

As Agreed 51

Chapter 51: She's My Girlfriend

Shu Pan was a bit confused. What was happening now? She turned her head to look at the unfamiliar man, about to speak, but he beat her to it. "Did you see that? This is my girlfriend. So, we're not a good match, and besides, you're not my type. "

"But... I really like you. Nobody likes you more than I do," the girl cried with teary eyes, evoking a sense of pity.

Shu Pan was taken aback, glancing around, trying to figure out how to explain.

'You like me, but I can't do anything about it. I was born with this charm. I can't like every person who likes me, otherwise, I'd be too busy. And I already have a girlfriend, so you don't need to like me anymore!' The man lazily smiled, not a hint of remorse in his expression.

Shu Pan turned her head to look at the man, his face seemingly capable of causing chaos. He appeared to be a womanizer.

She looked at the girl with a touch of sympathy, momentarily forgetting that she was caught in the crossfire.

Now she was just being used as a shield by the man.

The girl cried even harder, glancing at Shu Pan with reddened eyes, then turned and ran out.

Suddenly, silence settled in. Shu Pan was a beat behind, realizing that the leading lady had left. She didn't know what to explain now.

“Thank you!” The man continued to hold her hand, still not letting go, then he winked at her with a smile, “You know, with a face like mine, this kind of situation happens a few times every day. Sometimes, being handsome is just troublesome.”

Suddenly, Shu Pan found herself speechless in the face of this thick-skinned man. Her previous sadness was diluted quite a bit.

Could there be anyone more self-absorbed than this person?

Shu Pan had probably figured out what had just happened. She calmly said,

“Since nothing is going on now, can you let go and let me leave?”

Wen Chi was momentarily stunned, as if he hadn’t expected a woman who saw him would want to leave so quickly. Did his charm decline? Or was this woman playing hard to get?

A hint of playfulness flashed in his almond-shaped eyes. Instead of letting go, he grinned slyly, “Miss, are you single?”

Shu Pan frowned, looking at him with a puzzled expression. Her gaze seemed to be scrutinizing someone who might be mentally unstable, “Why does it matter to you whether I’m single or not?”

Could this narcissist have escaped from a psychiatric ward? Was he wearing a white coat and pretending to be a doctor here?

Just as she was contemplating whether to call for help, there was suddenly movement at the door. Then, the partially open door was forcefully pushed open.

Tong Fei, clad in designer clothes, entered Shu Pan’s line of sight.

Watching their intimate interaction, Tong Fei’s smile was full of meaning. But Shu Pan felt as if she had fallen into an icy abyss, shivering with cold.

Their eyes met, and in Tong Fei's gaze, Shu Pan saw a sense of schadenfreude. Shu Pan's heart trembled slightly. She was about to open her mouth to explain, but she hesitated. What was there to explain? She wasn't anything to her anyway.

"Shu Pan, we're meeting again so soon, and in this situation no less. You're quite impressive, getting to know such a suave and extraordinary young talent. I must truly admire you," Tong Fei said with a smile, her eyes gleaming with amusement.

A flame of anger ignited in Shu Pan's heart, her hands clenched tightly, struggling to endure.

Wen Chi, carefree as he was, detected an unusual tension between the two women. His long, narrow eyes squinted, and a hint of interest swiftly flickered.

He suddenly pulled Shu Pan closer, his big hand resting on her waist, and he smiled tenderly, "Darling? Your friend?"

Chapter 52: Please Stay Away From My Son

Shu Pan's gaze trembled, but she remained silent. She was too tired to explain and managed to free herself from Wen Chi's embrace.

Upon hearing Wen Chi address Shu Pan that way, Tong Fei couldn't help but smile, saying, "Haha, I didn't expect you and Dr. Wen to be so close. I had no idea. We must get to know each other better another day. You two can chat, and

I won't disturb you."

Satisfied with the answer, Tong Fei hastily turned to Gu Shaoxing's ward.

As Tong Fei left, Shu Pan turned around to leave as well.

“Hey, are you just going to leave like that?” Wen Chi looked at her, furrowing his eyebrows slightly.

Shu Pan didn’t look back, and calmly said, “Sir, we’re strangers. We didn’t know each other before, and we won’t know each other in the future. I’m leaving.”

Wen Chi stepped in front of her, his tone light and lazy, “You helped me once, so I owe you a favor. If you need help, just say it. After all, acquaintances are fate. How about becoming friends?”

He lowered his gaze slightly, capturing the delicate features of her face, a playful smile flickering in his eyes.

“No need, let’s just treat each other as strangers if we meet again,” Shu Pan said lightly, pushed his hand away, opened the door, and walked out. Her slim figure carried a heavy sense of loneliness.

Wen Chi didn’t chase after her, withdrawing his hand, tapping the table with a deep interest, his handsome face adorned with a deeper smile. He muttered softly, “Such an interesting woman.”

Back in Gu Shaoting’s ward, Tong Fei was still smiling, casually saying, “I really didn’t expect Shu Pan to be so familiar with Dr. Wen. Dr. Wen is a well-known obstetrician and gynecologist in this hospital. They really seem like a perfect match, a handsome man and a beautiful woman.”

She spoke nonchalantly, but her gaze lingered on the man’s face, not shifting for a moment.

Gu Shaoting sat on the bed, his expression unreadable. His pitch-black eyes appeared calm yet profound, concealing his inner turmoil. Upon hearing Tong Fei’s words, his heart had already been thrown into chaos.

Since when did Shu Pan know Dr. Wen? Among the people she knew, there seemed to be no one with the surname Wen, let alone a doctor. Could they have just met?

There were many doubts in his heart, but he kept them concealed. Clad in a hospital gown, his tall and lean figure remained unparalleled in its handsomeness.

“What Dr. Wen?” Song Can couldn’t help but ask.

“I saw Shu Pan hugging a doctor when I went out. I asked, and it turns out he’s Dr. Wen Chi, the head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology department in this hospital,” Tong Fei added, her tone exaggerating the situation.

“What? Hugging?” Song Can exclaimed.

“Mom, why don’t you both leave for now?” Gu Shaoting’s voice was heavy as he addressed Song Can and Tong Fei. Their constant surprises were giving him a headache.

“Alright, let’s go, Feifei,” Song Can huffed, pulling open the door.

As they walked out of the room, they saw Shu Pan at the corner and Song Can quickly approached her without a word. With a swift motion, her hand slapped Shu Pan’s face, who was caught off guard and stumbled back a step, covering her stinging cheek with her hand. It wasn’t until she noticed Tong Fei behind Song Can that she finally understood what had happened.

“Mom, it was a misunderstanding,” Shu Pan couldn’t help but explain.

“Don’t call me mom. Stay away from my son. I don’t have a daughter-in-law like you. Shu Pan, why are you still clinging to him?” Song Can raised her voice in excitement.

Shu Pan stood as if she hadn’t heard, her gaze lost in thought. Her delicate figure appeared even more slender, and her disheveled hair added to her disarray.

“The Gu family has a reputation to uphold. It can’t be tarnished by a woman like you who flirts around. Shu Pan, I hope when Shaoting gets discharged, I’ll see you two divorced instead of you clinging to him. Take care of yourself.” After leaving these harsh words, Song Can left.

As Shu Pan watched her retreating figure, she absentmindedly touched her stomach, "Baby, what should Mom do?"

Chapter 53: Questioning

When Shu Pan returned to the hospital room, Gu Shaoting was resting with closed eyes. She walked over quietly, but even her slightest movements seemed to disturb Gu Shaoting. His brows furrowed, and his eyelids slowly opened.

"Where did you just go?" Gu Shaoting's tone wasn't very pleasant. It was as if he was interrogating a wife who had stayed out all night.

"Nowhere special, just wandered around outside," Shu Pan answered while looking at him. She wasn't sure if Tong Fei had been stirring up trouble in front of him.

"Did you meet someone?" Gu Shaoting asked again, his expression growing darker.

"Met a crazy doctor," Shu Pan sighed helplessly. She knew Gu Shaoting had misunderstood, but she was too tired to explain. The innocent could clear themselves.

Moreover, the words that Song Can left her with when she departed still lingered in her ears. She decided to go with the flow. Exiting from the upper echelons of society would be a kind of liberation. After being married for so long, she never truly fit in. It turned out that the saying "One needs to marry into an appropriate family" held some truth.

Her only reliance now was her unborn child, the precious baby she cared deeply for. Thankfully, the baby seemed to care for her as well. She was over three months pregnant, but her symptoms were relatively mild. Her appetite was slightly affected, but everything else was fine.

Gu Shaoting suspected she was hiding something and wasn't willing to say more. His expression grew even darker.

Seeing his gloomy face, Shu Pan decided to stay silent as well.

“Shu Pan, I hope you always remember that I’m still your husband. We haven’t divorced yet, so it’s best for you to watch your words and actions. I don’t want to end up being cuckolded someday and become a laughingstock without even knowing it,” Gu Shaoting’s words felt like a dagger piercing her heart. Her expression instantly turned somewhat unpleasant, and she almost bit her lip in frustration.

It turned out he believed Tong Fei’s side of the story, never truly believing her from the bottom of his heart.

Thinking about it, it was truly pitiful. After being married to him for several years, this was the image of her that he held in his mind.

Shu Pan was about to explain but stopped herself mid-sentence. The words got caught in her throat. She didn’t want to defend herself—the more she said, the more mistakes she might make.

She quietly changed the topic, “What would you like to eat later? I’ll prepare something for you.”

Gu Shaoting looked at her as if she was just enduring everything. Suddenly, he felt somewhat annoyed. He didn’t speak, and the atmosphere in the room turned a bit colder.

The room fell silent for a moment, carrying a touch of desolation.

Gu Shaoting stayed in the hospital for four days before being discharged. Shu Pan had been busy taking care of everything, and now she finally had a chance to rest.

Recently, she saw pregnant women coming in and out of the hospital. It reminded her that she was pregnant too and that she needed to schedule her regular checkups, as advised by the doctor.

She couldn’t help but place her hand on her belly and murmur apologetically,

“Baby, I’m sorry, Mom neglected you.”

On that day, after Gu Shaoting left the house, she went to the hospital for her prenatal checkup.

People came and went in the hospital, especially in the obstetrics and gynecology department. All the pregnant women wore smiles on their faces, emitting happiness from the bottom of their hearts. They were accompanied by their husbands or family members for the checkups.

But Shu Pan was alone. A happy pregnant woman next to her asked, “How far along are you? Why are you alone? Don’t you have anyone to accompany you?”

“About four months. My family is quite busy, and I can manage on my own,” Shu Pan replied, her lips pursed.

“However, next time you can bring your husband along. At four months, you can see the baby clearly. After all, it’s the product of your love. Watching the baby grow day by day is truly a happy thing.”

Looking at the expectant mother beside her with a rosy complexion and her husband attentively caring for her, Shu Pan was really envious..

Chapter 54: So It’s You

Shu Pan nodded in agreement. Soon, the computer system announced Shu Pan’s name. She knocked on the door and a voice inside said, “Come in.” She entered the room, and the male doctor inside closed the medical records, looking up to reveal a handsome and charming face. Just as he was about to say something, he caught sight of the familiar figure entering, his eyes slightly brightening, and his smile deepening.

“Hello, beautiful young lady. How did you know I’m here? But it’s working hours now, so we’ll have to chat after work,” the male doctor said.

"It's you?" Shu Pan exclaimed in surprise.

As Shu Pan entered the room, she heard the familiar voice and saw those peach blossom eyes. She froze in her steps. It was really a twist of fate to encounter him like this. She could hardly believe he was the head of the Obstetrics and Gynecology department.

"Why, you're not here to find me, then what are you here for?" Wen Chi asked with a hint of confusion.

"I'm Shu Pan. They called my number outside. I'm here for a prenatal checkup, but it seems like I'm on your list," Shu Pan replied, her tone slightly dark. Wen Chi's jaw almost dropped to the floor. "You... you're married?"

"Why? Can't I get married?" Shu Pan's face grew a bit darker.

He didn't look like a doctor at all, more like a flirtatious guy. She didn't even

know his name, and they had only met once. Yet, he was acting overly familiar. Especially with those charming peach blossom eyes that seemed capable of casting spells.

"No, please, have a seat. Where's your husband? Didn't he come with you?" Wen Chi pretended to cough, covering up his earlier surprise.

"I came alone," Shu Pan replied calmly, treating him as an unfamiliar doctor. She had seen male doctors before during her fertility preparations, so it wasn't that awkward now.

She handed over her registration form and medical card. Wen Chi asked her a few questions, then issued her some orders for tests and gave her a few instructions.

At that moment, Shu Pan finally felt like he was a doctor, discussing professional matters confidently.

Looking at the test results, he confirmed everything was normal, finally putting Shu Pan's mind at ease.

As she was about to leave, Wen Chi raised an eyebrow, his hands casually in the pockets of his white coat as he stood up lazily. "I thought we were friends by now?"

"Dr. Wen, thank you," Shu Pan turned her graceful figure toward him, looking at him with politeness and distance in her smile. After saying that, she turned around again and left gracefully.

Wen Chi stood still, a deep and meaningful smile on his face, making him enigmatic. However, he was certain in his own mind that he felt a unique sentiment towards this young woman. Every time he saw her, he had an urge to embrace her in comfort.

At Gu Family's ancestral mansion, Gu Shaoting was urged to return by a phone call from Song Can. As he looked at Tong Fei appearing in the living room, he slightly furrowed his brows and spoke with a cold tone, "Mom, what's the matter that you had to call me back? Couldn't it be discussed over the phone?"

Song Can expressed her dissatisfaction, "Shaoting, you just returned from the hospital. Why are you in such a hurry to go back to work? Can't you take a few more days to rest and spend time with Tong Fei? You used to be inseparable."

Tong Fei lowered her head and blushed, "Auntie, Shaoting is also working.

Although I'm concerned about his health, I can't delay his work."

With a stern expression, Song Can gave Gu Shaoting a sideways glance and spoke with a low tone, "Look at how sensible Tong Fei is. A good woman should know how to cherish. I don't understand what you're thinking. How can Shu Pan compare to Tong Fei?"

The man stood straight, his handsome profile exuding a cold and composed air. Without saying a word, he turned and headed upstairs.

Song Can's expression darkened, a hint of anger flashing through her eyes, "Didn't you see Feifei here? Where are you going?"

"I'm going upstairs to check on Grandfather," the man's voice was clear and cold, devoid of any fluctuations..

Chapter 55: The Farce of the Gu Family

Song Can's face showed a hint of urgency as she quickly said, "Shaoting, I need to talk to you about something. Could you come down for a moment?"

Tong Fei looked at Gu Shaoting with nervousness, her eyes fixed on his face, worried he might just leave. "Shaoting, are we having some kind of misunderstanding? Why do you seem like a totally different person now?" Tong Fei's tone tugged at the heartstrings, making it hard to ignore.

Gu Shaoting lowered his gaze, his expression slightly aloof and maybe a bit impatient. He looked into the distance as if lost in thought.

Back in the day, he really had feelings for Tong Fei. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been engaged to her. But after she chose her career over him, it took time to adjust. However, ever since he married Shu Pan, he gradually let go of those feelings.

Now that she was back, she was constantly trying to assert herself in his life, and honestly, it was getting on his nerves.

At this point, he saw her as a friend at best. He would agree to reasonable requests, but she and Song Can had repeatedly pushed his limits.

"There's not much to discuss," Gu Shaoting's expression remained calm, with little emotion as he glanced at both of them. "I don't have any plans to get a divorce for now. What you do is up to you!"

With a swift movement of his long legs, he turned around and headed upstairs. His grandfather was awake now, so he could have a conversation with him.

“Shaoting, wait!” Song Can’s frustration was evident as she shook with anger, the tension in the room palpable.

Tong Fei, being a young woman, felt hurt by those words in front of her. It was really uncomfortable.

“Feifei, I’m sorry. Maybe Shaoting’s in a bad mood today. Don’t take his words too seriously. As long as Auntie is here, I’ll make sure things are fair for you,” Song Can tried to console her.

Tong Fei’s expression displayed a touch of sadness, but she still spoke softly, “Auntie, it’s okay. Please don’t be upset. Shaoting is just like this temporarily. I think he’s still bothered by the fact that I left impulsively three years ago.”

She was genuinely concerned that the relationship between mother and son would get even more strained due to this. Their relationship wasn’t that great to begin with, and now things were more tense than ever.

Now was her moment to shine. She needed to manage Song Can, the tough mother-in-law. This way, she would be stepping into the Gu family more solidly.

With that thought in mind, she was even more enthusiastic. She grabbed a glass of water and handed it to Song Can with a forced smile, “Auntie, calm down. I’ll find an opportunity to explain things to him properly. I guess he’s still holding onto some grudge for my sudden departure.”

Seeing her suppress her feelings and put on a brave smile, Song Can’s irritation toward Gu Shaoting intensified, and her distaste for Shu Pan grew stronger.

“Feifei...” Song Can looked at her with a twinge of guilt.

Tong Fei patted her hand, reassuring her that she was okay.

But in an instant, she clenched her hands together tightly, almost drawing blood. “Gu Shaoting, is your heart truly so cold? Weren’t you different before? Even though I left for three years, you can’t have changed that drastically, can you? Shu Pan, I won’t let you have your way. I won’t.”

As Gu Shaoting made his way downstairs, Tong Fei was still there.

“Shaoting, why don’t you drive Tong Fei back? It’s not out of your way,” Song Can humbled herself. She was genuinely afraid of pushing Gu Shaoting’s buttons too much. After all, he was her only son.

Gu Shaoting remained silent the whole time, his lips forming a straight line.

With his hands casually in his pockets, he stood there quietly, his handsome face devoid of expression, but there was an unmistakable chill in the air.

After a moment of silence, Gu Shaoting’s voice turned cold and low, “I prefer you not to meddle too much in my life. As for Shu Pan’s affairs, I know where I stand.”

With those words, he walked out directly.

“Shaoting, I truly apologize. It wasn’t my intention. From now on, I’ll follow your lead,” Tong Fei said as she saw Gu Shaoting leaving. She quickly followed him, acting like a submissive daughter-in-law. She knew that this was a strategy that worked on Gu Shaoting.

Gu Shaoting remained silent throughout the journey.

After escorting Tong Fei back home, Gu Shaoting went straight back to Shuimu

Qinghua..

Chapter 56: It Seemed to Have Changed

He entered the room and found the living room quiet, with the sound of running water coming from the bathroom.

Shu Pan was in the middle of a shower. After finishing, she realized with dismay that she had forgotten to bring her nightgown. Fortunately, Gu

Shaoting hadn't returned yet. Otherwise, things could have gotten awkward.

She hastily wrapped herself in a bathrobe and stepped out, clutching the robe's front. Just as she was about to enter the room, she froze. Gu Shaoting had returned, and he was staring at her!

In front of him stood Shu Pan, an enchanting sight. Her rosy face gleamed in the light, and her slender legs were smooth and well-proportioned. The low-cut bathrobe revealed a hint of her inner allure.

For some reason, Gu Shaoting found the contours in front of Shu Pan even more captivating. The softness he once held in his hands seemed fuller and more upright.

Gu Shaoting felt like a cat that hadn't eaten fish in a long time, excited by the scent of it. At this moment, his mind went blank, and a surge of heat rushed through him.

She was his wife, and he had countless reasons, ones that could withstand legal, moral, and gossipy scrutiny. At this very moment, he wanted to fiercely embrace her, to lose himself in her.

Simultaneously, he acted upon this urge. He strode forward, suddenly pulling

Shu Pan into his embrace. But he found that his two hands weren't enough. Her shoulders were too narrow. He pressed closer, wanting to envelop Shu Pan within himself.

His hands lifted Shu Pan's bathrobe, finding her breasts with precision. He teased and caressed them, his touch skillful.

Shu Pan hadn't even had time to react when a strange electric current surged through her limbs and body.

Her muscles tensed throughout, and though she wanted to push away Gu Shaoting's hands, he only held her tighter.

His hands were large and powerful, radiating heat, as if he were restraining something. Shu Pan worried he might harm the baby, yet she also feared he'd discover her pregnancy. Being slender, her mid-term pregnancy wasn't very noticeable.

Although books said that the mid-term was relatively stable, Shu Pan remained anxious. But when she saw the lustful desire in Gu Shaoting's eyes, she knew he wouldn't back down.

At this moment, an intense and rapid response surged between them, sparking a current back and forth.

Gu Shaoting closed his eyes, a stifled groan escaping his lips. He lifted Shu Pan, carrying her into the bedroom without hesitation.

"Gu Shaoting..." Shu Pan helplessly called out, a hint of panic in her voice.

Suddenly, Gu Shaoting's lips met her breasts, dampening them slightly, his touch exploratory like that of a curious infant.

The man delighted in the discovery that her breasts had grown considerably larger. He couldn't grasp them with just one hand. Her entire body turned to mush.

Then Shu Pan felt his kisses traveling, from her ears to her neck. Each touch ignited a flame.

His hand moved upward, caressing her abdomen. Suddenly, he lingered at her belly, and Shu Pan worried he'd catch on.

She hooked her arms around his neck, pressing their bodies together without any barriers. His hardness met her softness.

“Slow down, be gentle,” Shu Pan said softly, her voice a bewitching spell.

Gu Shaoting responded with a low murmur. The next moment, he filled her gently and slowly. It had been a long time since he’d felt so at ease, as if every pore on his body had opened up.

Shu Pan couldn’t help but moan softly, her breathy cries escaping as she closed her eyes, surrendering to Gu Shaoting’s desires.

With his fiery lips, passionate neck kisses, and teasing whispers, he washed wave after wave of pleasure over her, soothing her once-empty heart.

Only at this moment did they forget the indifference, hatred, and separation that had been between them.

Shu Pan wished time could freeze at this instant.

Outside the window, the wind carried dancing snowflakes, a perfect night. Inside, the air was thick with a scene of blossoms and a full moon..

Chapter 57: Lost Happiness (1)

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Simultaneously, he acted upon this urge. He strode forward, suddenly pulling Shu Pan into his embrace. But he found that his two hands weren't enough; her shoulders were too narrow. He pressed closer, wanting to envelop Shu Pan within himself.

And so, he acted upon it, taking big strides forward and suddenly embracing

Shu Pan.

Outside, the first light of dawn began to seep through. Shu Pan was still sleeping soundly, her small hand clutching the blanket tightly.

Gu Shaoting looked at the sleeping Shu Pan. This woman had been constantly igniting the fire within him, and it seemed that only she could drive him to be unable to control his desires.

Using the faint indoor light, he looked at the peaceful sleeping figure of the woman. Her cheeks were flushed, and her deep eyes held a hint of something different, an indescribable feeling in his heart.

In reality, under the current circumstances, there was always a sense of estrangement between him and her. Shu Laide's presence was a constant reminder, a thorn reminding him of his father's death.

This thorn was lodged in his throat now, unable to be pulled out. He wanted to ignore it, but it would occasionally sting him, making it difficult to forget.

He knew she wanted a divorce. Actually, given his personality, he would usually cut through such matters decisively. Yet, in this particular issue, he remained indecisive.

Every time he saw her, his desire burned strongly.

Feeling conflicted, he stood by the window, lost in thought.

After daybreak, he left.

By the time Shu Pan woke up, it was already quite late. She closed her eyes, gave her head a slight pat, and tried to retrieve memories of yesterday from her mind.

The scenes slowly replayed before her, and she sat on the bed in confusion, her gaze vacant, unresponsive for a long time.

Warm sunlight streamed in through the gaps in the curtains, illuminating her eyes and reflecting a hint of glistening radiance.

She slowly got out of bed and took a leisurely bath.

Amidst the steam, she also felt a sense of relief. Thankfully, Gu Shaoting had been gentle the previous night, not harming their precious baby. However, such a situation couldn't happen again.

What should she do? Even if she left, he could find her anywhere, across the ends of the earth.

Moreover, her family and friends were all here. Where else could she go?

Her thoughts were interrupted by the vibrations of her phone.

“Hello!” Her voice sounded somewhat hoarse.

“Hey, what’s wrong? Are you sick?” Ye Xiaomeng’s voice came through the phone.

“Hey, if you’re okay, would you accompany me to the mall for a bit? I’m practically growing mold here. Cheng Yang is away on a business trip, and I’m bored out of my mind. I want to buy some loose maternity clothes. I won’t have anything to wear once my belly gets bigger.” Ye Xiaomeng vented over the phone.

“Sure, see you later.” Shu Pan agreed readily.

Before long, Shu Pan, dressed warmly, hurriedly left the house.

Outside, the world was wrapped in a silvery glow, and several children were playing by the side of the street.

In various shopping malls, banners advertising discounts were hanging everywhere, and various promotions were ongoing.

Ye Xiaomeng seemed to be buying things as if they were free. She bought a discounted bag, a coat, and seeing the sweater she had liked before was now half-priced, she excitedly bought it. Then, she saw a scarf from the same brand that she liked and included that as well.

“Xiaomeng, isn’t that enough? Watch your wallet,” Shu Pan said, seeing her friend buying things without hesitation.

“It’s fine. Cheng Yang got promoted, and he’s earning more now, so I want to help spend a bit,” Ye Xiaomeng said proudly.

“Well, now you’re a wealthy lady. I’ll have to flatter you,” Shu Pan laughed, feeling envious of Xiaomeng at times.

Indeed, happiness was simple. Having a man who loved you was stronger than anything else.

Xiaomeng had quite a haul and was in high spirits.

“Hey, let’s go eat something. We’ve been wandering around for so long, and my son is getting hungry,” Xiaomeng said, rubbing her stomach. She felt like she could eat a whole cow.

“Alright, let’s go to the second floor of the mall and have a bowl of noodles,”

Shu Pan suggested, looking for a place closer by since her friend seemed tired..

Chapter 58: Lost Happiness (2)

It should have been after the busiest time around noon, so the noodles were quickly brought out.

Looking at the slender noodles, mixed with minced meat, garnished with chopped scallions, it truly opened up one’s appetite.

“Hey, how are things between you and Gu Shaoting?” Ye Xiaomeng finally remembered this question after taking a bite of noodles.

Shu Pan took a sip of soup and then put down her spoon. “Same as usual.” She didn’t want her friend to worry about her.

“So what’s his stance now? He doesn’t want a divorce, but he doesn’t care about you either. He takes care of your needs when he feels like it, and then he pretends nothing happened afterward. Who does he think he is? Does he think the world revolves around him? I couldn’t have imagined he’d be such a shameless person!” Ye Xiaomeng got more animated as she spoke.

“What’s the difference between his behavior now and that of a patron? No, wait, even patrons have to pay, right? He just comes back to sleep with you whenever he wants and ignores you when he doesn’t?”

“Mind your prenatal education, Xiaomeng,” Shu Pan said, looking at Ye Xiaomeng’s impassioned state, both amused and exasperated.

“Don’t worry, I’m fine,” Shu Pan quickly reassured her. “By the way, how about you and Cheng Yang?”

“He got promoted. He’s a department manager now, but he’s also busier. He’s been going on business trips frequently recently,” Ye Xiaomeng stirred her noodles with chopsticks and then began eating enthusiastically.

“That’s not bad. With a higher salary, there will be less pressure raising a kid,” Shu Pan reflected.

“Hey,” Ye Xiaomeng held Shu Pan’s hand and smiled slightly, “there’s no challenge you can’t overcome. When one door closes, another one will surely open for you.”

“Well, I hope so. I suddenly need to use the restroom. Wait for me here,” Shu Pan suddenly said.

“Sure, be careful,” Xiaomeng cautioned.

As she walked down the corridor, nearing the corner where the restroom was located, Shu Pan noticed a man standing at the entrance of the women’s restroom. She assumed he was waiting for his wife or girlfriend. Not paying much attention, she was about to enter when she glanced over and was utterly shocked by what she saw.

It was truly unbelievable. Standing at the door, waiting for someone, was none other than Cheng Yang, who was supposed to be away on a business trip. Of course, he couldn't be waiting for Xiaomeng because they had just been together.

Clearly, Cheng Yang was as dumbfounded as she was, but his expression was more panicked.

Shu Pan fixed her gaze on him, her eyebrows furrowing.

"Why are you here? Who are you waiting for?" Shu Pan couldn't help asking.

"I'm waiting for a friend, a childhood neighbor. We grew up together. She's divorced now and alone here, so I'm helping her," Cheng Yang quickly explained.

He knew that Shu Pan and Ye Xiaomeng were close friends, and if Xiaomeng found out about this, it would definitely blow up.

Just as Shu Pan was about to speak again, a woman came out of the restroom. She had a petite face, flowing long hair, delicate features, and was dressed in a knee-length belted khaki coat with knee-high boots. Her elegance and charm were evident in every move.

Such a beauty would tug at the hearts of women, not to mention men.

A woman as captivating as this, with a hint of vulnerability, would make anyone instinctively want to protect her.

The woman passed by Shu Pan and linked arms with Cheng Yang, giving a slight smile as she said, "Let's go. I want to have some Western food. I'm feeling a bit hungry."

Cheng Yang cast a quick glance at Shu Pan, his lips parting slightly before nodding. There was a complex expression in his eyes that Shu Pan couldn't decipher.

"Today, Xiaomeng and I are shopping here too. She's waiting for me at the noodle shop over there," Shu Pan couldn't help but tell him..

Chapter 59: Lost Happiness (3)

In fact, there was something Shu Pan didn't want to tell him, but when she thought of Xiaomeng, she couldn't help feeling a pang of heartache. They had known each other for almost 10 years, from school until now, and their relationship was closer than that of sisters.

Shu Pan understood Xiaomeng the best. Despite her carefree and outgoing appearance, Xiaomeng was emotionally fragile, especially when it came to matters of relationships. She wasn't as carefree as she appeared.

So, Shu Pan didn't want her good friend to get hurt. She hoped they could avoid that.

Cheng Yang nodded in gratitude, but Shu Pan gave him a cold look, hoping he would do what was right.

When Shu Pan returned to the noodle shop, Ye Xiaomeng had finished eating as well.

"Let's go back. I'm a bit tired," Shu Pan feigned exhaustion.

"Alright, let's go. Cheng Yang is returning tonight, and I'm waiting for him at home," Ye Xiaomeng said a bit sheepishly.

At this moment, Shu Pan felt relieved that she hadn't told her the truth. If Xiaomeng knew that Cheng Yang had lied, that he hadn't gone on a business trip and was instead with his childhood friend, she probably wouldn't be able to handle such a blow.

"Then go back quickly. Is he treating you well these days?" Shu Pan couldn't help but ask.

"Morning, noon, and night, he calls me three times a day. He's treating me even better than before. Probably because of his son," Ye Xiaomeng's tone sounded somewhat sour.

"Caring for you is a way of treating you well. That's good." Shu Pan heaved a sigh of relief, hoping it was just her imagination, that there were no issues between them.

"Hey, what's wrong? You seem a bit off," Ye Xiaomeng, while usually carefree, wasn't naive. She sensed that something was amiss with Shu Pan's sudden change in behavior.

"It's nothing. Go back safely," Shu Pan smiled and pretended to speak casually.

After parting ways, as evening approached, Shu Pan went to the market to buy groceries. Sister Zhang had been unavailable lately due to personal matters.

Shu Pan skillfully prepared rice and cooked dishes, making two dishes and a soup.

She actually couldn't eat so much, as her appetite had been poor lately, and she was eating even less. Nevertheless, she prepared portions for two people.

Yes, portions for two people, because she didn't know whether he would return or not.

After preparing the meal, Shu Pan washed a pair of bowls and chopsticks. Just as she was about to eat, Gu Shaoting returned home. He had come back early today, whereas he usually came back late.

He sat directly across from Shu Pan, who felt fortunate that she had cooked extra.

"I'm hungry," Gu Shaoting told Shu Pan.

Shu Pan served him his meal and then silently started to eat herself, lowering her head to sip the soup.

Neither of them spoke, yet the atmosphere was unusually pleasant. Gu Shaoting suddenly found himself enjoying this feeling.

The sense of being home, after a hard day's work outside, all he wanted was to drink a bowl of soup and have some home-cooked food.

"I'll be back for dinner tomorrow," Gu Shaoting said while picking up a piece of food.

"Um... I'll be returning to work at the company tomorrow. I don't know what time I'll be back. I might not have time to cook," Shu Pan looked at him and cautiously said.

Gu Shaoting frowned slightly. "This is how you take care of a patient? I'm still recovering."

"You can have dinner at your old house. Auntie Wang cooks there every day, and you can also spend time with your grandfather," Shu Pan persistently suggested. If he frequently came back for meals, and she was returning to work, overtime was bound to happen, and she wouldn't have time to cook.

"I just want to have dinner here," Gu Shaoting stubbornly said. The previously cold and composed him had lately been acting like a willful child, his temperament also becoming unpredictable.

"I'll do my best," Shu Pan replied helplessly, feeling like she had been caught in a difficult situation..

Chapter 60: Unexpected

On Monday, Shu Pan arrived at work on time. When she returned to the company, she felt a sense of unfamiliarity, but she was in urgent need of work at this moment.

The workplace was like this. After leaving for a period of time, she felt that she could not keep up with the pace.

“Sister Shu, you’re finally back. That’s great,” the assistant Lu Xiaoran exclaimed joyfully when she saw Shu Pan.

“What’s going on?” Shu Pan was puzzled by her reaction.

“Sister Shu, you don’t know. During the time you were on leave, a new designer joined the company named MO Qing. She has a flirtatious appearance, and she caused a sensation in the entire company on her first day. Now, she’s on the same level as you, and it seems like the boss values her a lot. She’s been entrusted with all the important projects. I heard she came back after studying abroad,” Lu Xiaoran said, sounding a bit indignant.

Why was that? She just couldn’t stand MO Qing’s hypocritical behavior – all soft and charming in front of male colleagues, showing off her charms, but always bossy and domineering towards her, acting like she’s superior.

“Oh, that’s good then. It shows she’s capable, which is why she’s given important tasks,” Shu Pan said with a puzzled look. There are many competent people in the company, and having them demonstrates the company’s growth and ability to attract talent.

“Sister Shu, the key point is that you’re about to be replaced, and you act like you don’t care at all,” Lu Xiaoran said indignantly.

“Well, what can I do? It’s not like I can control the fact that I’m not as skilled as her,” Shu Pan replied, feeling that this wasn’t something she could change.

“Ah, I knew you would say that. Right now, she’s in the boss’s office. Later, she’ll be meeting an important client. You’ll see then,” Lu Xiaoran said with a touch of frustration.

Shu Pan smiled and returned to her seat.

After a while, a figure surrounded by several company executives entered. It was a tall and straight figure, dressed in a suit, with a confident stride.

As he came closer, Shu Pan was stunned. It was actually Su Yuan. Since their last encounter, they hadn't been in touch due to an unspoken understanding. Shu Pan comforted herself that she owed him money and favors, and she would gradually repay them. She hadn't expected to see him again so soon, and in the company of all places.

Shu Pan had always known that Su Yuan was an exceptionally handsome individual. She had learned that during her university days, otherwise, he wouldn't have monopolized the title of "campus heartthrob" for all four years.

Shu Pan had been captivated by his handsome face for a long time; she never tired of looking at it.

However, this face had also brought her the most painful hurt.

Now their situation was that they had broken up, but they were still friends. Actually, she used to find such a situation laughable, but the fact was Su Yuan had helped her during her most difficult times. She couldn't be ungrateful and deny their past.

She took a deep breath, smiled ahead, and looked straight ahead. Obviously, Su Yuan had already spotted her and was heading in her direction.

"Pan, it's been a while," Su Yuan couldn't help but greet her.

"Yeah, it's been good," Shu Pan nodded.

"Mr. Su, I didn't realize you know Shu Pan," the director He Guoping said with surprise.

"Yeah, Shu Pan and I were classmates," Su Yuan explained.

"That's great. I didn't expect the world to be so small. It's nice to run into each other like this," He Guoping thought to himself with satisfaction. With this relationship, this cooperation seemed even more hopeful.

“You go ahead, we’ll talk later,” Su Yuan said, noticing that it was work hours and not the right setting for an extended conversation.

“Okay,” Shu Pan nodded.

Shu Pan returned to her seat, but in her heart, she hoped that she wouldn’t have to work late tonight and that she wouldn’t come home too late. Otherwise, it would be troublesome if Gu Shooting came home and there was no food for him..