu Shaoting nodded and said nothing to the man referred to as Chief Chen. He nervously supported Shu Pan and slowly walked out.

The man saw them finish recording their statements and leaving, quickly escorting them to the door.

Knowing the car was far away, the middle-aged man finally breathed a sigh of relief.

Then, he walked indignantly into the room where those individuals were being held, intending to conduct a deeper interrogation; otherwise, he wouldn’t be able to explain to Mr. Gu..

Chapter 339: Worried

Gu Shaoting didn't take Shu Pan back to her home but brought her to Shuimu Qinghua.

He was concerned about the intense shock she had just experienced and didn't want her to be alone at home. After inquiring about Shu Pan's preference, she nodded gently. She didn't want to be alone now; the mere thought of that scene made her feel fearful and on the verge of collapse.

Upon their return to Shuimu Qinghua, considering the lateness of the hour, they decided to pick up Joy the next day. However, to ease Ye Xiaomeng's worries, Shu Pan called her.

"Girl, you scared me to death," Ye Xiaomeng exclaimed, her voice carrying a hint of tears, once the call connected.

Feeling a deep sense of guilt, Shu Pan had genuinely worried her good friend.

"Xiaomeng, don't worry. I'm safe now, everything's fine," Shu Pan said slowly and gently, each word pulling at her swollen face, causing pain down to her nerves.

"Girl... you're not allowed to scare me like that again!" Ye Xiaomeng hadn't fully calmed down yet.

Since the moment she found out about Shu Pan's incident, she was on edge, her mind restless. Even taking care of Joy was absentminded; Joy kept asking where her mom went, and she didn't know how to answer, so she repeatedly said her mommy was busy.

The mother and daughter seemed to have a telepathic connection, and Joy's

mood was low all night.

Ye Xiaomeng had to console her for a long time.

Just recently falling asleep, even though He Ming had informed her as soon as Shu Pan was found, she still felt it wasn't real, as if in a daze.

Now hearing Shu Pan's voice, although soft and low, it was undeniably real.

She could finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Since it was late, and Shu Pan had just returned, she didn't want to press Shu Pan about the details or ask if she had offended someone.

"Alright, take care. Could you look after Joy tonight? I'll pick her up tomorrow," Shu Pan genuinely felt remorse; she had indeed caused everyone unnecessary worry.

"It's okay, get some rest. Don't worry about Joy," Ye Xiaomeng knew that with Gu Shaoting by her side, Shu Pan was in good hands.

Tonight, she was particularly grateful to Gu Shaoting. If it weren't for him, she didn't dare to imagine what might have happened to Shu Pan.

They chatted for a while before hanging up the phone.

After ending the call, Shu Pan sat on the sofa, the dim light casting a delicate glow on her, making her appear fragile.

She seemed somewhat absent-minded; Shu Pan hadn't fully recovered from the recent incident.

She couldn't understand who harbored such deep hatred against her, intending to bring her to the brink of death.

The scarred man had shown her pictures of her daily life, indicating he knew her well and was well-informed about her whereabouts.

If compromising photos were taken this time, it would ruin her reputation.

She dared not imagine what might happen next.

Covering her face with her hands, she felt a stinging pain, a harsh reminder that something terrible had indeed occurred.

Gu Shaoting came out to see Shu Pan sitting on the sofa, lost in her thoughts, not uttering a word, immersed in her own little world.

“Panpan, come, let me help you freshen up. Get some rest,” Gu Shaoting approached her, gently calling out.

But Shu Pan remained motionless, just looking at him with a pair of dark, clear eyes, resembling an injured little animal, innocent and pitiful.

“It’s okay, don’t be afraid...” Gu Shaoting touched her hair gently, his voice unusually tender. With just a few simple words, he touched the most fragile nerve in Shu Pan’s heart, causing her eyes to fill with tears. Seeking comfort, she suddenly grabbed his hand.

Gu Shaoting’s heart trembled..

Chapter 340: Fragility

Shu Pan seemed unaware that now, every time she closed her eyes, she saw the figures of those people.

Gu Shaoting squeezed her hand gently, then patted her head before heading to the living room.

When he emerged, he had a freshly prepared glass of milk in his hand.

“Here, drink the milk, and get a good night’s sleep,” Gu Shaoting coaxed, treating her almost like a child. Indeed, at this moment, she appeared fragile and lost.

Shu Pan took the milk and took a few sips. The rich aroma of the milk instantly filled her mouth, emitting a faint fragrance.

The warmth of the milk reached her heart, bringing a sense of calm to Shu Pan.

“It’s very late; you should go to bed soon. You still have work tomorrow,” Shu Pan suggested.

“It’s okay. You just rest at home recently. I’ll help you take a day off tomorrow,” Gu Shaoting replied decisively.

“Then, could you please pick up Joy?” Shu Pan nodded.

“Sure. Also, what should we do with these film negatives?” Gu Shaoting suddenly remembered this matter.

He took out a thin memory card from his pocket and extended it toward Shu

Pan.

“No... Take it away, destroy it,” Shu Pan suddenly exclaimed excitedly. “Get rid of it.”

Shu Pan saw the memory card as if encountering a fierce beast...

“Alright, I’ll handle it. Everything is fine,” Gu Shaoting, although gentle in his words, carried an undeniable sense of hostility in his eyes.

Biting her lip, Shu Pan didn’t speak, but the tears on her eyelashes trembled slightly, as if about to fall.

“Gu Shaoting, I’m so scared...” Shu Pan spoke up again.

Listening once more, Gu Shaoting’s heart became entangled.

“Panpan, those who hurt you, I won’t let them go.” Gu Shaoting’s voice was calm, with a chilling undertone.

Finally calming Shu Pan, Gu Shaoting accompanied her back to the bedroom. As she lay down, Shu Pan couldn’t find peace; her sleep was restless.

Observing this, Gu Shaoting didn’t hesitate to lie down beside her. He gently patted her back, then tightly embraced her.

As the night grew deeper, he silently stayed by her side, softly stroking her back.

In his arms, Shu Pan gradually settled down.

After a while, Gu Shaoting felt the even breathing of the person in his arms.

She’s asleep.

Gu Shaoting relaxed his grip, looking at Shu Pan’s calm face. His heart was filled with self-blame.

He hadn’t protected her well. Seeing her swollen face, with her eyelashes still trembling from the recent tears, cut through him like a knife.

Shu Pan slept for a while. Gu Shaoting wanted to retract his numb arm, but whenever he moved, Shu Pan would restlessly shift.

Gu Shaoting suddenly dared not move, afraid of disturbing Shu Pan's sleep. He maintained the same posture until dawn.

In the morning, Shu Pan slowly opened her hazy eyes, her mind momentarily blank.

Suddenly, she felt warmth on her back, and a strong arm surrounded her waist.

Shu Pan immediately became alert, turning her face to see Gu Shaoting.

How did he end up sleeping next to her? Shu Pan was puzzled.

Suddenly, a scene flashed in her mind. In a daze, she grabbed his hand, not letting him go.

Shu Pan dared not think further, her face burning. She stared at him.

In his deep sleep, the coldness on Gu Shaoting's face was gone. His high nose, slightly raised eyebrows, made him look gentle.

Shu Pan felt the arm across her waist tighten slightly, and her face heated up again.

Fortunately, Gu Shaoting was still asleep; otherwise, it would be awkward..