

As Agreed 441

Chapter 441: Do You Think Love Is a Game?

"I've eaten something. What about you guys?"

"Joy had some noodles. I haven't eaten yet," Gu Shaoting said pitifully, his mind preoccupied with worry for Shu Pan, unsure if she had encountered any danger, so he had no appetite.

"Oh, then go ahead and eat something, and we can chat later," Shu Pan said as she took off her shoes and headed straight to the living room.

Gu Shaoting looked bewildered. He thought his remark would make Shu Pan nervous and prompt her to arrange dinner, but she seemed to ignore it altogether.

What was going on? Had something happened to her?

Following behind Shu Pan, he saw her chatting with Joy, looking like a devoted wife and mother, not much different from usual. He began to think he might have been overthinking things.

After helping Joy take a bath and letting her play in her room, Shu Pan came out to the living room and saw Gu Shaoting sitting on the sofa.

Gu Shaoting waved to her, indicating she should sit beside him.

Shu Pan could feel his gaze on her as she approached him. "Have you eaten?" she asked.

"I had some noodles left, so I ate them," Gu Shaoting replied, sensing that she had something to say. "Do you have something you want to talk to me about?"

Shu Pan sat down beside him and looked at him, trying to discern something from his gaze, like guilt perhaps?

But his gaze was firm and unwavering, showing no signs of wavering. She sighed softly and then spoke gently, "Shaoting, why do you want to be with me? Is it because of Joy?"

After saying it out loud, Shu Pan felt a lot lighter.

Ye Xiaomeng often said she was a person who stuck to her decisions, so when she decided to be with Gu Shaoting, she resolved to make it work and create a beautiful life together. But she didn't know what was going on in his mind. Was he just playing games or serious? She herself was confused.

The relationship was not solely determined by one person. It required mutual effort to maintain. Now that problems had arisen, they must face, and she had already prepared for the worst.

Her personality tended to make her vulnerable in love because the other person always seemed to take advantage of her. So this time, she didn't want to be passive. Self-deception was not her style.

"Why do you have such thoughts? If I wanted children, there are plenty of women willing to have them for me. But why do I only want to be with you? We've come so far, and yet you ask me such a question?" Gu Shaoting sounded disappointed.

He thought Shu Pan always understood him.

"Are you serious? What do you think is the most basic thing between partners? Let me tell you, it's honesty, it's loyalty," Shu Pan said, her voice tinged with excitement.

"Do you think I'm not serious? Not loyal?" Gu Shaoting's voice lowered, his gaze intense and inscrutable.

"I don't know," Shu Pan shook her head, her eyes slightly unfocused.

Before she could finish speaking, Gu Shaoting pushed Shu Pan down onto the sofa, his hot lips meeting hers in a fiery kiss.

Shu Pan was somewhat overwhelmed by his actions. Gu Shaoting held her tightly, as if he wanted to envelop her completely.

As he kissed her passionately, their lips and tongues intertwined, Shu Pan's mind went blank.

She struggled to push him away, but it was futile, only fueling his intensity.

Finally, Shu Pan collapsed into his arms, overcome by the clean and pleasant scent of Gu Shaoting. She found it hard to resist as his faint masculine aroma enveloped her senses.

After a while, Gu Shaoting released her, and Shu Pan took a deep breath, feeling as if she had just been suffocated.

She had always known Gu Shaoting to be mysterious and unpredictable, never able to guess what he would do next..

Chapter 442: You 're the One I Want to Spend the Rest of My Life With

Finally, Gu Shaoting sat up straight and looked at Shu Pan, her lips slightly swollen from his gentle kisses. His voice hoarse, he said, "Shu Pan, I'm telling you now, I love you. I am serious and loyal to you. You are the one I want to spend the rest of my life with."

Gu Shaoting's words caught Shu Pan off guard. His straightforward declaration was unexpected.

It seemed like she hadn't heard him say something like this in a long time.

Gu Shaoting sounded so certain, more determined than ever. Shu Pan was the one he wanted to be with for the rest of his life.

"Shaoting, you misunderstand me," Shu Pan pursed her lips and continued, "You can't claim to love me while holding another woman's hand. That's not the kind of love I want. I want absolute loyalty, not just empty words of loyalty while you're with other women. I've become a laughingstock, do you understand

how I feel?" Shu Pan's voice choked with emotion. Gu Shaoting frowned, "What other woman? What laughingstock?"

Why didn't he understand anything?

Shu Pan didn't expect Gu Shaoting to be so brazen. She was starting to lose respect for him.

"You have other women outside, and the whole world knows it. Do you think you can deceive everyone?" Shu Pan suddenly burst out in anger.

"Do you really not trust me? Do you think I'm that kind of person?" Gu Shaoting said, leaning in to kiss her again.

Shu Pan was prepared for this. She dodged and glared at Gu Shaoting. "Do you think every problem can be solved by doing this?"

"You want to accuse me, then make it clear to me so I know what I'm being blamed for," Gu Shaoting said helplessly.

If he didn't know that Shu Pan wasn't the type to make baseless accusations, he would have thought she was just being stubborn.

As Gu Shaoting spoke, Shu Pan began to doubt herself. Maybe she had jumped to conclusions too quickly. After all, assuming Gu Shaoting was cheating just because of a glimpse of someone's back seemed unreasonable.

But upon further reflection, there was no smoke without fire. If there wasn't an issue with him, why was he the only one caught in the picture?

She didn't want to keep this matter to herself. Some things needed to be addressed as soon as they were discovered. Letting it escalate into an uncontrollable situation would be unsightly.

“Do you not know what you’ve done?” Shu Pan snorted coldly.

“I really don’t know.” Gu Shaoting’s expression was genuinely innocent; he was

utterly bewildered.

“Unlock your phone and take a look at the entertainment news,” Shu Pan couldn’t be bothered to argue further. She instructed him directly to see for himself, unwilling to waste any more words on him.

Obediently, Gu Shaoting opened the news app on his phone and scrolled down to the entertainment section. With just a little scrolling, he stumbled upon a very familiar image.

Wasn’t this a picture of him with that annoying girl? How did it end up looking so ambiguous?

No wonder Secretary Zhang had been casting furtive glances at him all day; she probably recognized the back of his head.

If even Secretary Zhang thought so, no wonder Shu Pan was angry. She must have recognized him at first glance.

Thinking along these lines, his anger subsided, replaced by a sense of smug satisfaction. It proved that she cared about him, hence her reaction.

“Well, what do you think? You don’t recognize this person, do you? Have I wrongly accused you?” Shu Pan pointed at his photo, demanding answers.

Gu Shaoting looked at her. “Do you really not trust me? If there’s something, you can confront me face to face. From now on, you’re not allowed to sulk and not come home.”

“Does that mean you’re admitting it?” Shu Pan’s tone became more forceful.

Suddenly, Gu Shaoting cupped Shu Pan's face and kissed her fiercely once again..

Chapter 443: Let's Break Up

No, this time it wasn't a kiss, it was a bite, a punitive bite that quickly filled the space between their lips with a metallic taste.

Shu Pan winced in pain and tried to push him away, resorting to pinching him forcefully, but Gu Shaoting remained indifferent.

Despicable.

Finally, Shu Pan summoned all her strength and managed to shove him away.

"You admit it was you, right? Let me tell you, don't you dare touch me with hands that have touched other women. I find it disgusting!" Shu Pan yelled angrily.

Shu Pan was fuming. Since the issue was out in the open, there had to be a clear resolution today, not like Gu Shaoting's usual tactic of avoiding the problem by resorting to such means.

Shu Pan's calm demeanor and disdainful tone deeply wounded Gu Shaoting. He thought that after enduring so many hardships, they would understand each other better. However, the trust between them seemed so fragile.

Suddenly, Gu Shaoting felt exhausted. Now he understood why she was upset, but why hadn't she confronted him directly from the beginning?

"That was me in the picture, but that girl..." Gu Shaoting hadn't finished speaking when Shu Pan interrupted him.

"Gu Shaoting, let's break up. Being together was a mistake." Shu Pan covered her face with her hands as she spoke. She had fully accepted this reality now.

“Shu Pan, is that how you see our relationship? Do you think love is a game?” Gu Shaoting’s face darkened. He hadn’t expected Shu Pan to so easily utter the words “break up.”

“You already have another woman, and she’s younger and prettier than me,” Shu Pan’s eyes suddenly turned red, tears welling up, but she pretended to be strong, holding them back.

“She’s my cousin,” Gu Shaoting had to speak up.

“Ha, what a convenient excuse. Don’t you think it’s too cliché? Who are you trying to fool?” Shu Pan retorted sarcastically.

His sister? Probably just a step-sister, right? She had been with Gu Shaoting for years and had never heard about any sister.

Now, out of nowhere, a sister appeared, and they were even hugging and cuddling.

Gu Shaoting saw Shu Pan’s incredulous expression, and he was starting to get irritated. “Shu Pan, I’m not lying to you,” he said coldly before walking out onto the balcony.

Feeling agitated, he lit a cigarette and then took out his phone, dialing Gu Huanhuan’s number. “You’ve got 2 minutes. Clarify the entertainment news immediately, or your acting career ends here,” he said sternly into the phone.

“Bro, what’s the big deal with the news? It’s not like you’ll lose anything, and no one knows it’s you,” Gu Huanhuan protested on the other end of the line.

Finally, an opportunity like this had come up. She dared to use her cousin for publicity.

“Gu Huanhuan, you’ve got some nerve. You’ve learned all sorts of nonsense in the entertainment industry...” Gu Shaoting began, his frustration was evident.

“Bro, I get it. I’ll have my manager handle it right away,” Gu Huanhuan interrupted before Gu Shaoting could finish speaking.

She wasn’t crazy. If she let him handle it, she might really have to go back home.

She knew her cousin was petty and narrow-minded. Hmph!

No wonder he wasn’t liked by women. Gu Huanhuan cursed Gu Shaoting again.

It was only now that Gu Shaoting realized why that girl had acted that way that night. She might not have learned much, but she sure knew how to play games. Unbeknownst to him, he had also been fooled by her.

So, Shu Pan was sulking just because she recognized him, the silly girl.

“I’ll find an opportunity to introduce someone to you,” Gu Shaoting decided it would be more convincing if Gu Huanhuan explained herself, rather than him trying to justify again, lest Shu Pan thought he was making excuses..

Chapter 444: Are You Jealous?

“What person?” Gu Huanhuan suddenly became interested and asked curiously.

Gu Shaoting remained silent, maintaining an air of mystery.

“You’ll find out when the time comes. Get some rest,” Gu Shaoting said before hanging up without waiting for her response.

Ugh, he’s teasing again, but she was really itching to know who Gu Shaoting would introduce to her. Could it be his girlfriend? If so, she really had to thank her.

Gu Huanhuan began to look forward to that day.

Gu Shaoting took one final drag from his cigarette, extinguished it, and then turned back to the living room.

But Shu Pan was no longer there, so he hesitated for no more than a moment before entering the bedroom.

Seeing Shu Pan quietly folding clothes, he walked over and gently hugged her from behind.

Shu Pan was taken aback but didn't turn around or pull away.

"Silly, don't keep things to yourself in the future. I didn't lie to you; that girl is GU Huannuan, my second uncle's daughter. YOU didn't know her before because she was studying abroad," Gu Shaoting patiently explained.

Shu Pan suddenly recalled something; he had mentioned having a sister before, but she never had the chance to meet her, and now she was all grown up.

"That girl came back to become a star after graduation, causing quite a stir in the family. That night, I was dealing with her matters, which is why I came home late and didn't tell you," Gu Shaoting's deep voice echoed in her ears.

The breath he exhaled made her feel a bit strange.

"How is she now?" Shu Pan suddenly felt a little embarrassed, realizing she might have been unreasonable.

"I just called her to clarify things. That little troublemaker just wanted some scandal for publicity," Gu Shaoting said, sounding a bit frustrated.

"Oh," Shu Pan nodded.

“Now you’re not angry anymore, right? Can I interpret your behavior as jealousy?” Gu Shaoting teased, a faint smile playing on his lips.

His previously gloomy mood finally lightened.

“...,” Shu Pan was speechless.

Ugh...

Shu Pan felt utterly embarrassed, her face turning red. Thinking about how she didn’t clarify things before getting upset, she wished she could just disappear into the ground.

“Well, it’s not entirely my fault. You should’ve told me beforehand,” Shu Pan pouted, partly blaming Gu Shaoting.

“Okay, okay, it’s all my fault, my queen. Are you not angry with me now?” Gu Shaoting said with a smile.

Shu Pan leaned against him, listening to his strong heartbeat. She nuzzled into his embrace like a kitten, wrapping her arm around his lean waist.

“I’m not angry. Seeing the photos was disappointing because I felt like you betrayed our love. I can endure other people’s ridicule, but it hurts,” Shu Pan said softly.

In the end, their relationship was too fragile and needed more nurturing, more trust.

“Give me more confidence in the future. You and Joy are the people I care about the most,” Gu Shaoting gently stroked her head, speaking tenderly.

“Oh, and tomorrow, I’ll make time to introduce you to Huanhuan,” Gu Shaoting suddenly remembered.

"Are you sure?" Shu Pan felt a bit awkward, considering she used to be her sister-in-law, and now she was with her brother.

"That girl owes you an apology. She shouldn't have caused so much trouble," Gu Shaoting grumbled.

"Don't be too hard on her. I think she knows she was wrong."

Gu Shaoting couldn't help but lower his head and kiss Shu Pan. This time, his kiss was gentle, like a feather caressing her heart..

Chapter 445: After the Gossip

In the morning, a gentle breeze lifted the delicate white gauze curtains by the window sill.

Outside, the weather was clear and sunny. Shu Pan's eyelashes fluttered slightly as she remained half-awake, feeling the blanket draped over her smooth skin. Next to her, there was the warmth of another body.

She slowly sat up, feeling a soreness in her body that made her gasp. Glancing at the red marks on her skin, her face flushed.

Looking at the familiar man lying beside her, her heart softened.

Moving her sore body, her gaze inevitably fell on the man.

He was as handsome as ever, no, even more so in his peaceful slumber, serene.

At this moment, the man was quiet, clean, devoid of his usual coldness, appearing more approachable.

Shu Pan stared at him absentmindedly, recalling last night's misunderstanding. It only confirmed that he had already occupied such an important place in her heart.

Her level of concern for him had surpassed imagination.

Lost in thought for a while, Shu Pan hadn't come back to her senses yet.

But it seemed that the man was awakened by her movements, slowly opening his eyes.

As soon as he opened his eyes, they met her gentle gaze.

Shu Pan realized he had moved, but the thought of herself being unclothed made her cheeks flush again.

She quickly pulled up the blanket to cover herself, avoiding Gu Shaoting's eyes.

"Why don't you sleep a little longer?" Gu Shaoting asked, feeling irritated by yesterday's misunderstanding with her colleagues, which embarrassed her.

"I can't sleep anymore, it's already dawn," Shu Pan replied, looking out the window before trying to get up.

Gu Shaoting grabbed her wrist and pulled her towards him, causing her to fall into his embrace.

"Stop foolish around," Shu Pan pouted.

"Tonight after work, wait for me to pick you up, and then I've arranged to meet Huanhuan to introduce you two," Gu Shaoting said, planting a gentle kiss on her forehead.

"Okay," Shu Pan said softly, wrapping herself in the blanket before heading to the bathroom.

When Shu Pan arrived at the company, everyone pretended to be busy, stealing glances at her from time to time. She ignored them, knowing exactly what was going on. There was no need to clarify such matters everywhere.

Returning to her seat, Shu Pan took out her phone and browsed through entertainment news and social media. Strangely, the headline that was hot news yesterday seemed to have vanished without a trace today. It even gave Shu Pan a surreal feeling, as if the news was just a figment of her imagination, as if the incident never happened.

Shu Pan guessed that this was probably Gu Shaoting's doing. He wouldn't let such false reports linger around. He must have taken care of it.

Tang Wei quietly approached, glanced at Shu Pan, and then asked with concern, "Shu Pan, are you okay? You know the authenticity of entertainment news. It's all for entertainment, just a way to amuse the public, not necessarily true."

"Yeah, that's true. I'm fine, don't worry," Shu Pan replied with a smile towards her.

"That's good then." Tang Wei, seeing that she didn't seem to be forcing a smile, walked away reassured.

Shu Pan then immersed herself in her busy work.

At noon, Gu Shaoting called to ask how her day was going.

Shu Pan knew he was worried that she might still be facing strange looks from others, so he called to check on her.

Her heart warmed at his concern. Despite his outward appearance of coldness, he had a caring side too. It seemed he was increasingly concerned about her feelings and thoughts.

She gently assured him that she was fine, and everything was okay..

Chapter 446: In Law

In the evening, after finishing work, Shu Pan walked out of the company and stood at the entrance waiting for Gu Shaoting.

Today, because Joy was invited by a classmate to attend a birthday party, she didn't join them.

When Gu Shaoting drove up to pick up Shu Pan, many colleagues noticed.

Various thoughts crossed their minds. Some thought, "The CEO still values Shu Pan, otherwise why would he come to pick her up?" Others speculated that Shu Pan was just vain, not caring that the CEO had found someone else and was still with him.

Shu Pan didn't care about what others thought. She openly opened the car door and sat in the passenger seat. Gu Shaoting leaned over, fastened her seatbelt, and planted a kiss on her cheek.

"Everyone is watching," Shu Pan reminded him, startled.

"It's okay, I just want to show affection," Gu Shaoting said, pulling her close.

Shu Pan's face flushed red.

"Let's go, it's late," she urged him.

Because they were close by, everyone could see their interactions clearly, and this time, no one made wild guesses.

They thought to themselves, "We should butter up Shu Pan from now on. She might become the boss's wife soon."

It was normal for men to put on a show in public, so there was no need to make a big deal out of it.

When Gu Shaoting and Shu Pan arrived at the private room in the restaurant, Joy hadn't arrived yet.

This private room was insisted upon by Joy because she claimed to be a public figure now and didn't want to cause a commotion.

When Gu Shaoting heard this, he felt like he had a crow flying over his head. He never knew his sister was so self-absorbed.

Shortly after Shu Pan sat down, she excused herself to go to the restroom.

A while later, Joy arrived. She was wearing denim overalls, sporting glasses, and exuded youthful energy, the appropriate attire for her age.

Gu Shaoting was finally satisfied.

"Bro, you said you'd introduce me to someone. How come it's just you?" Huanhuan patted his shoulder and remarked.

"You sit down, she went to the restroom," Gu Shaoting replied casually.

"Bro, you're really not thoughtful enough. You got a girlfriend and didn't even mention it," Huanhuan reproached, 'You made me go around telling people how great the CEO of Gu Group is, and many people eager for his help were lining up to introduce women to him, but you just turned them all away without even looking at them. If it weren't for your previous marriage, I'd suspect your sexual orientation.'"

Sigh! For the sake of grandpa, for the sake of the Gu Family's posterity, she also put in a lot of effort, you know?

Seeing Gu Shaoting remain silent, Huanhuan continued, “Bro, what kind of women do you actually like? Innocent ones? Sexy ones?”

“You’ll find out soon enough,” Gu Shaoting said leisurely, picking up a teacup and slowly sipping his tea.

Huanhuan was very shocked. Although she had already guessed a bit, getting her brother to admit it in person wasn’t easy.

Just then, Shu Pan pushed open the door and entered.

“Why did it take you so long? I was starting to worry,” Gu Shaoting spoke up first.

“Oh, I happened to run into a classmate I hadn’t seen in a long time, so we chatted for a bit,” Shu Pan replied with a faint smile.

Huanhuan was completely stunned, as if struck by lightning. Her brother always surprised her in different ways.

“Come on, Huanhuan, she would be your in-law,” Gu Shaoting beckoned to her.

Shu Pan was once again startled by this unexpected address.

“Sister, hi” Gu Huanhuan called out sweetly. She was very cooperative. It seemed that she would soon become her in-law.

“Hello, Huanhuan, right? You can call me Shu Pan,” Shu Pan said with a smile, looking gentle and lovely.

Huanhuan was also a bit dumbfounded. Used to seeing women in the entertainment industry with heavy makeup, now seeing Shu Pan, she felt she was very clean and innocent, giving a comfortable feeling.. Moreover, she spoke softly, making women feel somewhat moved, let alone men?

Chapter 447: Dissing

Gu Huanhuan kept staring at Shu Pan, making Shu Pan feel quite embarrassed.

“Someone is talking to you,” Gu Shaoting said to Huanhuan.

“Oh, sorry, Sister Pan is too beautiful, I was just stunned,” Huanhuan smiled.

Shu Pan’s face instantly turned red. She could only be described as delicate, and being called “beautiful” by Huanhuan was truly an overstatement.

“Smooth talker...” Gu Shaoting chuckled, but there was pride in his tone. This girl was quite witty.

Although she was a woman, he didn’t like her looking at Shu Pan like that. His possessiveness was quite evident.

“Come, have a seat. What would you like to eat?” Seeing the interaction between the cousins, Shu Pan couldn’t help but feel envious. After all, she was an only child and didn’t have any cousins.

“Yeah. Sister Pan, you treat me so well. You don’t know how my brother usually treats me. It’s enough to make me shed tears.” Huanhuan held Shu Pan’s hand, looking pitiful, almost as if she were about to shed a few tears.

“Gu Huanhuan, are you itching for trouble again?” Gu Shaoting threatened upon hearing her complaint.

“Sister Pan, you see, my cousin is scolding me again,” Huanhuan said confidently with Shu Pan by her side.

“Alright, Shaoting, let’s order quickly. I’m hungry,” Shu Pan looked at Gu Shaoting with expectant eyes, her gaze like autumn water, making Gu Shaoting somewhat unable to resist.

“Okay.” Gu Shaoting signaled the waiter to take their order.

“Sister Pan, thank you for putting up with my brother. He must be difficult to deal with,” Huanhuan whispered to Shu Pan, not daring to let Gu Shaoting hear her complaining about him.

Shu Pan was taken aback. She thought, “Difficult to deal with? Not really. He’s the kind of person who appears cold to outsiders but is warm to his family.” Besides, when you love someone, you tend not to see their faults.

She smiled faintly and replied, “No, that’s just the impression he gives to outsiders.”

Gu Huanhuan could tell that Shu Pan genuinely loved her cousin, not for any other reason.

Because she noticed that Shu Pan was carrying a bag from an unknown brand and wearing non-designer clothes, all very ordinary.

Normally, being with her cousin meant there was no need to worry about money at all, let alone designer brands. Yet she still insisted on dressing in her own style, not chasing after brand names or changing because she had a wealthy boyfriend.

It was truly rare. And one more important thing was that she could control her cousin!

Didn’t you see? With just a glance from Shu Pan, her cousin became nervous. What a sight.

The food arrived.

Gu Shaoting immediately helped Shu Pan with the dishes and served her soup.

This made Gu Huanhuan pout and whine beside them.

“What about me?”

“Don’t you have hands of your own? Take whatever you want,” Gu Shaoting said without even looking at her, while urging Shu Pan to eat more.

Gu Huanhuan pouted, typical favoritism towards his girlfriend over his family.

“Huanhuan, what would you like to eat? I’ll get it for you,” Shu Pan quickly asked, seeing Gu Shaoting neglecting Huanhuan.

“Ignore her, aren’t you hungry? Eat quickly,” Gu Shaoting interrupted before Huanhuan could speak.

“Sister Pan, you eat. I’ll get it myself. I have to watch my figure; I can’t eat recklessly,” Gu Huanhuan finally felt a bit comforted. Although her brother was annoying, he had found a good woman.

“What nonsense. You shouldn’t be picky. Eat more; don’t ruin your health just to become a star,” Gu Shaoting stopped eating and reproached her. “Huanhuan, is being a star really so demanding?” Shu Pan asked curiously.

“Yeah, sister Pan, are you interested? I can introduce you to a director. With your looks, you’ll definitely make it big,” Gu Huanhuan completely ignored Gu Shaoting’s presence as she encouraged Shu Pan..

Chapter 448: Do You Want a Little Brother?

Gu Shaoting’s face immediately darkened upon hearing this. He thought to himself that in the future, he should keep Shu Pan away from Huanhuan as much as possible.

This girl was just too unreliable.

"I definitely couldn't do it, and I couldn't stand exposing my privacy like that either," Shu Pan laughed and shook her head.

She couldn't live that kind of lifestyle.

"That's a shame," Huanhuan said disappointedly.

"Do you have any favorite celebrities? I can help you get autographs," Huanhuan suddenly thought of it and asked.

"No, I don't follow celebrities," Shu Pan thought for a moment and then shook her head.

"Don't you think Lu Xiaofan is handsome? He has six-pack abs," Huanhuan said excitedly.

"I don't know him," Shu Pan looked confused.

"I'll show you a picture next time, and I can introduce you to him. We're from the same agency," Huanhuan was very loyal, always willing to share good things.

She didn't notice that face had turned as black as the bottom of a pot.

"Huanhuan, don't corrupt your sister Pan. Be careful, or I'll deal with you," Gu Shaoting gritted his teeth.

He regretted introducing Shu Pan to Huanhuan. That girl was trouble, and he worried she might lead Shu Pan astray.

Huanhuan suddenly realized her mistake. She had gotten too carried away and forgotten about this person.

“Just kidding,” Huanhuan quickly apologized. She wasn’t stupid. If her brother found out her intentions, she’d probably be the first to suffer.

“From now on, stick to doing things honestly and don’t have any crooked ideas,” Huanhuan knew he was referring to the recent gossip. Huanhuan rolled her eyes and replied, “Got it.”

Then, she turned to Shu Pan and said, “Sorry, sister Pan, for the misunderstanding. I didn’t mean to upset you.”

Shu Pan felt embarrassed about her reaction.

“It’s okay, your cousin didn’t explain it clearly,” Shu Pan shifted the blame onto Gu Shaoting.

It seemed he was the one caught in the crossfire without even moving.

But Gu Shaoting dared not speak ill of Shu Pan; he could only glare at

Huanhuan.

Huanhuan made a face at him.

Shu Pan found their interaction very amusing.

After dinner, Gu Shaoting first dropped Huanhuan off at home, then they went to pick up Joy.

Joy, being excited from having had a great time, kept chatting with Shu Pan, unable to fall asleep.

Helpless, Shu Pan called Gu Shaoting to comfort her while she went to take a shower.

Gu Shaoting leaned against the bedside and then solemnly asked Joy, "Joy, do you want a little brother?"

"Yes, little brothers are very cute," Joy happily replied, because her classmate had a cute little brother, tiny and fair, looking very fun.

"If you want a little brother, you need to go to bed early, and you have to sleep by yourself without Mommy accompanying you. That's how Mommy will have a little brother for you."

"Really? Then I'll sleep by myself from now on and go to bed early," Joy said, covering herself with the blanket and closing her eyes.

Gu Shaoting smiled knowingly.

In no time, Joy fell asleep.

When Shu Pan came out of the shower and saw that Joy was asleep, she looked at Gu Shaoting with admiration.

"You're amazing, you managed to put her to sleep so quickly. Do you have any secrets?" Shu Pan asked him.

"That's a secret," Gu Shaoting said mysteriously, knowing he couldn't tell her.

"Okay, from now on, I'll leave it to you to comfort her," Shu Pan said, intending to leave Joy's room.

Shu Pan was wearing a rather sexy nightgown tonight, a white silk gown that complemented her skin beautifully, looking ethereal. Gu Shaoting couldn't help but stare, then he grabbed Shu Pan from behind.

"Let's work towards fulfilling Joy's wish," he said, ignoring Shu Pan's protests as he closed the bedroom door..

Chapter 449: Prepare a Surprise

The next day, Gu Shaoting went to the company in high spirits, and everyone thought something good had happened when they saw him.

Gu Shaoting called He Ming over. "Ming, can you help me contact a famous jewelry company to design a unique ring? I want to propose to Shu Pan."

Gu Shaoting got straight to the point.

"Congratulations," He Ming sincerely congratulated him.

"But nothing is certain yet. I'm nervous and uncertain about what Shu Pan thinks," Gu Shaoting admitted. He knew he really wanted to marry Shu Pan; the idea had been with him since they started dating. Now, the desire was stronger than ever. Shu Pan was so wonderful; he couldn't wait to make her his wife.

"Shu Pan will say yes, don't worry," He Ming reassured him. With Joy around and Shu Pan's genuine affection for Gu Shaoting, which woman wouldn't want a family?

"What about you? Want to join us? It'll be fun, and we can even go on a honeymoon abroad together," Gu Shaoting suddenly thought it was a great idea.

"Sigh, my mom is still very much against it. I don't know how to convince her," He Ming said with a bitter smile.

Gu Shaoting suddenly remembered he hadn't told Song Can about his plan to marry Shu Pan.

After their last falling out, Song Can had been traveling abroad with friends frequently, so Gu Shaoting rarely saw her now.

“Give Auntie some time. Your persistence will probably convince her in the end,” Gu Shaoting felt helpless.

“Guess we have no choice,” He Ming nodded.

“I know a jewelry designer; I’ll have him contact you. You can discuss the style you want,” He Ming offered.

“Thanks,” Gu Shaoting walked to the window, thinking about how to surprise Shu Pan. This time, he wanted to give her a special proposal.

His first marriage had been rushed, and he hadn’t truly loved Shu Pan at the time, so both the proposal and the wedding had been casual affairs.

He figured Shu Pan must have felt envious when she saw others in wedding dresses, but because she loved him, she silently endured the grievance.

Every time he thought about the past, Gu Shaoting felt like a jerk.

Fortunately, he still had a chance to make it up to her. So this time, he wanted to give Shu Pan a perfect wedding, leaving her with no regrets.

He Ming quickly contacted the designer, known as a “design genius,” who was now in high demand. Many people wanted him to design for them, but he selected clients carefully.

Because of his familiarity with He Ming and knowing that this client was the CEO of the Gu Group, he agreed promptly.

After all, such a client had no budget constraints for the ring, allowing him to design the best piece with full dedication. It was also an excellent opportunity for publicity.

Gu Shaoting arranged to meet the designer at a tea house with a pleasant ambiance. He shared his ideas with the designer and suggested incorporating some modern trendy elements.

After a lengthy discussion, they finally reached a consensus.

Gu Shaoting urged the designer to work quickly. He really didn't want to wait any longer.

With the matter settled, he breathed a sigh of relief. Now, he had to plan the proposal carefully.

now declined most social invitations, opting to return home early.

He cherished every moment with them, every second.

Because he had once lost, he now treasured even more..

Chapter 450: Annoying

It was a sunny weekend, and Shu Pan thought it would be nice to go out for a stroll.

Gu Shaoting took Joy out to play golf. He had invited Shu Pan, but she wasn't interested. Instead, she decided to catch up with Xiaomeng, whom she hadn't seen in a while.

When Shu Pan called Xiaomeng, she was still in bed, seeming lazy and unenthusiastic. However, she didn't want to spend the whole day in bed, so she got up.

The two arranged to meet at the pedestrian street. They used to enjoy shopping at malls but now wanted a change of scenery.

When Shu Pan saw Xiaomeng, she was surprised to see that she seemed even thinner than before.

Wanting to catch up on Xiaomeng's recent life, they found a place to have a drink and chat.

"Xiaomeng, why do you seem so down?" Compared to Shu Pan's radiant appearance, Xiaomeng seemed tired and worn out.

"Ah, girl, do you think I should keep going with He Ming? I'm feeling really exhausted now." Xiaomeng sighed.

"Has He Ming said something?" Shu Pan furrowed her brows, feeling guilty for neglecting Xiaomeng lately due to being busy.

"No, that's the thing. He didn't say anything, and that's what's bothering me. It's hard for him to be caught in the middle, between me and his mom." Xiaomeng's mood sank further as she spoke.

"Is his mom still hung up on that issue?" Shu Pan asked.

"She doesn't outright express it, but her attitude is always cold whenever I visit. It's like she's a different person compared to before." Xiaomeng felt sad. She had finally found someone who cherished her, so why did this have to happen? She was even hesitant to visit He's home now, especially since He's mother didn't seem to like her.

"Xiaomeng, do you and He Ming have plans to get married? If you do, maybe having a child could soften her attitude." Shu Pan suggested, thinking it could be a good solution.

Xiaomeng blushed instantly. "Actually, we're not using contraception now, so we'll just let nature take its course. If it happens, we'll have the baby."

Shu Pan nodded.

"But, girl, do you think my miscarriage last time might have affected me? We haven't used contraception for several months, but there's been no sign of anything happening," Xiaomeng suddenly felt worried. If she couldn't have a child, she would be left with no hope at all.

"It's okay, don't overthink it. After all, the arrival of a child depends on fate. Maybe it will happen soon? Just relax," Shu Pan reassured her, knowing Xiaomeng was under a lot of mental stress.

"Yeah, I hope so. And what about you? You look so happy. Everything going well?" Xiaomeng felt genuinely happy for Shu Pan, seeing her glowing with happiness.

Shu Pan thought about how Gu Shaoting would cling to her every night, and her face flushed slightly. He had no self-control: she would have to remind him to be more careful in the future.

"I'm doing fine. But you should take care of yourself. If you're still worried, you can go to the hospital for a comprehensive check-up. That way, you can feel more at ease," Shu Pan suggested. After all, with modern medicine, many difficult conditions can be addressed.

Thinking back to when she had trouble conceiving, she remembered sneaking off to the hospital for tests. That was the beginning of everything that followed.

"Okay, I'll find some time to go to the hospital," Xiaomeng's heart was filled with a sense of foreboding. She couldn't shake the feeling that something wasn't right. Given her past experiences, she felt it was best to get checked out thoroughly..