

As Agreed 71

Chapter 71: Encounter with Doctor Wen

On this side, Shu Pan woke up early, picked up her luggage, and quietly opened the door, stepping out of the living room. She glanced around, sighed, and realized that there might never be another chance for her to step into this place again. Reluctantly, she placed the keys on the coffee table.

Then, she quietly opened the door and took the elevator down to the ground floor. She dragged her suitcase and slowly walked outside the residential area.

When she reached the entrance of the residential area, the friendly security guard smiled at her, "Madam, you're leaving so early?"

"Yeah," Shu Pan mustered a smile in response.

The security guard, a young man, opened the gate for her and said, "You're leaving quite early today. It's not easy to catch a cab at this hour. Why don't you let Mr. Gu give you a ride?"

"He's still asleep, and I have something to do," Shu Pan absentmindedly responded, bidding farewell to the guard.

Indeed, it was too early. There were hardly any people on the road, and there was no sign of any cars.

Shu Pan sighed helplessly, walking down the road with her head down.

Suddenly, there was a screech, and Shu Pan heard the sound of tires on the road. A black car stopped next to her, and a smiling face appeared from inside, his peach blossom eyes unforgettable.

"Ms. Shu, why are you here? Where are you taking your luggage?" Shu Pan recognized him as Wen Chi from the moment he spoke.

"Why are you here?" Shu Pan asked him in return. Unlucky things happened every year, but this year, there were especially many. She met someone who knew her in such a miserable appearance.

I live nearby. I was on night duty last night and now I'm going home," Wen Chi explained.

"Where are you going? It's hard to find a car now. Let me give you a ride," Wen Chi offered.

"Well... there's no need, Dr. Wen. Please go back and rest. I can wait a bit longer," Shu Pan replied, hearing that he had worked a night shift, she didn't want to trouble him, and she wasn't familiar with him either.

"Call me Wen Chi, and I'll call you Shu Pan. How about that? Meeting each other is fate. Get in the car, don't let it delay your trip," Wen Chi said as he got out of the car and opened the trunk, lifting Shu Pan's suitcase into the car.

Shu Pan was stunned, then realized it didn't matter and opened the car door to get in.

"So early, on a business trip?" Wen Chi steered the wheel, and the car smoothly moved forward.

"Where's your hometown?" Wen Chi took the opportunity to ask.

"Lotus Town. It's not far from here. It's a three-hour drive."

"Just hearing the name makes me think it must be a beautiful place. I'll visit next time I have time off. Will you welcome me?" Wen Chi smiled and said, not knowing why, it just came out naturally.

Seeing her downcast tone and weakened speech, he didn't press on about what had happened.

"Sure, next time you come, I'll be your tour guide." Feeling indebted to him today, she readily agreed upon hearing his suggestion.

At a red light, Wen Chi handed her his phone. Shu Pan was puzzled, not understanding what he meant.

“Enter your phone number so that you can be my tour guide later,” Shu Pan realized after a moment.

Indeed, she was a divorced pregnant woman. Her intelligence and memory weren’t on the same level as an ordinary person’s.

Self-mockingly, she put her hand to her forehead, took the phone, lowered her head, and diligently entered the eleven-digit number.

The morning sunlight shone on her face, a bit pale, but her facial features were like a painting. Her brows and eyes were delicate, and her features were gentle. Her pair of eyes glittered like stars in the dawn sky, as if countless fragments of starlight were mixed in, shining brightly. Her long eyelashes playfully blinked, like a small fan.

Wen Chi was a bit dumbfounded. Even someone who was used to seeing various beautiful women like him was astonished for a moment. Her beauty wasn’t flashy or arrogant. It was simply elegant. He inexplicably felt a trace of unusual sentiment in his heart.

“Dr. Wen, what’s the matter?” Shu Pan called out, seeing him lost in thought.

“It’s nothing, just thinking about something,” Wen Chi coughed lightly, covering up his moment of distraction.

“You can stop right here. I’ll get out and walk in. It’s hard to find parking inside.” The car was about to reach the station, so Shu Pan spoke up.

“Alright, I’ll pull over. Take care,” Wen Chi said, pulling over at the side of the road.

“Okay, thank you, Dr. Wen.” With that, Shu Pan got out of the car, carrying her luggage, waved at Wen Chi, and turned to leave.

Wen Chi stared at her receding figure for quite a while, lost in thought..

Chapter 72: Lotus Town

After a three-hour drive, Shu Pan finally returned to Lotus Town.

As the name suggested, Lotus Town was famous for its lotus flowers, attracting many tourists for viewing every year.

In the summer, the tranquil lake was covered with lush and dripping lotus leaves, resembling a dense array of emerald umbrellas that securely blanket the surface.

Amidst the lush green lotus leaves, the graceful lotus flowers stood tall like fairies bathing on the lake, delicate and shy, with tender petals like pearls emitting a gentle fragrance that soothes the soul.

Although Shu Pan didn't visit often, stepping onto this land feels particularly familiar.

She pushed her suitcase along the path, feeling the cool breeze mixed with the scent of earth, making her feel right at home.

As she neared her doorstep, Shu Pan suddenly felt a bit nervous, unsure how to face her family. Her father and Auntie Lu would surely be upset about her recent experiences.

After some thought, Shu Pan touched her belly and gathered her courage. She opened the courtyard gate.

"Dad, Auntie Lu, I'm back."

Upon hearing Shu Pan's voice, Auntie Lu walked out, saying, "I thought I was having a hallucination. Your dad just said he hadn't heard from you in a long time."

"I've been quite busy recently, but I can be home with you every day from now on. Just don't find me annoying," Shu Pan forced a relaxed smile.

Auntie Lu furrowed her brows in response to this, a bit unsure of what was going on. Since Shu Pan had already entered the house, she didn't inquire further.

Seeing Shu Pan, Shu Laide was very happy and advised her to stay longer. He also asked Auntie Lu to prepare more delicious food.

Back home, Shu Pan felt a warm heart as she watched her family bustling around, caring for her and asking after her.

During dinner, Shu Pan couldn't help but bring up the topic of her divorce.

"Dad, Auntie Lu, I... I got divorced from Gu Shaoting." After speaking, she lowered her head to eat.

The two people sitting across from her exchanged glances, bewildered, struggling to digest this sudden news.

"Why so sudden? What happened?" Auntie Lu, Lu Lifan, was the first to react, anxiously asking. "Wasn't he against it before?"

"It's nothing. Don't worry, I guess he got tired of it as well. Isn't it better this way?" Shu Pan offered a reason.

"Although that's true, divorce still affects your reputation," Auntie Lu muttered, feeling somewhat concerned.

Shu Laide remained silent, his eyes filled with suppressed emotions. Unable to hold back any longer, he sighed, "Panpan, it's all your dad's fault. If I knew it would end up like this, I wouldn't have done what I did back then. Ah, what a tragedy."

"Dad, you're overthinking it. This is something between him and me. We didn't know each other well, and if we were together, we would have separated sooner or later."

"As long as you're happy, take some time to rest at home for now. Your Auntie Lu is out working, and I'll also look for suitable work later. Don't worry about your life," Shu Laide understood that saying more wouldn't help, so he had to accept the situation.

"Um... Dad... Auntie Lu, there's something else... I'm pregnant, and I plan to keep the baby." Shu Pan dropped another bombshell, leaving the two elders internally flustered.

"Whose child is it? Could it be the reason Gu Shaoting wanted a divorce?" Lu Lifen's first reaction was that the child wasn't Gu Shaoting's. But then she thought, Shu Pan wasn't that kind of person.

"It's his child, but he never wanted it. It's an accident," Shu Pan's tone was low, with a hint of sadness that was palpable..

Chapter 73: Then Keep the Baby

Shu Laide listened to Shu Pan's words and let out a sigh. "Since you've made up your mind, then go ahead and keep the baby. We'll raise her together."

"Panpan, have you really thought this through? You're still so young. If you have a child by your side, who will be with you in the future? Others might find it burdensome," Lu Lifen, thinking she was the most rational and level-headed among them, tried to persuade her.

She was worried that Shu Pan was being impulsive. A child was a life, not something to be taken lightly. It was a lifetime commitment.

“Auntie Lu, I’ve thought it through. I don’t plan on marrying again in the future. I’ll just have a child to keep me company. I’m sorry, I’ve been selfish,” Shu Pan felt guilty for causing her family to worry.

“Silly child, if you’ve really made up your mind, we’ll support you. Just be prepared for the challenges ahead. Taking care of a child on your own won’t be easy,” Lu Lifan patted Shu Pan’s hand, expressing her concern.

“After dinner, go rest in your room. We don’t know when you’ll be back, but I’ve already prepared your room for you.”

Shu Pan felt touched by their words.

As she opened the door to her room and saw everything inside, she was moved.

She didn’t like complicated things, so the simple decor in the room suited her perfectly. The bedroom had light-colored wallpaper, pale blue curtains, and floral bed sheets. Everything was simple and unadorned, yet she loved it.

“Baby, this will be our home from now on. You have to grow up well,” Shu Pan said gently, her head lowered.

At this moment, Gu Shaoting returned home from outside. The house was silent, devoid of any sound, pitch-black. He turned on the light, and the dim glow enveloped him, making his figure appear lonely and desolate.

Suddenly, he became a bit restless, unbuttoning the top buttons of his shirt. He walked slowly to the sofa and sat down, leaning against the backrest. He closed his eyes, and various images played in his mind.

Shu Pan preparing honey water for him, taking care of him in the hospital, and the many moments they had shared...

Sometimes, it was the loss that made you realize the value.

He opened his eyes, unwilling to dwell on those thoughts. He took out his phone from his pocket and went to the balcony. "Let's go out for a drink." After the call was connected, he stated without much explanation.

On the other end of the line, He Ming was taken aback, thinking he must have misheard.

No, it was indeed Gu Shaoting's call. However, when he had invited him out before, Gu Shaoting seemed uninterested. So why now...

"Sure, I'll accompany you to hell." He Ming agreed readily.

"Brother Ting, take it easy. You were just in the hospital not long ago, and it took you a while to recover. Let's stick to red wine. Slow down. Don't chug it like that. You'll get drunk," He Ming, startled by Gu Shaoting's heavy drinking, quickly advised.

Gu Shaoting's mind echoed with Shu Pan's words about not drinking too much. It left a bittersweet feeling.

He picked up the wine glass and emptied it in one gulp.

"Brother Ting, do you want me to call some girls in to keep you company and chat?" He Ming looked at him, inquiring. After his divorce with Shu Pan, he had become like this, so maybe spending time with a woman could ease his mind.

"No, women are too noisy. I want some peace and quiet. Don't talk nonsense. Just drink up," Gu Shaoting immediately declined. He had a cleanliness issue and didn't have a player's tendencies.

He Ming nodded helplessly, unable to figure out what he was thinking.

Then, he poured himself a glass and started to sip slowly.

Gu Shaoting gazed at the swirling red wine in his glass through narrowed eyes. His thoughts were spinning as well..

Chapter 74: Drunken Talk

Gu Shaoting finished a glass and then poured another one. Seeing that he couldn't dissuade him, He Ming just let him be. As long as he didn't mix his drinks, his stomach wouldn't ache.

Before long, He Ming noticed that Gu Shaoting looked absent-minded, his eyes distant, and his face flushed. He quickly grabbed his hand to stop him from drinking more.

Gu Shaoting shook off his hand and wanted to continue drinking.

"Brother Ting, that's enough. Stop drinking. You're already getting drunk. Be mindful of your stomach," He Ming cautioned.

"Don't babble. Just let me drink!" Gu Shaoting's face was red as he spoke loudly.

"It's late, let's go. We can come again another time, okay?" He Ming just wanted to take him back as quickly as possible.

Gu Shaoting stumbled out of the private room, and He Ming rushed forward to support him.

With great effort, He Ming managed to get Gu Shaoting back to Shuimu

Qinghua. He helped him sit on the bed, and when he lay down, he groaned.

He Ming left the room to get a glass of water. As he entered with the water, he heard Gu Shaoting muttering to himself.

“Shu Pan... Bring water... I’m thirsty.” Gu Shaoting waved his hand.

“Where are you?” He murmured.

After listening for a moment, He Ming sighed internally. So, he couldn’t let go of her. Now he was using alcohol to drown his sorrows, but how did he decide on a divorce in the first place? Moreover, with such a heartless way of ending the marriage, there probably wasn’t any chance of reconciliation.

He Ming approached and helped him take a sip of water. Seeing that Gu Shaoting was getting sleepy, he closed the door and rubbed his own arm, pondering that he wouldn’t invite him for drinks again in the future. It was a self-inflicted hardship.

Lying in bed, Gu Shaoting tossed and turned. Suddenly, he sat up, saw his phone on the bedside table, and picked it up. After glancing at it, he dialed a number.

Shu Pan, who was about to go to sleep, was startled. She wondered who would call her at this late hour.

Looking at the screen, her heart raced. How could it be him? She then realized that it was late, so perhaps something had happened.

Biting her lip, she hurriedly brought the phone to her ear. “Shu Pan... Who do you think you are? My life is better without you... happier... just get lost... go far away, and don’t come back...”

From the other end of the phone, Gu Shaoting’s voice sounded fragmented and intermittent, quite different from his usual cold and deep voice. It was evident that he was drunk, but alcohol often brought out the truth.

It turned out that he hated her to this extent. Even when he was drunk, he didn’t forget. Thinking about it, Shu Pan’s eyes turned red.

Gu Shaoting kept on rambling, but Shu Pan suddenly hung up the call.

Then she added his number to the blocklist. After the divorce, there was no need for continued involvement. At this point, Gu Shaoting, with his fuzzy mind, still held his phone, clueless about what had happened, already slipping into a deep sleep.

If he had known what would happen in the future, he would definitely regret drinking tonight, as it had led to complications.

Now he was probably just a detested ex-husband in Shu Pan's heart, and any remaining affection would gradually fade away with each successive disappointment.

Shu Pan had a sleepless night, and whenever she thought about Gu Shaoting's words, her heart ached.

The morning sun had already filled the room, and Gu Shaoting woke up. Lying in bed, he rubbed his head. He only remembered He Ming helping him leave. After that, everything was a blur. He hadn't been this drunk in a long time.

Sitting up, he felt that the room was cold and devoid of warmth.

Walking out to the living room and taking in his surroundings, nothing had changed. Everything was in its place, but many feelings had shifted.

Gu Shaoting stared blankly at the kitchen for a moment before going to freshen up. Then he called a driver to pick him up and take him back to the company..

Chapter 75: The Brand Spokeperson

When Gu Shaoting came out, the driver was already there. Through the windshield, the driver could see his stern face as he walked over.

Who did he upset again? Lately, he had been exuding an air of “stay away from me”. The driver was taken aback and instinctively turned off the car’s music, then hurriedly went to open the door.

On the way to the company, He Ming called.

“Are you awake? You seemed to be sleeping peacefully last night, so I left too. Everything alright?” He Ming asked.

“What could be wrong? I don’t even remember. I’m heading to the office now. You should hurry too. There’s an important meeting today,” Gu Shaoting’s expression was gloomy, making him look a bit intimidating.

“Alright, I understand,” He Ming responded. Hearing the tone, he guessed that his mood wasn’t great. He couldn’t help but wonder if this was a manifestation of pent-up desires. A divorced man’s heart was empty. This was the time when he needed a woman’s warmth the most.

At that time, he would probably not be so sarcastic, and the best candidate would undoubtedly be Tong Fei. Because there were only a few women around mm.

He Ming mentally patted himself on the back for his astuteness, thinking that actions shouldn’t lag behind. He took out his phone, found the contact, and dialed the number.

The driver stole a glance at Gu Shaoting through the rearview mirror and saw him staring absentmindedly out of the window.

When the car reached the company’s underground parking lot, Gu Shaoting’s aura was so low that he nodded in greeting to everyone and quickly left.

Since it was almost time for the morning meeting, Gu Shaoting headed directly to the conference room.

The conference room, which had been quite lively, immediately fell into an eerie silence upon Gu Shaoting’s entrance. Everyone pretended to be busy with their tasks.

At this moment, He Ming also arrived. People kept sending him looks that said, “What’s wrong with Gu Shaoting?” He Ming waved his hand, signaling them not to gossip.

Perhaps everyone was afraid of getting involved, so everyone was speaking cautiously during the meeting.

The topic of this meeting was about finding a spokesperson for the group, and this brand spokesperson had to be famous and influential to raise the group’s visibility.

Different opinions were raised, and discussions were in full swing.

“Usually, hiring celebrities as spokespeople is more effective,” someone proposed during the meeting.

“Yes, and they should have a positive image, without any negative news,” someone else chimed in.

“Celebrities like Guan Xintong, who just won the Best Actress award, and Sun Yue, the movie queen, are both good choices.”

“There’s also the famous model Tong Fei. She has good development both domestically and internationally, and her image is positive with international influence,” suddenly the head of the advertising department suggested.

“That’s right. What’s more, she was rumored to be involved with Mr. Gu. The media loves to speculate. If she becomes a spokesperson, it will surely generate a lot of attention and heat...” another manager chimed in with increasing enthusiasm.

Gu Shaoting’s gaze suddenly turned sharp like a sword, directed at the person who was speaking with more fervor.

“What do you think of this suggestion?” He Ming asked.

“What do you think? Have I stooped so low as to use myself for publicity?” Gu Shaoting said darkly.

“What do you mean by using yourself for publicity? You two have been photographed together before, rumors are just rumors. It’s just indulging everyone’s curiosity. You being together is a topic, and it brings popularity. This can quickly raise the project’s visibility. Especially now that our leisure resort in Lotus Town is in the preparation stage, we need people’s attention,” He Ming’s words were sharp and on point.

Gu Shaoting pondered for a moment, feeling less resistant. He realized he was single now and had nothing to worry about. There was nothing much to care about regarding these rumors. What was important now was the company’s development..

Chapter 76: A New Life

After some thought, Gu Shaoting spoke up, “Then write up a proposal as you all suggested and give it to me. If there’s nothing else, the meeting is adjourned.”

As his words fell, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. The matter had a resolution, and they were finally spared the mental torment.

Recently Mr. Gu had been prone to anger. Two days ago, he berated a manager so badly that the scene was chaotic.

So everyone had been on edge lately, working with heightened vigilance. People left one by one. Only Gu Shaoting and He Ming remained in the conference room.

“What’s going on? You’ve been gloomy since the divorce,” He Ming, unafraid to touch on the topic, said, “You haven’t let go, have you?”

“Get lost. Who hasn’t let go? Now I’m feeling carefree and comfortable. Look at Shu Laide’s current state. He’s reaping what he sowed. It’s just that I’m still not used to it,” Gu Shaoting’s words seemed to have an underlying meaning.

He Ming nodded, "That's good then. Start your new life quickly. The world is full of wonders. Don't give up the entire forest for a single tree." After saying this, he got up and left the conference room.

In the spacious and bright office, only Gu Shaoting remained. He walked to the floor-to-ceiling window and looked at the bustling crowd below, couldn't help but wonder, was she among them?

After the divorce, he suddenly felt uncomfortable with her absence. This wasn't a good sign.

Back at home, Shu Pan couldn't help but sneeze. Seeing the brilliant sunshine outside, she decided to head to the market in town.

Not far from home, the streets were a bit crowded, but no one was in a hurry, and the pace was slow. She strolled leisurely and suddenly saw a flower shop not far away that was hiring.

Shu Pan walked in, and the owner of the flower shop was a girl about her age named Lan Lan.

The two hit it off instantly, and Shu Pan honestly told Lan Lan about her pregnancy. Lan Lan didn't mind. She didn't have much work for her to do and sometimes needed someone to watch the shop when she went to purchase more flowers.

Shu Pan was ecstatic. Although the money wasn't much, it could at least cover the expenses before giving birth.

After the child was born, she could make plans to return to her professional work.

When Shu Pan returned home, she told the elderly couple about this. Both of them objected, wondering why she would work when she was pregnant, and worried that her body couldn't handle it.

Shu Pan explained that the work was easy, and they were financially tight right now.

The two reluctantly agreed. Other people had their husbands to take care of them when they were pregnant, but Pan Pan had to work for a living. The two of them revealed distressed expressions at the same time.

Shu Pan didn't have the energy to think about anything else. For now, her child was the most important thing to her.

She felt that this kind of life was not bad for her.

A new life, a new beginning.

After a while, Shu Pan finally remembered that she hadn't informed Xiaomeng about leaving Bin City. She also didn't know how Xiaomeng was doing.

Thinking about it, she took out her phone and dialed her number. A pleasant song played on the other end of the phone, but no one answered for a long time.

Shu Pan became a bit anxious. She thought, "Could something have happened?"

The call ended automatically. Shu Pan dialed again, but once again, there was no answer on the other end.

Worried and helpless, Shu Pan was getting more and more anxious. Just as she was becoming frantic, the phone finally rang. It was Xiaomeng.

Shu Pan immediately put the phone to her ear, "Xiaomeng, are you okay?"

Normally, you answer the phone within three seconds. What's going on today?"

"Hey girl, I'm at the hospital. There are too many people, and I didn't notice the call," Xiaomeng's tone was calm, and it was hard to discern her emotions..

Chapter 77: I Believe Him

“Xiaomeng, has something happened?” Shu Pan asked worriedly, also regretting not being with her.

“It’s nothing, babe. I’m just being paranoid. No matter what happens, I believe in him.” Ye Xiaomeng’s words were a bit cryptic, but Shu Pan knew she was referring to Cheng Yang.

“Babe, it’s my turn now. I’m at a prenatal checkup. We’ll talk later.” “Sure, remember to call me if there’s anything.” Shu Pan instructed.

“Yeah, don’t worry.” Shu Pan felt that Ye Xiaomeng seemed a bit different from usual, as if she had lost her previous cheerfulness and carefreeness.

In truth, Shu Pan was conflicted. She didn’t know whether to tell her friend about what she had seen. Although Cheng Yang kept insisting that the girl was his sister, who would have such ambiguous behavior with their sister?

Ye Xiaomeng loved Cheng Yang so much, for almost ten years. She was carrying his child now and they were going to have a wedding soon. If Shu Pan told her now, how could she handle it?

But not telling her, keeping it from her, the truth would come out sooner or later. Even if Ye Xiaomeng were thick-headed, she would eventually notice the hints of their close relationship.

To tell or not to tell, it seemed like both options would eventually lead to hurt. That was something Shu Pan didn’t want to see. She didn’t want her best friend to be hurt.

People were coming and going in the hospital. After her prenatal checkup, Ye Xiaomeng was planning to go home when a heart-wrenching scene appeared before her eyes.

She saw Cheng Yang, who had told her he was going on a business trip yesterday, now holding a woman in his arms. They were walking towards the registration counter, the woman in his arms appearing delicate and pitiable. Ye Xiaomeng could hardly believe her eyes.

Yet some things were hard to doubt when seen with one's own eyes. In fact, she had sensed something was amiss vaguely, but she had been deceiving herself.

Tears streamed down Ye Xiaomeng's face.

Lately, she had felt that something was off, but she didn't dare to delve deeper.

He used to accompany her to prenatal checkups no matter how busy he was.

Whatever she wanted to eat, he would bring it to her immediately.

And now? He was always saying he had to travel for work, that he was busy. She was a fool. She thought his promotion had really made him that busy. It turned out he had someone else now!

She had just confidently told Shu Pan that she believed in him, and now it felt so ironic.

In fact, she was saying it to herself. For ten years, her world had revolved around him. He was her everything, her sky. Her love for him had even taken away her sense of self.

The scene before her completely shattered her. Afraid of being seen, she stepped aside, feeling pathetic for herself. Even in this state, she still didn't want to confront the situation head-on.

She waited until they were far away before heading towards the exit, wandering aimlessly. She didn't want to go home now, didn't want to face the lies one after another.

She had stayed in the innocent world Cheng Yang had built for her for too long. She didn't understand the complexity of human hearts. The world outside was so colorful, so tempting. How many could resist its allure?

By the afternoon, Cheng Yang finally called, "Honey, how was the checkup? Is our son doing well?"

Upon hearing this, Ye Xiaomeng's heart felt sour. If not for what had happened earlier, maybe she would still think of herself as the happiest woman in the world. But now she really wanted to ask Cheng Yang, what was going on with that woman? How could he hold another woman and still care about her and their child?

But Ye Xiaomeng held back. She pretended as if nothing had happened, "Everything's fine. When are you coming back? I want to eat the tomato and egg noodles you make."

Cheng Yang on the other end of the line chuckled softly and called her a little glutton. Then, a voice came through the phone very clearly, "Brother Cheng, who are you talking to?"

The call was hastily disconnected right after that..

Chapter 78: Pretend to Be Happy

Ye Xiaomeng finally couldn't hold back anymore. She turned off her phone and then squatted down, hugging herself. Tears flowed uncontrollably. She felt like a coward, unable to face the facts that she vaguely knew were there.

In reality, she had always been afraid that Cheng Yang might suddenly break up with her. So, she turned off her phone. As long as she didn't confront it directly, she could still pretend to be happy.

After calming down for a while, she stood up and started walking on the street, not wanting to go home.

Night fell, and she finally turned on her phone. There were dozens of missed call notifications from Cheng Yang and Shu Pan.

She frowned and called back. Soon, Shu Pan's anxious voice came through,

"Xiaomeng, where are you? Why was your phone off?"

"Maybe my phone was in my bag and accidentally hit the power button. What's wrong?" Ye Xiaomeng tried to keep her tone light.

"Did you go for your prenatal checkup? Wasn't Cheng Yang with you? Has he been busy lately?" Shu Pan couldn't help but ask.

"How do you know?" Ye Xiaomeng was a bit puzzled. She hadn't told her about it.

"He called me and said he couldn't reach you. Did something happen between you two?" Shu Pan wondered if Xiaomeng had found out about Cheng Yang and the other woman.

"No, everything's fine." Ye Xiaomeng didn't want Shu Pan to worry, and she couldn't bear to be apart from Cheng Yang either. So, she chose to play dumb.

"Xiaomeng, be cautious. After all, there are a lot of mistresses out there in society nowadays..." Shu Pan hinted.

"He won't, after all, we're about to get married, and we have a child together." While persuading Shu Pan, Ye Xiaomeng was also trying to persuade herself.

"That's good. You better head home quickly. Maybe he's waiting for you." Shu Pan was mostly concerned, hoping Cheng Yang wouldn't disappoint her.

"Yeah, okay, I'll hang up." Ye Xiaomeng quickly ended the call, worried that Shu Pan might detect the vulnerability in her voice.

As she walked home, the night had fallen completely, and a slight breeze made her feel a bit chilly.

As Xiaomeng reached the entrance of the house, she saw the lights inside and suddenly felt a twinge of sadness. She used to think that home was the warmest place, but now? It was quite ironic.

When she arrived at the doorstep, the door swung open abruptly, and Cheng Yang looked at Xiaomeng with surprise. The heart that had been hanging in midair finally found its place.

When he called her in the morning, Snow suddenly spoke up, scaring him into quickly hanging up. When he called back later, it said her phone was off.

His heart had been restless the whole time, unsure whether she had turned off her phone after hearing Snow's words.

He had been frantically calling her, like a headless fly, but without any results. It was only when Shu Pan told him that Xiaomeng was on her way back that he felt a bit relieved.

"My dear, where were you? Why was your phone off? Come on, sit down quickly. I'll make you your favorite tomato and egg noodles." Cheng Yang's performance could easily earn him a score of 100 as a devoted husband.

"Probably accidentally hit the power button. I'm fine, just wandering around aimlessly." Ye Xiaomeng pretended to be composed, although she really wanted to ask him about the situation between him and that woman. However, at this moment, she couldn't bring herself to ask.

"I'll make you noodles first. I'll talk to you about something later." Cheng Yang said and headed towards the kitchen.

A little while later, a bowl of tomato and egg noodles was brought over. It smelled delicious. Normally, Ye Xiaomeng would have started devouring it, but now she had no appetite.

She used her chopsticks to pick out a few strands of noodles. The steam from the bowl reddened her eyes, and a tear unconsciously rolled down from the corner of her eye..

Chapter 79: Just Ordinary Friends

Cheng Yang finally noticed the strangeness in Ye Xiaomeng's demeanor. His heart tightened, and he murmured, "My dear, what's wrong with you?"

"Cheng Yang, you mentioned earlier that you had something to tell me?" Ye Xiaomeng lifted her head to look at him, wondering if he was going to talk about the situation with that woman.

"Oh, it's just that our wedding day is approaching, and I thought we could go pick out wedding dresses in our free time." Cheng Yang's intended words faltered on his lips, and he ended up saying this instead.

Ye Xiaomeng felt a bit disappointed. Honesty was the best policy. If things were transparent, why couldn't he tell her? If he honestly explained that the woman was just a friend, she might believe him.

But seeing that he wasn't going to bring it up, she decided to act like she didn't know. However, somewhere in her heart, cracks had already started forming.

"I've been a bit tired these days. Let's go another day. Maybe we should set an appointment with the bridal shop first." Ye Xiaomeng wasn't feeling enthusiastic at the moment. Without this issue, she would probably be overjoyed and unable to sleep.

"Alright, enjoy your noodles while they're hot, then take a shower. You've been out all day and must be tired." Cheng Yang gently patted her back as he spoke.

"Yeah." Ye Xiaomeng nodded.

When Ye Xiaomeng emerged from her shower, she didn't see Cheng Yang in the living room or bedroom. She was puzzled. Had he gone out?

While she was lost in thought, she suddenly heard voices coming from the balcony. The conversation was deliberately hushed, making it difficult for her to hear clearly.

She walked closer and saw Cheng Yang talking on the phone with his back turned. His tone was gentle, "Sweetie, tomorrow I'll take you to..."

To someone unaware, it sounded like a conversation between lovers. Ye Xiaomeng's heart ached to the point of numbness. She pretended to make some noise and saw Cheng Yang quickly hang up the call.

As he walked into the living room, there was a trace of unease on his face. "Done with your shower?" He approached her, trying to hide his flustered demeanor.

"Yeah, it's late. Who were you on the phone with?" Ye Xiaomeng deliberately asked, already knowing the answer.

"Oh, just an ordinary friend." Cheng Yang explained.

"Well, you should get some rest too." Ye Xiaomeng replied expressionlessly and then went back to the bedroom.

Cheng Yang nodded with a guilty conscience.

Shu Pan also struggled to fall asleep. Xiaomeng's strange behavior today bothered her, but she remembered that they had a 10-year foundation of feelings, which wasn't easily shaken.

Thinking about her own situation with Gu Shaoting, they had essentially had a flash marriage. Even if no one else interfered, it was still hard to maintain.

Love was a two-way street, singing a monologue wouldn't sustain it.

Shu Pan decided to look forward to the future and treat the past as chalk marks that could be easily erased.

The gentle morning sun warmed the earth. Shu Pan woke up early, wearing a cotton dress that slightly revealed her growing belly. She strolled towards the flower shop.

Inside the flower shop, the owner Lan Lan had just returned from getting supplies. Shu Pan quickly went over to help categorize and organize the flowers.

Buds of flowers that were about to bloom emitted a delicate fragrance.

The fully bloomed flowers competed in their brilliant colors, bringing joy to anyone who looked at them.

Facing these beautiful flowers every day, Shu Pan felt that she would become much happier.

She carefully wrapped the flowers. Her five-month pregnancy was now showing, with a noticeable bump. Occasionally, she could even feel faint movements from the baby.

Shu Pan found this feeling quite subtle. Although she didn't have her husband's care or various nutritional supplements and had to make do with simple meals, she was determined to provide endless love for her child and ensure the child's healthy and joyful growth.

Chapter 80: Set Visit

Shu Pan felt more and more accustomed to her new life, but Gu Shaoting began to feel uneasy, as if something was missing.

The company's projects were in full swing, and the spokesperson had been confirmed to be Tong Fei.

When Assistant Zhang contacted Tong Fei, she told her everything. Without hesitation, Tong Fei agreed. To be precise, she had been waiting for this opportunity for a long time.

Ever since He Ming told her about Gu Shaoting's divorce, she had been itching to get closer to him. She had been searching for a chance to approach him, and now, the opportunity had come. Moreover, the offer from the Gu Group was quite tempting.

After signing the contract, the next step was to shoot the promotional advertisements.

On this day, they were scheduled for a photo shoot in the studio. Accompanied by her assistant Zhou, Tong Fei entered the dressing room.

“Later, you call a few reporters you know and have them report on my collaboration with Gu Group. I heard that Mr. Gu will also be here for the shoot. Tell them what to do,” Tong Fei instructed her assistant Xiao Zhou.

Zhou nodded in understanding and went to make the arrangements.

Looking at herself in the mirror, Tong Fei saw her silky black hair cascading down her shoulders, delicate arched eyebrows, eyes as bright as stars and moons, a graceful nose, blushing cheeks, cherry-like lips, flawless skin, a tall and slender figure, and an extraordinary temperament.

Tong Fei thought to herself that with her looks, Gu Shaoting would definitely fall at her feet again.

Once Zhou came in and confirmed everything was ready, Tong Fei gracefully walked towards the studio.

Everyone was prepared and waiting for the leading actress to appear.

Given the importance that the Gu Group attached to this endorsement, the production team was top-notch and treated the supermodel with utmost respect.

For Tong Fei, the photo shoot was a piece of cake. She effortlessly transitioned between innocent charm and captivating allure in front of the camera.

Soon, the photo shoot was coming to an end, and someone in the crowd uttered, “Mr. Gu brought some delicious food to visit the set.”

All eyes turned towards the entrance. A man entered wearing a black suit and a diagonal-striped tie. His sharp eyebrows framed deep, enigmatic eyes, his thin lips rarely curved into a smile, and his expression was as cold as stars. The contours of his profile were sharp and defined, yet carried a subtle softness, enough to make all the girls scream.

The man who entered was none other than Gu Shaoting. Seeing that everyone's attention was on him, he furrowed his brow slightly.

People pretended to look elsewhere.

"Shaoting, you're here? Not busy today?" Tong Fei's eyes sparkled upon seeing Gu Shaoting.

"Just finished, is the shoot going well on your end?" Gu Shaoting asked casually.

"Almost done. I've been in great form today, and many shots were done in one take," Tong Fei's gentle voice sounded again.

"That's great. I brought some food for everyone. Let's eat first and then continue shooting," Gu Shaoting said.

"We're almost done, and today's outfits are quite fitted, so I won't eat for now. How about we have a meal after we finish shooting? Is that alright?" Tong Fei looked at him with watery eyes, asking earnestly.

"Sure." Gu Shaoting readily agreed. Her request was reasonable, and now that she was the company's spokesperson, it was important for him to embrace new beginnings as well.

With happiness in her heart, Tong Fei stepped into the frame. Perhaps due to Gu Shaoting's presence, she performed even more outstandingly, with every movement and expression flawless..