

## As Agreed 61

### Chapter 61: An Inexplicable Phone Call

"I've seen the previous works of your company's designers, which are very suitable for our theme this time. The feeling of home, the most original flavor:

warmth. Our luxury rooms this time are meant to evoke that kind of feeling," Su Yuan opened the meeting by getting straight to the point.

"Mr. Su, rest assured, we will wholeheartedly meet your requirements. Our designers have a good reputation in the industry. This is MO Qing, in charge of this design," He Guoping confidently replied while introducing a woman standing beside him.

"Mr. Su, nice to meet you. Your name is well-known," the woman's voice was soft and melodious, her appearance striking. She stood up gracefully and shook hands with Su Yuan.

"Director He, I hope we can have more than one option. As far as I know, Ms. Shu's designs are very good..." Su Yuan hinted.

"Of course, we'll definitely have the designers compete internally before making a decision," He Guoping, who had climbed up the ladder to his current position, had seen all sorts of people, and he couldn't help but knock his head, wondering why he hadn't seen through their connection.

As Su Yuan's current project was quite important, everyone was fully committed, and Shu Pan was no exception.

Initially, Su Yuan thought he could have dinner with Shu Pan, but she politely declined, saying "Another time".

After work, Shu Pan hurriedly rushed home to cook.

“Brother Ting, do we have any plans tonight? Why are you leaving so early? Something going on?” He Ming was a bit puzzled. He hadn’t seen him leave this early before.

“Going home to have dinner, ” Gu Shaoting said firmly.

“Going back to your old house?”

“No, back to Shuimu Qinghua.” Gu Shaoting packed his things and answered while leaving.

“Haven’t you had enough of Auntie’s food? How about we go out?” He Ming suggested.

“Not going, I’m leaving.” With that, he waved his hand and walked away without looking back, leaving He Ming deep in thought.

Gu Shaoting didn’t quite understand why he felt so eager to return to Shuimu

Qinghua, his heart racing with unexplainable excitement.

A simple home-cooked meal was enough to satisfy him.

Lately, Shu Pan was busy preparing for the design competition for Su Yuan’s company. Suddenly, her phone on the desk rang without warning, startling her while she was engrossed in drawing.

Picking up the phone, she saw an unfamiliar number. After a moment’s hesitation, she answered the call.

“Hello? Who’s this? What do you want?” Shu Pan balanced the phone between her head and shoulder, continuing to draw with her hands. It was Wednesday, and the design submission was due on Friday. She really needed to catch up on her work.

"Is this Ms. Shu?" A sweet and gentle voice came from the other end, soothing and pleasant to hear.

Shu Pan put down the pen, straightened up, and glanced at her phone again, confirming that the number was unknown. "Who is this?"

A soft laughter came from the other end of the phone. "Ms. Shu, you may not know me, but I know you. Would you like to have a cup of coffee sometime?"

Shu Pan furrowed her brow slightly. "I'm sorry, I'm quite busy right now, and I don't have a habit of having coffee with strangers."

"Ms. Shu, please don't make a decision so quickly. You may not know me, but you know my husband," the voice on the other end said.

Shu Pan was getting confused, the conversation sounding enigmatic. "I'm not quite sure what you mean."

"Su Yuan." The voice on the phone softly uttered those two words, followed by a playful laugh. "I'm Su Yuan's wife, Zhou Jie."

Shu Pan's hand stiffened. She found this situation inexplicable. She and Su Yuan had been separated for so long, and there was no connection between them now.. Why would his wife be calling her?

## Chapter 62: The Past

Shu Pan knew about Zhou Jie. During their university days, Zhou Jie was a beauty, the campus belle, majoring in foreign languages. She was gentle and kind, often seen in long dresses that exuded an ethereal aura, as if she were not part of the mundane world. Due to her beauty and prestigious background, she was never short of admirers.

However, there were no reports about her being in a relationship with anyone. Shu Pan had never met her.

It was only later that rumors spread about Zhou Jie being close to a male student from the architecture department, someone handsome and charming. It was then that Shu Pan learned that the person Zhou Jie was with was Su Yuan. By the time she checked, they were already together, and Su Yuan hadn't explained anything, only offered apologies.

Never had she imagined that after four years of being in love, they would break up like this, without any warning. Shu Pan still remembered how utterly devastated she had felt.

After the breakup, they never met again. Before graduation, she heard that both Su Yuan and Zhou Jie had gone abroad for further studies. Later on, she gradually understood Su Yuan. He had dreams, aspirations for success, and although he claimed not to love Zhou Jie, she could offer him everything he desired.

Being with her would have been his first step towards success. Shu Pan admitted to herself that she lacked that capability. Therefore, besides feeling heartbroken, she could do nothing else. Reality was just that cruel. "Ms. Shu, are you there? I'm waiting for you at the café across from your

company." Not hearing a response, Zhou Jie made a decision on her own.

Only then did Shu Pan snap out of her reverie. She tightened her grip on the phone and said, "Alright."

Judging from Zhou Jie's demeanor, Shu Pan guessed that if she didn't see her, she might come to the company.

"Then let's meet at 6 pm tonight, after I finish work." Shu Pan rubbed her forehead and reluctantly agreed. She actually wanted to know what Zhou Jie wanted.

Well, getting entangled with an ex-boyfriend did bring about a lot of trouble.

When Shu Pan arrived at the café after work, Zhou Jie was already there. Indeed, a beauty. She had been favored by fate, leaving no traces of time on her. She looked exactly the same as before. Her simple makeup accentuated her delicate features, and her elegant white dress showcased her graceful figure. Her ethereal charm was so captivating that it was hard to look away.

“Ms. Shu, please have a seat.” Zhou Jie smiled gently. Her smile was light, lacking any sincerity.

“Ms. Zhou, I don’t understand why you’re in such a hurry to meet me. What’s the matter?” Shu Pan didn’t beat around the bush. She went straight to the point.

“In fact, you are more senior than me. After all, we attended the same school. I owe you an apology, right? Back then, Su Yuan and I got together, causing your relationship to end. I’m truly sorry for that.” Although she was apologizing with her words, her sincerity was hardly felt.

“It’s really unnecessary. We all have our own lives now, Ms. Zhou, you don’t have to care so much about it.” Shu Pan rejected her apology outright. She didn’t want anything to do with them.

“Then please, Ms. Shu, do as you said. After all, Su Yuan is now my husband. I hope you won’t have any other ideas. You probably don’t know this, but Su Yuan chose to cooperate with your company for you. There are so many companies in the industry, so why did he choose your company? This way, he has a reason to get close to you. Are you feeling proud of that? Do you think I’m facing retribution now?” Zhou Jie’s tone was assertive.

“Ms. Zhou, you’re overthinking things. I have no interest in other people’s husbands.” Shu Pan replied straightforwardly.

“Heh heh.” Zhou Jie chuckled lightly. “It’s nothing, really. I wanted to tell you that I won’t let go of Su Yuan. It’s best if you don’t have any other thoughts. I’ve heard you’re married too. You should cherish your marriage, or don’t blame me for not being polite.” Zhou Jie’s threat sounded cold.

Shu Pan didn’t want to continue the conversation. Her stance had always been clear. “Your marriage doesn’t require any comments from me.”

“Heh, I hope you remember what I said today.” Compared to her previous tone, her current one was much colder.

Afterward, Zhou Jie picked up her bag and left gracefully.

Shu Pan watched her leave, furrowing her brow. She found this situation truly bewildering. She decided to keep her distance from Su Yuan in the future and prioritize paying back the money she owed him..

#### Chapter 63: The Design Sketches Was Destroyed

Shu Pan has been busy with her work recently, leaving her with little time to think too much about other matters.

Finally, she finished her designs, letting out a sigh of relief. As she was about to head home, the office door was knocked. She looked up and saw MO Qing, someone she wasn't particularly familiar with. She couldn't understand why MO Qing had come to her.

“Is there something you need?” Shu Pan asked. She was quite perceptive, and she always felt an unexplainable hostility from MO Qing, especially during meetings, where MO Qing often contradicted her.

“Oh, it's nothing.” MO Qing shrugged and entered the office, taking a seat.

Shu Pan glanced at her and continued packing her things. She said in a calm tone, “I'm leaving.”

MO Qing wasn't angered by her attitude. She sat on the chair, looking at her newly manicured nails, and casually asked, “Have you finished your design sketches?”

“Yes, didn't you finish yours too?” Shu Pan didn't believe that MO Qing was just concerned about her design sketches.

"Of course. Sister Shu, do you know Mr. Su? Are you close with him?" MO Qing asked, probing.

"Not very familiar. Why?" Shu Pan replied simply.

"Never mind. Let's wait and see tomorrow, Sister Shu." MO Qing stood up, swaying her graceful figure as she left.

Not long after Shu Pan left, a figure swiftly entered her office.

The company's meeting room was filled with engineering and technical staff. Su Yuan sat at the main seat, with Director He Guoping sitting next to him.

"We can begin," Su Yuan nodded.

"Sure." MO Qing was the first to present.

Her design sketches had delicate lines and harmonious colors, offering a fresh perspective and capturing the concept of home perfectly.

As she spoke about her designs, He Guoping nodded repeatedly.

Then it was Shu Pan's turn. She opened her computer, inserted a USB drive, but on the projection screen, there was nothing. Shu Pan furrowed her brows slightly and murmured to herself, "What's going on?"

"I'm sorry, please wait a moment." After a while, Shu Pan's expression became anxious, her voice slightly trembling. Her fingers were searching rapidly for something.

She felt that something was off, but she genuinely couldn't find the design sketches. She apologized to the people present, saying, "I'm sorry, the design sketches... are missing."

Meanwhile, she persisted, staring at the computer screen in a mix of desperation and panic. No matter how she searched, she couldn't find the design sketches. She had scanned them into the computer after completing the initial drafts. But now, there wasn't enough time to deal with this, especially considering the tight project schedule.

"How could they be missing?" Su Yuan, seeing her anxious state, couldn't help but ask. The people present felt that something was off and started discussing in low voices, but nobody dared to question too loudly with Su Yuan present.

Such incidents had never occurred before. Every time Shu Pan finished a design, she would scan it into the computer and make backups. But now, they were gone.

Her mind was in chaos at the moment. She bit her lip. All she could do was speak with a strained voice, "I'm not sure what happened. I checked thoroughly before leaving last night."

"Sister Shu, could it be that you didn't finish the design, or you lack inspiration? How could such important design sketches just vanish? Fortunately, we're still in the proposal phase, not in the final draft or construction stage. Otherwise, how much time would be wasted?" MO Qing had been waiting for an opportunity to speak, and now she finally could.

Ever since she joined the company, everyone considered Shu Pan a prodigy, and her designs were well-received by clients. No matter how hard she tried, she always came up short in comparison.

Shu Pan took a deep breath and steadied her emotions. Then, she returned to the front of the projection screen, facing the audience, and bowed slightly. "I'm sorry, my design sketches are missing. I can't show them to you."

Her voice had just fallen, and the meeting room was already buzzing with discussions..

Chapter 64: The Ugly Truth



Su Yuan's face didn't show much surprise, but he witnessed Shu Pan's recent situation and felt concerned for her. He couldn't show too much emotion, though, as the cooperation was based on the company's interests, and he couldn't give the impression of mixing personal matters with business.

He didn't know what had happened, but he was aware that Shu Pan must be very disappointed to lose this opportunity. After all, their current project had a significant impact, and their design could potentially make them famous.

"It's a pity. Shu Pan's designs have always been favored. Mr. Su, you see, Shu Pan's design sketches are missing. Actually, MO Qing's design also fits the company's requirements very well. She can provide a few more design concepts of different styles for your consideration." Director He Guoping took the opportunity to suggest. He had favored MO Qing from the start, and now it was even more appropriate. Fate seemed to be on her side.

"Alright. Miss MO, please provide a few design concepts for now," Su Yuan reluctantly said. Originally, he gave them the opportunity because of Shu Pan. Now that this had happened, without the design sketches, he couldn't say much more. He could only console her privately, as the matter of collaboration was urgent.

With the matter settled, everyone dispersed.

Shu Pan returned to her office with a sense of loss. She couldn't figure it out. Everything seemed fine when she left last night, so how could it have turned out this way?

Suddenly, she stood up and headed towards Director He's office. Just as she was about to knock on the door, she heard He Guoping's reprimanding voice from inside.

"Did you do it? Did you delete Shu Pan's design drafts?" His voice held certainty. He could think of no one else but her.

"What's wrong? What did I do? Didn't you promise that I'm responsible for this design? I just didn't want any extra trouble," MO Qing pouted and acted coquettishly towards him.

“But you shouldn’t have deleted them. What if her design sketches were better? What you did damages the company’s interests.” He Guoping said meaningfully, with a hint of reluctance in his tone.

“Alright, I understand.” MO Qing sat on his lap and whispered softly. She knew how to get to him. After all, she had risen to her current position in the company by using similar tactics.

“Darling, you can rest assured, I’m always thinking of you. How about we go out to celebrate tonight? What do you think? Mmm...

Shu Pan stood by the door, her hand hesitating over the knock. She felt a bit nauseated. This was the truth. It was truly nauseating.

Not long after, MO Qing came out. Her hair was slightly disheveled, her face a bit flushed, and her lip gloss had smeared.

Shu Pan pretended not to notice, but her stomach churned in waves.

As she packed her belongings, she thought that she truly hadn’t understood the unwritten rules of the workplace. She had been working for so long, yet still, these things were beyond her comprehension.

At the end of the workday, Su Yuan called her. Shu Pan hesitated for a moment, unsure whether to answer or not. The scene of meeting Zhou Jie was still fresh in her mind.

After the call ended, the phone rang again. Shu Pan frowned slightly. She picked up the call. “Su Yuan? What’s the matter?”

“Are you done with work? I’m waiting for you outside your company.” Su Yuan’s tone carried an implied expectation that couldn’t be refused.

“Alright.” It was unavoidable. Shu Pan also wanted to clarify things with him.

When Shu Pan left the company, Su Yuan had just stepped out of his Mercedes-Benz. He exuded elegance as he opened the car door and gestured for her to sit.

After Shu Pan got in the car, he closed the door, started the engine, and in a moment, the car disappeared into the night and the flow of traffic.

Not far away, MO Qing held her phone, a half-smile tugging at her lips as she watched Su Yuan's car disappear around the corner. She then glanced at the photo she had just taken on her phone, her smile growing even more pronounced.

"Shu Pan, you pride yourself on being upright and moral, but now you're with a married man. I wonder what would happen if Mrs. Su found out?" She couldn't help but be eager to see a spectacle..

#### Chapter 65: I Don't Love Her

In the car, Shu Pan sat quietly without saying a word.

The ride was smooth, and Shu Pan gazed out the window.

"Pan, what would you like to eat?" Su Yuan asked.

"Anything is fine. Let's find a place nearby since it's getting late." Actually, Shu Pan wanted to finish the conversation quickly and head home. She wasn't sure if Gu Shaoting would be back for dinner. Lately, she had been busy with work, and there was one evening when she wasn't able to prepare anything. Fortunately, he had his own commitments that day, so he didn't complain.

"That won't do. Choose something you like. I want to treat you." Su Yuan said seriously.

"Then let's go to the Western restaurant ahead." Shu Pan thought the environment there was more serene, making conversation easier.

"Alright, your choice." The car slowly pulled up outside the Western restaurant.

Closing the menu, Su Yuan gazed steadily at Shu Pan. He felt like he could never get enough of looking at her.

He used to think that success was the only goal worth pursuing. However, when he truly succeeded, he realized that if his success wasn't shared with a loved one, it was all meaningless.

Especially when he looked at Shu Pan, this thought became even stronger.

Knowing that he wasn't free yet, he had been restraining himself from seeing Shu Pan. But because of their company's collaboration, he was secretly delighted. Finally, he had a legitimate reason to see her.

"Don't worry too much about the design sketches. There will be many more opportunities in the future. If you face any difficulties, you can talk to me." Su Yuan comforted her.

"It's alright, it's my own fault. I just owe you money. I'll repay you as soon as possible." Shu Pan seemed a bit uneasy.

"That's not urgent." In his heart, if this small sum of money made her remember his favor, then so be it.

"Su Yuan, don't treat me too well. We are in the past now. Treat the person by your side well. Being together is fate. Cherish it." Shu Pan hinted, hoping he would understand the meaning behind her words.

"Pan, I've already said that I don't love her. I'm with her just to achieve success faster. We have a mutually beneficial relationship, without any emotional basis." Suddenly, a hint of gloom appeared in Su Yuan's eyes, his tone becoming icy.

Shu Pan looked at Su Yuan before her and felt like he was a stranger.

The old him had been gentle with a touch of sunshine. Every time she saw him, he wore a smile, even when he left initially. Though his smile carried an apology, he was still smiling. But now, although he treated her gently, the occasional malicious expression he revealed caught her off guard.

She had never seen that side of him before.

Time truly was a knife that stripped away a person's initial appearance. Seeing each other again, they were completely different.

Some scars, even when healed, still hurt, and one must learn to forget.

"But marriage is sacred. It can't be taken lightly. Since you're married, treat your wife well." Shu Pan advised.

"Pan, you don't understand. For the past six years, I've lived in conflict. I longed for success that could bring you happiness, but my marriage has held me back. I can't rightfully possess you. Now, I can finally break free from all of this. Give me time, wait for me, alright?" Suddenly, Su Yuan held Shu Pan's hand.

Shu Pan was startled and quickly pulled her hand away.

"Su Yuan, calm down. We really can't go back. I'm grateful for your help during my difficult times. I'll remember it for a lifetime. But our past is truly gone. I hope you can find peace as well." Shu Pan thought of Zhou Jie's words and let out a sigh.

"Pan, I won't let go. Don't worry, I'll handle everything." Su Yuan thought she was concerned about Zhou Jie, so he consoled her.

Shu Pan looked at him, unable to do anything in the face of his stubbornness..

Chapter 66: Let's Divorce

When Shu Pan returned home, it was close to 9 O'clock. The living room was dim, with only scattered spots of light.

Shu Pan was startled and quickly turned on the lights. She saw Gu Shaoting sitting on the sofa, his face gloomy and dark. He was smoking, something he usually did when he was troubled.

"Why didn't you turn on the lights? Have you eaten?" Shu Pan asked cautiously. His expression of keeping his distance startled her a bit.

"Why did you come back so late?" Gu Shaoting took a drag of his cigarette and then asked Shu Pan.

"Working on a project. These past few days have been busy." Shu Pan told a little lie, looking at him with some unease.

"Shu Pan, I underestimated you. Turns out you're quite capable. How can working on a project require you to go to a restaurant with a man? What else have you done?" Gu Shaoting suddenly stood up, his hand gripping Shu Pan's chin. His tone was heavy, laced with anger.

"You've misunderstood. He's just a friend. That's why I didn't mention it to you." The pain from having her chin held in his grip spread through Shu Pan.

"Look at this. What's this?" Gu Shaoting threw his phone in front of Shu Pan.

Shu Pan glanced at it. The people in the photo were her and Su Yuan. They were leaving in a car, and at the restaurant, Su Yuan suddenly held her hand without any warning. The photo had captured their interaction in an ambiguous way.

From the angle of the photo, it appeared as though they were deeply in love, completely understanding each other. It looked like they were a couple. Could it be that Gu Shaoting was furious?

"It's not what you think. We're just friends. I didn't expect him to act like that out of nowhere."

Shu Pan herself felt her explanation was feeble and weak. She sank onto the sofa, feeling a mist forming in her eyes.

“Shu Pan, I’ve said it before. Don’t make me wear a cuckold’s hat, or else the consequences won’t be something you can bear. It seems you’ve treated my words as if they were nothing.” He spoke with determination.

“What do you want then?” Shu Pan looked at him, resigned to whatever terrible outcome might come.

“In fact, I’ve grown tired of you too. Honestly, you’re like a tasteless dish, neither enjoyable nor worth discarding. But you know I have a cleanliness obsession. I don’t like using what others have touched. Since you and that guy are so affectionate, I’ll make it happen for you. From now on, don’t appear before me.” He ignored the strange emotions in his heart and said these cruel words.

Seeing the photos sent by an unknown number, Gu Shaoting truly exploded in anger. He couldn’t believe Shu Pan had betrayed him. Even though he had mistreated her later, she had endured it silently. Who would’ve thought she would secretly go on a date with another man behind his back?

What was so great about that pretty boy? With just a wave from him, so many women would come flocking. He could get women based on his looks or talents. Anyone was better than Shu Pan. There was no need to be tied to her.

Tonight, he had contemplated in the darkness for a long time. Their relationship had become meaningless. There was a threshold in his heart that he couldn’t cross. With this triggering event, he decided to get a divorce. He didn’t believe that without Shu Pan, he couldn’t go on.

“I’ll have the lawyer contact you tomorrow for the paperwork. Then you can leave and be together with your little pretty boy.” Gu Shaoting’s tone brooked no argument. The coldness in his words once again wounded Shu Pan’s heart.

Shu Pan hadn’t expected things to end like this. After the incident before, he had been unwilling to forgive her no matter what she said. And now, based on unfounded suspicions, he was demanding a divorce.

She thought that him coming home recently to eat the meals she cooked was a good start. It turned out she had overthought it.

He had never genuinely cared for her. He had just been playing around. Well, fortunately, she hadn't told him about the pregnancy. Getting a divorce was also fine. She would leave with her precious child.

"Fine. Gu Shaoting, let's get a divorce." Shu Pan's heart had finally died. Her face was pale, and her chin bore the marks of his grip. But her tears fell like broken beads, whether from pain or bidding farewell to her three-year marriage, she wasn't sure.

Shu Pan didn't utter another word of explanation or rebuttal. Perhaps this was the best ending. In the future, they would go their separate ways, having no more connection to each other..

Chapter 67: She Finally Lost Him

Shu Pan wiped away her tears with her hand, and her heart gradually calmed down.

A faint smile appeared on her face, hollow and feeble.

"Tomorrow, I'll have the lawyer bring the divorce agreement. Sign it as soon as possible," Gu Shaoting's tone was impatient.

"What about the property distribution?" Shu Pan bit her lip and said in a rather pragmatic tone.

"What do you think? Do you think you're entitled to bring that up?" Gu Shaoting suddenly found her like this repulsive.

Shu Pan's expression remained blank. "Don't worry, anything that shouldn't be mine, I won't take. But what's rightfully mine, I'll claim."



“Your father forced my father to his death back then. Now you have the audacity to ask me for money to help him clear his debts? Do you still have the face to mention property?” Gu Shaoting’s lips curled with irony.

It was as if Shu Pan had been slapped hard across the face. Once again, she was humiliated by her own actions.

There was a hint of unwillingness in her, a desire to test whether she held any place in his heart. But she had overestimated him. Just as he had said, he was only playing with her.

Haha, wisdom came from self-awareness. She was a fool, naive and foolish.

Shu Pan’s expression remained unchanged. She stared blankly for a moment, then spoke slowly, “So I’ve slept with you in vain, haven’t I?”

Upon hearing this, Gu Shaoting continued, “The divorce agreement will be very clear. If you want to threaten me, demanding money to sign it, go ahead. But don’t challenge my bottom line.”

Shu Pan looked at him, feeling somewhat distant. How could he think of her like this? It turned out he didn’t understand her at all. Well, let him think whatever he wanted.

Gu Shaoting stood up, his gaze cold and condescending. Shu Pan was indifferent. The room was chilly, but Shu Pan’s heart was not icy.

There had been so much anticipation, and now there was so much disappointment.

“Baby, don’t pay attention to what your dad and mom were talking about just now. Mom will love you very much in the future.”

Gu Shaoting’s mood felt a bit suppressed. He walked out onto the balcony, took out another cigarette, lit it, and began to smoke slowly.

As the cigarette burned out, Gu Shaoting leaned against the railing, looking at the grayish night for a moment. Then he withdrew his gaze, took out his phone, and called He Ming.

“Brother Ting? It’s so late, what’s up?” He Ming couldn’t believe it because Gu Shaoting hadn’t called him this late for a long time. After he fell ill and was hospitalized, he had almost stopped drinking. He didn’t understand what could be so important to make Gu Shaoting call so late.

“Shu Pan and I are getting a divorce. I’ll have Lawyer Chen bring the divorce agreement for her to sign tomorrow,” Gu Shaoting’s words were like a bombshell, shocking He Ming.

“Why so sudden? Weren’t you saying you didn’t want a divorce before?” He Ming asked in confusion.

“Got tired of it. Spare me the chatter. Remember the things I asked you to take care of.” Gu Shaoting hung up hastily, not wanting He Ming to inquire further. He himself couldn’t even understand what he was feeling.

He Ming looked bewildered, not understanding the situation. Still, he went to handle the things Gu Shaoting had asked him to do.

Shu Pan remained sitting on the sofa. She hadn’t gone anywhere.

The most important part of this home was him, and now she had lost him.

Three years, not long but not short. Yet it had made her love him to the bone.

She hadn’t really slept all night, and her complexion had become even paler. She looked outside and saw the morning light had already illuminated the living room.

Shu Pan slowly got up, freshened up, and thought that once the lawyer was here and this matter was settled, she would submit her resignation letter and leave.

There was nothing worth staying for here anymore, whether it was the marriage or the job, she had failed.

As Shu Pan was about to go into the bedroom to pack her things, Gu Shaoting actually came out. They almost bumped into each other.

"I'm packing up now. Do you need to take a look?" Shu Pan lowered her head, looking at the floor, and murmured.

Gu Shaoting frowned slightly, didn't say anything, and walked past her.

Shu Pan couldn't hold back, and her nose began to feel sour again. She realized that she had become overly sentimental since becoming pregnant..

Chapter 68: Sign

Shu Pan opened a small suitcase, packing her clothes and documents with simplicity. Just as she had moved in, now she was leaving, and things were as they had been.

She didn't take a single thing they had bought after getting married, because nothing belonged to her.

Stepping out of the bedroom, she barely had time to close the door before the doorbell rang.

Shu Pan opened the door to find Lavvyer Chen standing there, wearing glasses and holding a briefcase.

"Please come in, Lawyer Chen. You've gone through the trouble," Shu Pan stepped aside, allowing Lawyer Chen to enter.

"Mrs. Gu, you're too polite," Lawyer Chen was slightly uncomfortable. After all, he was here to bring the divorce agreement for her to sign, and it was quite a demanding agreement.

“Lawyer Chen, you can just call me Shu Pan. I won’t be Mrs. Gu much longer,” Shu Pan smiled bitterly.

Lawyer Chen took a seat on the sofa, opened the briefcase, and took out a few sheets of paper. “Ms. Shu, take a look at this agreement. Is there anything that needs to be modified?”

Shu Pan scanned the agreement briefly. There were dozens of clauses in all, and without hesitation, she picked up a pen and carefully signed her name.

“Ms. Shu, aren’t you going to look through it carefully? If there’s anything unreasonable, you can raise it, and we can discuss it,” Lawyer Chen, who had been a lawyer for a long time, had never tried to persuade someone like this before. It was as if he was worried she might be taken advantage of.

He wasn’t worried about his client being taken advantage of because the agreement was quite harsh on the female party. He had also been working with Gu Shaoting for a long time, and he knew Gu wasn’t usually this stingy. However, now he was drafting such a strict agreement for his former wife, which was truly beyond belief.

He found it hard to bear.

“No need, it’s fine,” Shu Pan exerted all her strength to sign each letter of her name, as if she wanted to poke a hole in the paper.

Her fingers tightened slowly, and her long eyelashes fluttered like the wings of a butterfly. “Lawyer Chen, thank you for your kindness. I have no objections to the agreement. I’ve signed it. Please take a look.”

Lawyer Chen took the agreement, feeling like it weighed a thousand pounds. He felt like he was doing something wicked.

Suddenly, the sound of a ringing phone shattered the silence.

"Hello, Mr. Gu, how are you... Oh, I see. She signed it already... No," Gu Shaoting, worried that Shu Pan wouldn't sign, had called her specially.

Shu Pan acted as if she hadn't heard. It was all over.

Numbness came from prolonged pain. The three-year marriage finally came to an end.

After Lawyer Chen left, Shu Pan also left.

Back in the office, she was already late.

"Designers are truly different. You don't even need to announce yourself when you're late," MO Qing remarked sarcastically upon seeing Shu Pan.

Shu Pan ignored her, opened her computer, and began to draft her resignation letter.

She had lost her enthusiasm for this job, and after stumbling upon those two's affair, she couldn't pretend it didn't matter.

Looking at MO Qing's perfectly made-up face, with wavy hair that had been styled, Shu Pan couldn't help but wonder why, in the same position, doing the same job, MO Qing had so much time to primp herself.

"So, how was it? The other day, I saw you getting into Mr. Su's car. Where did you go? I heard Mr. Su got married. And his wife is a stunning beauty, right?" MO Qing looked at her with a strange smile.

"Just ordinary friends. Our relationship isn't as deep as yours with the director," Shu Pan hinted.

MO Qing's face suddenly turned red and then white. She glared at Shu Pan, then turned on her heels and walked away.

After finishing the resignation letter, Shu Pan walked into the boss's office.

The boss initially thought she was resigning because of the failed design competition, but upon learning about her situation, approved her resignation. However, he made it clear that the company's doors would always be open for her. These words moved Shu Pan deeply..

## Chapter 69: Visiting Grandfather

Shu Pan walked out of the company's gate, looked back with mixed feelings, and couldn't help but feel reluctant. She had started working here right after graduation, and now she was leaving like this. She truly couldn't bear it.

It was still early, and Shu Pan didn't want to go back yet, not to that place that could no longer be called home. She had decided to pack her things tomorrow and return to her hometown. There, she could have her child. After all, with her father and Auntie Lu there, they could help each other.

For now, she didn't want to tell Xiaomeng about her divorce, so as not to worry her. She would contact her once she was settled.

People were bustling on the streets, hurriedly walking by, but Shu Pan felt like a lifeless doll, aimlessly wandering the streets. She wanted to take in everything, because it might be a long time before she returned to Bin City.

There was a saying that one fell in love with a city because of a person.

Now that her love was gone, the meaning of staying in this city was gone too.

When she returned home, Gu Shaoting was already there, standing on the balcony exhaling smoke. For some reason, he seemed a bit lonely. She thought he would be happy, finally rid of her, able to let go of the burdens in his heart and not live in guilt and hatred anymore.

Seeing Shu Pan return, Gu Shaoting casually stubbed out his cigarette. Lately, he had a tendency to unconsciously reach for a cigarette when he felt annoyed.

He would smoke when he was irritated.

As Gu Shaoting approached, Shu Pan spoke softly, "I'll be leaving tomorrow morning. I'll leave the keys on the coffee table. I'm only taking my own things. The rest, things I've used and you don't want, you can throw away."

"Whatever. We'll finalize the divorce procedures this afternoon. After that, we'll have no debts to each other," Gu Shaoting's expression was cold, devoid of much emotion.

"Alright, I understand."

In the afternoon, after completing the procedures, they finally became the most familiar strangers. There were no more ties or connections between them.

"Can I go see Grandpa? I won't tell him about our divorce. I just want to see him before leaving," Shu Pan asked Gu Shaoting with a pleading look.

"I happen to have some free time. I'll go with you," Gu Shaoting walked to the car and backed it out.

Shu Pan reluctantly got into the car. On the way, no one spoke, and the atmosphere was a bit awkward.

Shu Pan hadn't expected that after the divorce, they would still visit Grandpa together.

When they arrived at the Gu Family's mansion, Auntie Wang came to open the door, her face full of joy.

"You're back. Master will definitely be overjoyed," Auntie Wang opened the door and then headed to the kitchen, probably preparing some delicious food.

“Panpan, you’re here? Have you been busy lately? It’s been a long time since you visited the old estate,” Grandpa Gu said, his tone carrying some resentment. He completely ignored Gu Shaoting in his words.

“I’m sorry, Grandpa. I’ve been busy lately. How have you been?” Shu Pan looked guilty. It was indeed wrong. When elderly people grow old, they long to have their children and grandchildren around.

“Don’t worry, I’m still in good health. I was hoping to see my great-grandchild born,” Grandpa Gu’s words made Shu Pan’s eyes slightly red. She secretly thought that she might disappoint him.

“Take care of yourself, Grandpa,” Shu Pan’s voice choked.

Gu Shaoting stood on the side like an unnecessary presence, unable to join in the conversation, watching the tender interactions between the two generations.

He really couldn’t let Grandpa know that they had divorced. Otherwise, he might not even let him inside the house. Besides, Grandpa’s health wasn’t that great. If he could put it off for a day, he would.

“Shaoting, have you been busy at work lately? Spend more time with Panpan. Money can’t buy everything, family is the most important,” Grandpa Gu faced him directly.

“The company is fine, I know. Don’t worry. I’ll go see if there’s anything to eat,” Gu Shaoting changed the topic and headed toward the kitchen.

“This naughty kid,” Grandpa Gu chuckled and scolded.

“If he bullies you, you must tell me,” Grandpa Gu reminded.

“Don’t worry, Grandpa,” Shu Pan was deeply moved inside, but even more filled with guilt..

Chapter 70: Leaving



After returning from the old estate, it was already late. The two individuals returned to their respective bedrooms.

Shu Pan couldn't fall asleep for a long time, staring blankly at the ceiling. Everything in this room was meticulously arranged by her. Initially, she had decorated this home with anticipation for a new life and the love in her heart, making it so cozy.

Now, in retrospect, it felt a bit ironic. Eventually, when this home had a new mistress, it would probably undergo significant changes.

Gu Shaoting was unusually quiet tonight. He didn't turn on the light and walked into his bedroom. The light from outside and the moon lazily illuminated the room.

The room was dimly lit, and there was silence all around.

He collapsed onto the bed, staring coldly at the ceiling, his eyes fixed, seemingly empty, his gaze unfocused, as if lost in thought. But at some point, his eyebrows furrowed slightly, clearly deep in thought, yet it was unclear about what.

Suddenly, he felt restless, stood up all of a sudden, pacing around the room, appearing uneasy.

Was this divorce-induced restlessness?

Divorce was nothing. He didn't believe he couldn't find someone better, more suitable for him.

Finally, he took a deep breath and sat back on the edge of the bed. He lay down, trying to make himself fall asleep. However, involuntarily, an image of Shu Pan's blushing and shy expression emerged in his mind. He felt a burning sensation in his heart, as if a fire was blazing.

Finally, it was dawn. When Gu Shaoting opened the door to leave, he saw that the door to the adjacent guest room was open. He glanced inside and saw that the bed was neatly made, everything was in order, as if no one had ever stayed there.

He walked out to the living room and caught sight of a bunch of keys on the coffee table. He understood that Shu Pan had already left. The house seemed even emptier now, devoid of any vitality.

He pursed his lips, then headed to the company.

In the office, he stared at the pedestrians outside, the cars hurrying by, lost in thought.

"Brother Ting, congratulations on getting a fresh start," He Ming entered without knocking.

"How did things go?" Gu Shaoting asked abruptly.

"Well, don't worry. Everything's taken care of. Shu Pan is now penniless. The card you gave her has also been suspended. I checked the records. It was used for one transaction," He Ming really didn't understand Gu Shaoting. Was it necessary to be so ruthless? Even if there was deep-seated resentment, there was no need to treat a woman like this.

Gu Shaoting remembered that the last transaction seemed to be for buying lingerie. He remembered it so clearly because it was the only transaction. It was for buying lingerie.

"Brother Ting, actually, you're divorced now too. Even if Shu Pan's father was wrong, it's in the past. She's having a hard time now. I heard she quit her job too, left with nothing after the divorce. You two have no relationship now. You should open up your heart. You were depressed before the divorce. Now that it's done, you should be happy," He Ming earnestly advised.

"What do you think?" He Ming suggested when he saw Gu Shaoting didn't speak.

"We'll see," Gu Shaoting responded absentmindedly. He was also contemplating that he should move on and live a good life.

“Alright, you go ahead. I have something to attend to as well,” He Ming said and left, closing the door behind him.

Gu Shaoting sat for a while, immersing himself in his work. There was a holiday resort project under discussion lately. He had to get busy. Next, he would work hard and lead the company to new peaks..