

As Agreed 451

Chapter 451: Song Can's Objection

Shu Pan felt uneasy seeing Ye Xiaomeng's low spirits, but she felt helpless. All she could do was silently pray for better days for her friend.

Xiaomeng had already endured so much hardship to find her current happiness; it would be cruel to take it away now.

After exchanging a few words, the heavy conversation dampened their spirits, and they soon parted ways after their shopping trip.

When Shu Pan returned home and found that neither Gu Shaoting nor Joy had returned yet, she was surprised. Checking the time, she decided to call Gu Shaoting. The phone rang several times before he finally answered, on the verge of being automatically disconnected.

"Shaoting, why haven't you and Joy come back yet? Have you eaten?" Shu Pan asked with concern.

"We... have something to take care of. We'll be back later," Gu Shaoting replied somewhat evasively, hinting at something he couldn't disclose to Shu Pan.

"Okay, then. I'll take a nap. Call me when you're back," Gu Shaoting didn't want to elaborate, and Shu Pan didn't press further. Everyone had their own little secrets.

Gu Shaoting was unsure where to start. While they were at the golf course, he received a call from Song Can, who had just returned from overseas and hadn't seen him in a long time. She asked him to come home, bringing Joy along as well.

Joy was her granddaughter, but she had never called Song Can "grandma" before.

Initially, Gu Shooting wanted to refuse because he hadn't discussed it with Shu Pan. But then he realized that since he was about to propose to Shu Pan, he needed to inform Song Can about it as well.

So he took Joy back to the Gu family mansion.

"Daddy, whose house is this?" Joy asked curiously, not recalling ever being here before.

"This is Daddy's house, and it's also Joy's house. But right now, Grandma lives here," Gu Shooting patiently explained.

"Grandma?" Joy was unfamiliar with the term.

"Yes, it's Daddy's mom. You call her Grandma, okay?" Gu Shooting clarified.

Joy nodded, seeming to understand.

They had barely reached the doorstep when Song Can opened the door, having already heard their voices from inside.

"Oh my_ who's this little darling?"

Joy felt a bit shy. She glanced at Gu Shooting, who gave her an encouraging look, and then softly said, "Grandma."

"Good girl, come on in. Grandma bought some fresh fruits," Song Can said, pulling Joy inside.

Gu Shooting followed behind, feeling like a transparent person.

"Mom, I want to talk to you about something," Gu Shooting said after letting Joy go play in the room.

“What is it?” Song Can responded absentmindedly. After all, now that her son was grown up and had his own decisions, informing her of his decisions was just a formality. He didn’t really care about her opinion.

“I’m going to marry Shu Pan soon,” Gu Shaoting announced solemnly.

“What?” Song Can’s brow furrowed upon hearing this sudden news.

“Just as you heard. I hope you’ll attend our wedding and bless us,” Gu Shaoting said, expecting her opposition.

“Shaoting, haven’t you reconsidered? You’ve already been married once, and it ended in divorce. It proves that you’re not suitable for each other. You have a child together, but that doesn’t necessarily mean you have to get married again,” Song Can advised earnestly.

If he remarried Shu Pan, she would likely become the subject of ridicule in high society.

All of her friends’ daughters-in-law were either wealthy or talented. Unlike Shu Pan, who was so ordinary and couldn’t assist Shaoting in any meaningful way..

Chapter 452: I’m Not Asking for Your Opinion

“Mom, I’m just informing you, not seeking your opinion,” Gu Shaoting spoke calmly.

“Are you trying to anger me? You’re my son, would I harm you? With your status, you could find any woman you want. At the very least, find someone from a similar background who can assist each other,” Song Can said indignantly.

“My career doesn’t need someone to add luster to it,” he replied. He had never considered marrying into another influential family.

Was he crazy? Was his happiness more important or was his career? He would work hard for his career.

"I disagree, and I won't attend your wedding," Song Can said stubbornly.

Gu Shaoting's eyes dimmed.

"Mom, I respect you, which is why I'm telling you this now. Let me reiterate, I will only marry Shu Pan, and we also have a daughter, Joy. Don't you want the best for your granddaughter?" Gu Shaoting couldn't understand why Song Can didn't like Shu Pan.

Shu Pan was always kind and respectful to others, including her. She always obeyed her commands.

"Suit yourself," Song Can said with a sour expression.

She regretted coming back. Maybe it was better to settle abroad. Out of sight, out of mind. But now she was starting to feel attached to Joy.

"I'll come back to see you when I have time," Gu Shaoting said, seeing that the conversation was getting too heated to continue.

"When will you change Joy's name back to our family name? She's our Gu family's granddaughter. She should bear the Gu surname, not Shu's," Song Can had thought about this for a long time but hadn't had the chance to bring it up.

"I haven't discussed this with Shu Pan yet. Anyway, she's our child. What does it matter what surname she has? Let's see what Shu Pan wants. If she wants to change it, she can, if not, then so be it," Gu Shaoting felt this was a trivial matter. He wasn't that rigid.

"No, it must be changed," Song Can got angry seeing Gu Shaoting's indifferent attitude. Had he been enchanted by Shu Pan?

“Mom, don’t worry about this. I have a plan,” Gu Shaoting didn’t want to upset her further, so he brushed it off lightly.

“Grandma, Daddy, are you fighting?” Joy suddenly came out of the room, hearing loud voices outside.

“No, your dad and I were just discussing something. Adults tend to speak loudly when they talk,” Song Can quickly replied, feeling remorseful for forgetting that Joy was still in the room.

She was very clear about this. It wasn’t good for a child’s development to witness arguments between adults.

“Yeah, Joy, we’re going home now. Mommy is waiting for us at home,” Gu Shaoting said, taking Joy’s hand.

“Sweetie, remember to visit Grandma more often in the future, okay?” Song Can said, her eyes filled with indulgence, a complete contrast to her earlier angry expression.

“Okay,” Joy replied in her childish voice.

Back at home, Shu Pan had just woken up.

“Here, I packed some snacks for you,” Gu Shaoting smiled slightly, feeling relaxed only at home.

“That’s great, I’m hungry,” Shu Pan said coquettishly, her voice soft and sweet.

Seeing her playful demeanor, Gu Shaoting’s heart skipped a beat.

Fresh out of bed, her cheeks were rosy, her long hair casually tied into a ponytail with a few strands falling naturally, giving her a lazy yet charming look.

Gu Shaoting was a bit mesmerized. Why did he feel like he couldn't get enough of her? He almost wanted to tie her to his waist.

"What are you staring at?" Shu Pan waved her hand in front of him.

"Nothing," he grabbed her hand and kissed it.

"Stop fooling around, Joy is here," Shu Pan tapped him lightly.

"Eat up. Why did you come back so soon today? Weren't you supposed to go shopping with Xiaomeng?" Gu Shaoting hung up his coat and casually asked..

Chapter 453: Business Travel (1)

"Xiaomeng wasn't feeling very well, so we just had a drink and came back," Shu Pan sighed, clearly affected by Xiaomeng's mood.

Gu Shaoting also understood the reason behind it, feeling helpless.

Just then, Gu Shaoting's phone rang. He walked to the living room to answer the call.

"Mommy, we're going to see Grandma today," Joy whispered to Shu Pan.

"Grandma?" Shu Pan repeated, puzzled.

"Yeah, Daddy's mommy," Joy raised her voice, afraid Shu Pan wouldn't know who she meant.

"Oh, what are you going there for?" Shu Pan asked, curious.

“I don’t know, I was playing, but they’re speaking so loudly,” Joy tilted her

head, thinking for a moment before replying.

Shu Pan’s hand paused as she was eating her snack. Were they arguing? What was it about? Was it because of her?

Shu Pan glanced at Gu Shaoting. He was still on the phone, speaking in a language she didn’t understand. Listening to his deep, magnetic voice, Shu Pan found herself momentarily distracted, feeling a bit embarrassed.

After Shu Pan finished eating, Gu Shaoting ended the call. Joy had already gone to her room to play.

He walked over, looking at her with affection, gently touching her hair.

“Panpan, I have a business trip to France. I’m leaving tomorrow.”

“Huh?” Shu Pan suddenly snapped out of her daze, eyes widening. “Why so sudden? Did something happen?”

There had been no warning signs. Why did he suddenly have to go on a

business trip? Surely something significant must have happened for him to leave so suddenly.

“There’s a bit of an issue over there that needs my attention,” There were some problems with the collaboration with Mr. John, and he needed to handle it personally.

Shu Pan hugged him, nuzzling his chest, wrinkling her nose. “How long will you be gone? Both Joy and I will miss you.”

Gu Shaoting paused for a moment, seeming a bit moved. He rarely saw Shu Pan express herself like this. With a smile in his deep eyes, he replied, "Really?"

Probably about a week."

Blushing, Shu Pan nodded. "That long?"

They had been spending every day together recently, so now that he suddenly had to go on a business trip, she was starting to feel a bit uneasy.

"I'll try to come back as soon as possible," Gu Shaoting held her tightly, kissing her ear before finding her lips and kissing her directly. His hands started to wander a bit, but luckily, Shu Pan still had her wits about her and stopped him in time.

"Don't, Joy is still here. Can't you see what time it is?" Shu Pan chided playfully. This man really didn't care about the occasion or the time.

Before, she had no idea that he, who was usually so cold and reserved, had such strong desires in this regard.

Now, he was almost clinging to her every night, and she had no idea where he got so much energy from.

"Well, then you better make it up to me tonight," Gu Shaoting whispered in her ear, leaving behind an ambiguous remark.

"Ugh, you're so annoying," Shu Pan blushed and gave him a shy glare.

Because Gu Shaoting would be away on a business trip for so long, Shu Pan took on the role of the perfect wife and mother.

She helped him pack his bags, opened his closet, which was filled with neatly hung shirts, trousers, and suits.

Gu Shaoting loved watching Shu Pan organize his things. She looked like a virtuous wife, devoted only to him.

Sure enough, that night, Gu Shaoting kept his promise, repeating his actions over and over until Shu Pan begged him to stop.

Afterward, Gu Shaoting hugged Shu Pan. "You'll have a lot on your plate lately. If you need help, just ask He Ming. There's a lot going on here, and this time it's just me and Secretary Zhang going."

Shu Pan nodded, then asked, "Don't you have anything to tell me?"

Gu Shaoting lowered his head to give her a kiss. "I'll miss you."

Shu Pan frowned slightly, clearly unsatisfied with his response..

Chapter 454: Business Travel (2)

"What's wrong?" Gu Shaoting sensed her unease.

"Today, you and Joy went back to the Gu Family's mansion," Shu Pan's tone was affirmative.

As soon as Gu Shaoting heard this, he knew that little traitor Joy had spilled the beans.

"Yeah, Mom came back from her trip, so I went to see her on the way," Gu Shaoting didn't want her to feel burdened.

"Did you two have a fight?" Shu Pan asked cautiously.

“No, what nonsense are you thinking? Just wait for me to come back obediently,” Gu Shaoting hugged her even tighter.

Shu Pan nodded obediently.

Seeing her like that, Gu Shaoting couldn't resist.

The night was still young.

In the early morning, Gu Shaoting woke up promptly at seven because he had to catch a flight.

Meanwhile, Shu Pan was still lying in bed, the covers slightly slipping off, revealing the bruises and marks all over her body.

Gu Shaoting gently pulled up the covers for her, then got up and went to Joy's room.

His phone was already on, and there was an incoming call. “Mr. Gu, it's almost time.”

“Okay, I'll be down soon. You drive and wait for me downstairs,” Gu Shaoting said softly, worried about disturbing Shu Pan and Joy.

After getting ready, he decided to stop by the bedroom before leaving. He leaned down and kissed Shu Pan. She seemed to sense it and slowly opened her eyes.

“Are you leaving so early?” Shu Pan's throat was dry, making her voice hoarse.

“Yeah, you don't have to go to work today. Just sleep a little longer. Joy hasn't woken up yet,” Gu Shaoting touched her cheek gently.

Shu Pan had intended to get up to see Gu Shaoting off, but she was too exhausted to move. As he was leaving, she held his hand. “Remember to call me when you get to France.”

"Okay," Gu Shaoting smiled gently.

After Gu Shaoting left, Shu Pan felt the emptiness in the house and found it somewhat unsettling. Since it was the weekend and she hadn't visited her father and aunt in a long time, she decided to take Joy and go out.

When they returned, both elders were undoubtedly overjoyed. Auntie Lu glanced behind them, and Shu Pan found it odd.

"What's wrong, Auntie Lu?"

"It's nothing. Isn't he coming back with you?" Auntie Lu asked, displeased.

Shu Pan smiled, "He's on a business trip to France. Since it's the weekend, we decided to come back and visit you."

Lu Lifen noticed Shu Laide taking Joy out and grabbed Shu Pan's arm. "Panpan, has Shaoting mentioned anything about marriage to you?"

Shu Pan shook her head. She hadn't really thought about it, and it seemed Gu Shaoting hadn't brought it up either.

"Are you foolish? A woman must have status and recognition," Auntie Lu said, with a look of frustration.

It was exasperating.

Seeing Auntie Lu's reaction, Shu Pan felt a mix of annoyance and gratitude. "Well, don't worry, Auntie Lu. Shaoting and I have only been together for a short time. We need time to adjust, especially since we've been apart for so many years. Who knows if it'll work out?" Shu Pan comforted her. If Gu Shaoting didn't bring up marriage, she certainly wouldn't either. That would lower her value too much. It's not like she was desperate to get married.

“Your father’s birthday is next month. Bring him back here, and we’ll ask him what he thinks about it,” Auntie Lu suggested after a moment of thought.

Shu Pan felt a bit stunned. Was this an attempt to pressure her into marriage?

She smiled wryly, “Auntie Lu, I know where I stand on this matter. Please don’t worry.”

“When you two got married before, your father rarely inquired about anything happening at home on his birthday. But things are different now. If a man cares about you, he’ll care about your family too,” Lu Lifan had always had some reservations about this son-in-law.

Now they would see how he behaved. If he wasn’t the right person, they wouldn’t agree..

Chapter 455: Why Not Pregnant?

“Yeah, I understand. I’ll let him know,” Shu Pan nodded, now observing his behavior.

“Please don’t overburden yourself, okay?” Lu Lifan reiterated.

“Okay,” Shu Pan replied, feeling deeply touched.

Shu Pan and Joy stayed overnight, only leaving Bin City the next day.

As soon as they arrived back at the Shuimu Qinghua residence, Gu Shaoting called. “Just arrived?”

“Yes, we’re here and settled in. Finally got a moment to call you,” Shu Pan said, feeling sorry for him after such a long flight.

"Take good rest. Call me whenever you're free," Gu Shaoting redirected the conversation.

"What are you up to?" Shu Pan asked.

"Just went back to see Dad and Aunt Lu," Shu Pan replied truthfully.

"Okay. If you need anything, ask He Ming. I'll be quite busy for the next few days," Gu Shaoting said.

"Focus on your work. We'll take care of ourselves," Shu Pan felt he became more caring than before, warming her heart.

After hanging up, Shu Pan felt a pang of longing. She was starting to miss him. His usual presence and care made his sudden absence hard to get used to.

Ever since her last meeting with Shu Pan, Ye Xiaomeng had been feeling anxious about why she hadn't gotten pregnant yet.

Despite not taking any precautions for the past few months and engaging in frequent intercourse, she couldn't understand why she wasn't pregnant.

Thinking about her recent menstrual cycle only made her feel a cold dread.

During her periods, she experienced intense abdominal pain, so severe that she had to resort to drinking ginger water with brown sugar.

Was it the aftermath of her previous miscarriage? Was there something wrong with her body? Was she unable to conceive?

The more Ye Xiaomeng thought about it, the more confused she became. If she truly couldn't have children, she knew she and He Ming would inevitably part

ways.

She couldn't bear to burden He Ming, knowing he was an only child and didn't want him to carry the burden of being childless.

Ye Xiaomeng felt hopeless.

She couldn't bring herself to tell He Ming about her worries, afraid he would worry about her. He would surely comfort her and tell her not to worry.

She knew how much He Ming loved children. Every time he saw Joy, his eyes lit up, and he would often joke about having their own child who would be just as adorable.

The thought of seeing disappointment in his eyes terrified her.

After careful consideration, Ye Xiaomeng decided to secretly visit the hospital to find out what was wrong.

The next day, while He Ming was at work, Ye Xiaomeng took the day off and went to the hospital to see a reputable gynecologist.

"Doctor, I haven't been using contraception, so why haven't I gotten pregnant?" Ye Xiaomeng asked nervously.

The doctor was a middle-aged woman in her late forties, who had seen too many young people fretting over not getting pregnant immediately, so she understood their anxiety very well.

"Don't worry, getting pregnant also depends on fate. Let me first prescribe some tests for you to check the results, and then we can tailor the treatment accordingly," the doctor's words comforted Ye Xiaomeng's anxious heart.

She obediently followed the doctor's instructions, undergoing blood tests, ultrasounds, and other examinations. She couldn't help but feel envious as she watched many pregnant women with their husbands by their sides, proudly walking around with their baby bumps.

The wait for the results was agonizing. During this time, He Ming called her to ask what she was doing, but she hastily made up an excuse and hung up.

Sitting on the hospital bench, the strong scent of disinfectant stung her nose, making her feel nauseous. But what worried her more was the outcome of her tests.

Finally, she received the results. She didn't have the courage to open them herself, so she held onto them tightly and went to find the doctor..

Chapter 456: Is There Something Wrong With Your Body?

When Ye Xiaomeng handed the results to the doctor, she froze in place, as if awaiting a verdict.

She watched the doctor's expressions closely, her heart racing like a rollercoaster ride. Sometimes the doctor frowned, sometimes her face remained neutral.

"Have you had a miscarriage before?" the doctor asked, setting down the results.

Ye Xiaomeng's heart skipped a beat. Was there really a problem? Why would the doctor ask that?

"Yes... Doctor..." Ye Xiaomeng felt her voice trembling.

"Don't be nervous. There are treatments for all kinds of problems, and yours isn't too serious. Just need to be a bit more careful," the doctor paused for a moment, then continued, "Your fallopian tubes have some adhesions, but not severe, and there's also some inflammation. I'll prescribe some medication to clear it up for you."

“Okay, thank you, doctor,” Ye Xiaomeng’s heart calmed down a bit. “Refrain from intercourse for a while, and come back for a follow-up after completing the medication course,” the doctor advised.

“Okay.” Ye Xiaomeng took the prescription and went to get the medication.

Coincidentally, Mother He had come to the hospital for a headache recently.

She spotted Ye Xiaomeng coming out of the gynecologist’s office from a distance.

Mother He looked puzzled. Was Xiaomeng pregnant? She followed her to the pharmacy, her steps unconsciously following.

Ye Xiaomeng waited for her turn, lost in thought due to her low spirits. She didn’t notice the people around her.

After getting her medication, she left.

Now, Mother He’s heart was in her throat. She hesitated for a moment, then turned back to the doctor’s office where Ye Xiaomeng had been treated.

“Hello, Doctor. My daughter-in-law was just treated here. Her name is Ye Xiaomeng. Is everything okay with her?” Mother He asked, seeing that the room was empty.

The doctor glanced at her and replied, “Patient confidentiality prevents me from disclosing that information. You can go back and ask her yourself.” Mother He could only leave with a sense of embarrassment.

After seeing the doctor, Mother He returned home and immediately called He Ming.

“Mom, is everything okay?” He Ming was surprised to receive a call from his mother during work hours. She rarely contacted him at this time.

“Ming, I’ve been having headaches lately. Can you come home when you have time?” Mother He’s tone was somewhat subdued.

“What happened? I’ll take you to see a doctor.” He Ming said anxiously.

“I just saw the doctor and came back. They said it’s just some nervous exhaustion and prescribed some medicine. I just need to rest well,” Mother He actually wanted to ask about Xiaomeng’s situation.

“I’ll come back after work. If you need anything, just call me.” He Ming couldn’t leave immediately due to some urgent matters today, but hearing that his mother had seen the doctor, he felt somewhat reassured.

As soon as He Ming finished his work, he hurried back home.

“Mom, how are you feeling now?” He Ming asked anxiously as soon as he saw Mother He.

“Much better. I’ve been having trouble sleeping lately and sometimes feel a bit nervous, but resting well seems to help,” Mother He felt comforted seeing He Ming’s concerned expression. Her son still cared for her deeply; he wasn’t the type to forget his mother after getting married.

He Ming breathed a sigh of relief.

“Ming, do you and Xiaomeng plan to have children together?” Mother He knew it would be difficult to convince He Ming to give up on Xiaomeng now.

“Yes, we’ve been preparing for it,” He Ming answered honestly, hoping Mother He would let go of her prejudices.

“Has Xiaomeng shown any signs yet?” Mother He continued to inquire.

He Ming remembered that Xiaomeng had just had her period recently, so he shook his head. "Not yet, but we're still young, so there's no rush."

He Ming thought Mother He was concerned about whether Xiaomeng was pregnant, but in fact, Mother He wanted to know the purpose of Xiaomeng's visit to the hospital today..

Chapter 457: Testing

Upon hearing He Ming's statement that Ye Xiaomeng had not yet become pregnant, Mother He became certain that Xiaomeng had gone to the hospital for medical treatment today.

She couldn't help but furrow her brows. She was already dissatisfied with Xiaomeng, and now that she had a health issue, it was even more reason not to accept her.

"Ming, does Xiaomeng have any health problems?" Mother He asked directly, her chest tightening with anger.

"No, she's fine. Did she mention any discomfort?" He Ming was puzzled by Mother He's question.

"Silly child, if she had any intention of holding onto you, why would she tell you about her health issues?" Mother He sighed.

"Mom, trust me, Xiaomeng is not that kind of person. She is kind and wouldn't lie to me," He Ming felt helpless against his mother's bias.

"Not lie to you? Then did she tell you about her visit to the hospital today?" Mother He couldn't help but reveal.

"What? Xiaomeng went to the hospital? What happened to her?" He Ming hastily asked. Xiaomeng indeed hadn't told him about this today; he had thought she was at home all along.

“How would I know what’s wrong with her? I asked the doctor, but they said it’s confidential. I went to the hospital for a check-up today and saw her picking up medication,” Mother He felt that she needed to tell He Ming the truth. She knew her son’s character very well; he was stubborn.

“I’ll go back and ask her again.” He Ming saw that Mother He didn’t have any objections and that his father would be back soon. He decided to leave.

Because he was worried about Xiaomeng’s condition.

Mother He had long anticipated his reaction and didn’t stop him, letting him go back and find out the truth.

When He Ming returned home, he found Ye Xiaomeng resting. He walked over and gently kissed her.

Xiaomeng immediately woke up and sat up straight.

“Why did you finish work so early today?” Xiaomeng glanced at the clock. Normally, he would still be at the office at this time.

“Nothing special, so I came back early,” He Ming replied, giving her a hug.

Ye Xiaomeng nodded.

“Why are you still sleeping at this hour? Are you feeling unwell?” He Ming noticed Xiaomeng’s tired expression and pretended not to know what was going on, asking casually.

“Yeah, feeling a bit tired,” Xiaomeng replied groggily.

“Xiaomeng, a friend saw you going to the hospital today. What’s wrong? You have to tell me,” He Ming asked directly, as Xiaomeng didn’t seem inclined to share the information herself.

Xiaomeng's heart skipped a beat.

Well, might as well tell him.

"He Ming, I need to tell you something," Xiaomeng said solemnly. Seeing her serious expression, He Ming had a bad feeling.

'What is it?' He Ming's voice was low.

"The doctor said it's very difficult for me to get pregnant," Xiaomeng said, looking at He Ming to gauge his reaction.

A hint of disappointment and shock flashed in He Ming's eyes, but he quickly composed himself.

"Don't worry, doctors can sometimes be wrong in their assessments, and with the advances in medicine today, many difficult conditions can be treated. We'll figure it out," He Ming reassured her.

Xiaomeng's mood suddenly sank. He couldn't accept the fact that she might have difficulty getting pregnant and was avoiding facing it.

"But what if it can't be treated? What if I can never get pregnant?" Xiaomeng voiced the worst-case scenario. Although the doctor said it wasn't a big problem, the uncertainty of getting pregnant was real. So, she wanted to see how He Ming would react.

"If that's the case, then it just means that it's not meant to be. We'll spend the rest of our lives together, just the two of us," He Ming understood her concerns and firmly held her hand, making a determined promise..

Chapter 458: Pretty Lucky

Ye Xiaomeng felt both touched and heartbroken after listening. She secretly made up her mind to actively cooperate with the treatment to ensure that He Ming could become a father as soon as possible.

She leaned against He Ming's chest, inhaling his clean scent, feeling a sense of peace in her heart.

He Ming's heart was like a mixed bag of emotions, unsure of what he was feeling.

Gu Shaoting had only been on a business trip for 4 days, but it felt like years to him. He was consumed by a crazy longing for Shu Pan and Joy.

Every time he had free time, it was already late at night for them, and he couldn't bear to wake them up.

He thought about bringing Shu Pan along on his next trip so that he wouldn't have to endure the pain of missing them.

Gu Shaoting walked out onto the balcony of the hotel's presidential suite, looking at the beautiful night view outside, but he was indifferent because his mind was elsewhere.

He thought about meeting Mr. John tomorrow and explaining things to him so he could go home. He hoped everything would go smoothly.

As usual, they met in Mr. John's office.

They usually discussed business over video calls, so this face-to-face meeting was rare and they talked a lot.

"Shaoting, thank you for making the trip again. The problem with our execution here needs to be resolved. I hope we can cooperate based on mutual assistance." Seeing Gu Shaoting, Mr. John felt much calmer. He didn't want him to make the trip in person if it wasn't absolutely necessary.

"No problem, you're welcome. I hope we can have a pleasant cooperation." Gu Shaoting said calmly.

After chatting for a while, Gu Shaoting decided to take his leave.

Just then, the door was suddenly pushed open.

"Daddy..." accompanied by a sweet voice.

"Charlene, mind your manners. Daddy has a guest today, and we're discussing important matters." Mr. John pretended to scold.

"Sorry, I didn't notice." Charlene stuck out her tongue apologetically.

"I'm sorry, I didn't notice," Charlene stuck out her tongue.

Gu Shaoting remembered Mr. John's daughter from their previous contract negotiations; it seemed she had a habit of barging in like this.

"Hello," Gu Shaoting greeted.

"Big brother Gu, it's wonderful to see you back in France!" Charlene had previously pestered her dad about Gu Shaoting, but her requests had been

LeJecueu.

She hadn't expected to run into him today.

"Shaoting, I apologize for the interruption. This is my daughter, Charlene. You might remember her from our last meeting," Mr. John said with a smile, although his words carried a tone of scolding, his affection for his daughter was evident to anyone listening.

“Oh, yes, I remember. Mr. John is indeed fortunate,” Gu Shaoting complimented.

“Oh, it’s such a headache. She’s working at my company now, taking leave every other day, always late, no sense of discipline,” Mr. John sighed. However, he knew he was partly to blame for spoiling her, being his only daughter, she was his precious gem.

“Daddy...” Charlene grumbled, annoyed that her dad was complaining about her in front of Gu Shaoting.

“Daddy’s not wrong about you,” Mr. John sighed, feeling a bit exasperated and unsure how to discipline her.

“Daddy, I want to visit Big Brother Guts country. Look, I’ve been at your company since graduation, but I haven’t gained any real experience,” Charlene pleaded. Last time, she didn’t bring it up because she hadn’t graduated yet, but she didn’t want to miss this opportunity now.

“Don’t be unreasonable,” but suddenly Mr. John also thought it was a good idea. He realized he had spoiled her too much, and if Shaoting could help guide her, it would be a form of training.

Charlene pouted.

“Shaoting, I have an awkward request. I want Charlene to come to your company for some training. After all, she’ll be taking over my position in the future. Please help mentor her,” Mr. John looked at Gu Shaoting, pleading..

Chapter 459: Unable to Shirk

Gu Shaoting felt truly conflicted upon hearing Mr. John’s plea.

Such a spoiled heiress, accustomed to having her own way—how could he possibly guide her?

Wasn't this just bringing trouble home? Who knew what kind of mess she might cause?

Seeing Gu Shaoting hesitate without speaking, Mr. John spoke again, "Shaoting, consider it a favor to me."

Seeing him plead again, Gu Shaoting had no choice but to agree.

"You're welcome. It's not really helping; Miss Charlene is smart and capable.

There's nothing much to teach her. It wouldn't hurt to go out and relax a bit," Gu Shaoting said lightly, knowing he couldn't avoid this matter.

"Great! Thank you, Big Brother!" Charlene wanted to scream with joy. She had been waiting for this moment for so long; now she could finally get close to Big Brother Gu. She had fallen for him at first sight when she saw him last time, but she had been longing for a chance. Now it seemed like fate was on her side.

"Thank you, Shaoting." Mr. John then turned to Charlene and said, "Listen to his guidance and don't cause any trouble."

"Daddy, I understand. I'll go out to learn for a while and come back soon. I'll miss you," Charlene's words were as sweet as honey, melting Mr. John's heart.

Mr. John shook his head with a smile. She was truly a spoiled girl.

Because Charlene needed to handle some paperwork, she didn't go back with Gu Shaoting. She would call him later when she arrived.

With things settled, Gu Shaoting was eager to return home.

But he didn't tell Shu Pan the exact time of his return, planning to surprise her.

After getting off the plane, he headed straight home. It happened to be the weekend, so they should both be at home.

Shu Pan had just woken up when she suddenly heard some noise in the living room.

Glancing outside, she noticed it wasn't very bright yet. Could it be a mouse? But this was a high-end residential area; she had never seen mice here before. Could it be a thief?

Shu Pan couldn't help but feel nervous. She had become quite paranoid lately, especially when Gu Shooting wasn't around. She felt particularly secure when he was home.

Before she could think too much, she suddenly heard the faint sound of a door opening from outside.

Shu Pan became even more tense. She pulled the blanket tighter around herself, watching the direction of the door in the dim darkness.

Soon enough, she saw a tall, familiar figure at the doorway, accompanied by Gu Shooting's distinctive clean and refreshing scent.

Shu Pan blinked, feeling stunned. Was she hallucinating due to missing him?

But as the figure drew closer and became clearer, she immediately sat up in bed. "Shooting?"

The man paused in his steps. Before he could say anything, Shu Pan had already thrown off the covers and rushed to the bedroom door. Gu Shooting caught sight of her and immediately pulled her into his arms.

Turning on the light, Gu Shooting furrowed his brows slightly. "Why are you awake so early?"

It was just past 6 in the morning.

“Well, last night, Joy and I went to bed very early.” Seeing Gu Shaoting, Shu Pan felt nothing but surprise; all her drowsiness vanished.

She asked in amazement, “Shaoting, why did you come back so soon? And without telling me beforehand?”

Wasn’t it supposed to be more than a week? It hadn’t been that long yet.

With one arm still holding her, Gu Shaoting reached out and gently smoothed her tangled hair. “Missed you. From now on, whenever I go on a business trip, I’ll make sure to take you with me.”

Feeling a sweet warmth in her heart, Shu Pan responded, “Taking me on a business trip? That’s not like going on vacation.”

As she spoke, Gu Shaoting had already laid her down on the bed. His large hand touched her foot, and he felt a chill. He furrowed his brows..

Chapter 460: Sudden Return

Shu Pan was aware that her feet were cold, but that was just the way her body was.

She chuckled innocently and shrugged, “I didn’t do it on purpose. It’s just a condition I have.”

Gu Shaoting gently rubbed her foot in his palm, causing Shu Pan to laugh and squirm.

Watching her radiant and adorable face, he hesitated for a moment, his gaze becoming somewhat intense. Unable to resist, he bent down and kissed her lips repeatedly.

After their lips parted, Shu Pan moved back slightly, then asked, "How are things in France?"

"Everything's sorted out, don't worry," Gu Shaoting reassured her, patting her head.

"Then you won't be going on any more trips soon, right?"

"No, not for the foreseeable future."

Shu Pan smiled happily upon hearing this.

It had been several days since they had last seen each other, and Gu Shaoting was taken aback by her charming demeanor. He suddenly tightened his grip on her hand, pushing her onto the bed, and kissed her passionately.

"Mmm..."

It had been a while since they had been this intimate, and the feeling of kissing and embracing was exhilarating.

Shu Pan held onto his neck, responding to his kisses.

Gu Shaoting held her even tighter. Shu Pan hadn't expected him to be so excited. She looked into his eyes, which seemed eager and thirsty, like a parched land craving moisture after a long drought.

As his kisses grew deeper and the clothes were disturbed, she quickly grabbed his hand. "Shaoting, stop, Joy will wake up soon."

Shu Pan remained rational. She had thought about this issue.

"I know," Gu Shaoting's voice had become hoarse.

Though he agreed, his actions didn't cease.

Shu Pan almost succumbed to his tenderness. She struggled in his arms, "Let me go, Joy is coming."

But Gu Shaoting remained unfazed. He continued kissing her while saying,

"I've locked the door."

"Shaoting..." Shu Pan pouted, unaware that her shy demeanor only stimulated Gu Shaoting further.

His breath grew heavy as he left kisses on her body, leaving marks on her fair skin, which eased his mind.

"Mommy, are you awake?" Suddenly, there was a knock on the door from outside. It was evident that Joy had woken up. Fortunately, Gu Shaoting had locked the door.

"That's enough," Shu Pan's voice trembled slightly.

Gu Shaoting reluctantly stood up, straightened his clothes, and then opened the door.

"Sweetheart..." Gu Shaoting reached out and lifted her up, then kissed her tender cheek.

"Wow, Daddy, you're back! I missed you so much," Joy hugged Gu Shaoting's neck, acting spoiled.

Gu Shaoting's heart immediately melted.

Before, he didn't mind going on business trips, feeling no attachments. But since he had Shu Pan and Joy, he wasn't keen on traveling anymore. He tried to delegate as much as possible. However, this time, it was inevitable. Mr. John was their biggest partner, and this matter required his personal intervention. "Daddy missed you too," Gu Shaoting carried Joy out of the room to give Shu

Pan time to get dressed and freshen up.

Father and daughter whispered in the living room.

After seeing off the two, Gu Shaoting returned to the bedroom intending to catch up on some sleep because he was exhausted from the long flight. He slept until the afternoon and woke up to find it was almost 5 p.m., realizing he had slept the entire day.

Remembering something important, he immediately called the designer who was working on the ring design.

He had already contacted the designer before his business trip, but he didn't know if the design was completed. This matter was now his top priority..