

Wedded Bride 1011

Chapter 1011 A Meal Together

"I should go and find my mother," said George after thinking about it for a while. He had said that only to test her reaction; he wanted to know if Holley really got pregnant. "If my mother knows that you are pregnant, she will never stop us from being together again."

"No, it's useless," Holley said, forcing a smile. "Your mother would never agree on us being together."

She quickly grabbed George's hands and pleaded, "George, please listen to me this time. If we managed to get the money from your mom, we could be together forever."

Holley held George's waist. "Can you do that for me? Only this time, please listen to me. For my sake and our baby's."

"Let's not talk about these things right now," George said, avoiding her question. "We have more important things to do. We have to go to the hospital and check on the baby."

"No! There's no need for that," Holley refused in a hurry. She was taken aback by his words. "The baby is fine. I went to the hospital the other day. The doctor said that the baby is healthy."

Holley squeezed George's hands and said, "Please, George. Please listen to me this time. I'm begging you."

George hesitated for a long time and finally nodded. "All right. It looks like I have no other options at this moment. I'll do as you say."

"George, thank you so much," said Holley, wrapping her arms around his neck. She was happy that George was finally in a better mood.

George looked at the girl in his arms and said, "But you have to promise me. Once you get that money, we will immediately go to a place where no one recognizes us. We will be together and will never part again. Will you promise me that?"

"Yes, I promise you," Holley answered without any hesitation.

George gazed silently at her, lost in his own thoughts. After learning about all her lies, there was no way that he could ever trust her again. He knew that she wasn't pregnant. And he also figured that Holley was pretending to be pregnant to make him an ally to deceive his mother and get her money. He was furious. He wanted revenge. He wanted to shatter her dreams and destroy her when she was at her happiest moment.

Holley didn't know what was going on in George's mind and thought that he was in her trap once again.

She was still daydreaming about the money and the things she would do after she got her hands on it.

After some time, George found an excuse to leave and went back home. He found his mother and told

her about his revenge plan. He was frustrated and guilty. "Mom, I know that I was a complete jerk. I

didn't listen to you and I disobeyed your words. I've done stupid things and ended up hurting your

feelings. But this time, I really need your help. Please help me, Mom."

"Are you sure you want to do this?" Donna asked with her eyebrows raised. "It will be unfair to Sula if

you do this."

"I know that, Mom." George managed a smile. "She has done a lot for me and I know what an amazing

girl she is. I know that I owe her a lot already, but..."

George paused, like he was trying to make a decision. His smile was filled with bitterness. He looked at

Donna again and said, "I will talk to Sula about this myself."

"All right, Son." Donna nodded. She sighed and said, "Since you've already made up your mind, I will

not stop you from doing it. You should talk to Sula and see if she is willing to help. If she is, then you

can go ahead and do whatever you want."

"All right." George glanced at the direction of the stairs and said to Donna, "I'll go talk to her."

As George went up the stairs, Sula happened to step out of her room. When she opened the door, she saw George standing in front of her door. She was a little surprised, but still greeted him.

"George, why are you here?" Sula asked. She had completely forgotten what she had done the other night after she had gotten drunk.

"Are you free right now?" George asked, without answering her question. "How about we go out for a meal together, only the two of us?"

"Just the two of us?" Sula's eyebrows formed an arch in clear surprise. She wondered if she had heard him wrong. It was quite impossible that George would ask her out for lunch.

"Will Miss. Ye be coming to the meal?" Sula asked, carefully hiding her emotions.

"No, she won't be joining us. It'll be just us." George's answer was simple and direct.

Sula hesitated for a moment, but finally decided to go. "Please give me a few minutes to change my clothes."

When George descended the stairs, Donna walked towards him. She looked a little nervous, and she asked him in a hurry, "What happened? Is she willing to help?"

"I haven't asked her yet," George said, with a sad smile. It was not an easy thing to talk about.

Donna sighed and said, "Sula is a sweet girl, but I'm not sure if she'll help you this time. You have hurt her so much."

"And remember, whatever answer she gives you, you shouldn't force her to help you," Donna warned him.

"Don't worry, Mom. I won't," George answered, smiling bitterly. "I know what I've done to her and I have

so much regret. Now, I just want a chance to make it up to her."

"If you had woken up to the truth a bit earlier, I might have already become a grandmother by now,"

Donna sighed.

While they were talking, Sula got dressed and came downstairs. She wasn't dressed too formally. She was in comfortable clothes, like she was going out for an ordinary meal with a friend. She walked towards George.

"You two go ahead then. I've got something to do. Enjoy your lunch," Donna said in a hurry and went back to her room.

"Let's go," George said to Sula with a soft smile.

Sula followed George outside. She didn't say anything. She was pretty different from the girl she used to be. George knew that she used to like talking a lot in front of him and that was because she was desperate for his affection. But now, she no longer had any hope of getting together with him.

George laughed inside and blamed himself again for hurting Sula. And he knew that the task at hand was going to be extremely hard for both of them.

Sula remained silent as she got into the car. George drove without a word. Sula didn't say anything until she realized that they were leaving the city. "Where are we going?"

"You will know when we arrive," George said mysteriously.

They drove into a suburban area and George parked beside an agritainment house. He turned to Sula and said, "Here we are."

Sula got out of the car after George and saw someone from the house walk towards them. The person smiled at George and Sula figured that they were friends.

"George, you've finally come!" the owner of the house greeted them with a big smile. "I've been inviting you over for so long and you just decided to show up? What took you so long, huh?"

"My bad. I've been really busy recently. I just managed to make some time to come over." George

talked to the man like they've known each other for a long time.

"And this lady is...?" When the owner noticed Sula, he asked, "Is this lady your fiancée? She's so

beautiful!"

Sula was astonished and embarrassed. She waved her hands in a hurry and tried to say something.

But before she could say anything, George put his arm around her and said, "Tim, please prepare a

room for us. And please serve us some of your specialty. We'll talk later."

"The room is already set for you," Tim smiled and guided them to the door of their room. "This is the

room with the best view here. Thank me for it later. And now, wait for me to cook my specialty with my

own hands."

Chapter 1012 Why Offer To Marry Me

George smiled and delightedly expressed his gratitude before he turned his attention back to Sula. He

shrugged at her and explained in a casual manner, "He's my friend. There's nothing to worry about. I

know him. He's just kidding, so don't take it to heart."

Sula shook her head slightly and said, "Forget it." Then again, she was more bothered about his

behavior, so she asked in confusion, "What I don't understand though is why you didn't tell him that I am not your fiancée?"

Deep inside, she felt a bit of joy in her heart. However, she suddenly felt like on crossroads. On one hand, she expected an answer; on the other hand, she was afraid that the answer she was about to hear was something that might take that bit of joy away. Still, she had to ask him so as not to keep being bothered about this all. She wore an emotionless face so that he would not be able to read the fear and expectation on her face.

George looked at her and chose to ignore her question. He heaved a sigh as a smile formed on his face. "How do you like it here?" he asked, his eyes around the place and finally landing into Sula as he waited for her answer.

Sula's eyes widened a little bit in surprise at him for changing the subject, but she was quick to regain her composure. She did not want George to think that she was desperate. She stood by the French window and removed her eyes from George to look out. The whole place was splashed and glazed with different and beautiful colors created by the lovely flowers patched on the ground, stretching all the

way from the vast land and into the distance.

She took in the mesmerizing landscape for a while, wondering what he expected her to say. Finally, she replied, "This place does look lovely." She then turned to face him and added, "A good place to unwind and to breathe. Maybe have some peaceful tea with friends."

"Exactly." George nodded as he replied in agreement. Encouraged by Sula's same opinion of the place, George started to point out and describe the charming points of the place. "Being away from the center of the city, it is no wonder that the natural system around here provides good air quality, better and clearer than most places, as well as organic and healthy food. Besides the sense of smell and taste, our sight, too, feeds on the breathtaking view. Oh, and look, over there. You can see people having a wedding ceremony on the grass. Choosing this place for such a valuable occasion speaks volumes of this place."

Sula looked over the direction George was pointing. There were indeed people wearing lilac themed dresses and ties. Lilac and white balloons sprinkled the bright blue sky. What caught her eyes most, however, was the bride. Her snow-white wedding dress was shining and complimenting the fresh color shade of green. She was hard to miss and for some reason, she felt a pang of sting deep in her heart.

She sighed under her breath, and without taking her eyes off the people, she gave out a bitter smile

and said, "Indeed, it is a sweet and romantic place to have weddings."

To hide the ache inside her heart, she turned to him and complained, "Say, are you trying to show me

the place where you and Miss Ye are going to get married?

Bringing me here is a mistake. You are cruel for doing this, don't you know that?"

She chuckled and was about to tease him more until she caught his eyes, which strangely turned

serious, making her stop talking. She swallowed a lump on her throat before she spoke again. "What's

wrong? Why are you looking at me like that? Have I said anything wrong? Is there something on my

face?"

George frowned a little as he stepped closer towards her, making Sula's heart beat race. With a soft

voice, he said, "Sula, it won't be Holley and my wedding. It will be ours, you and I."

Sula's eyes widened in surprise. "What? What are you talking about?" she cried, trying to absorb what

she just heard right now, and deduced whether or not she heard him right. Thinking that this might all

be a joke, she chuckled under her breath. However, she immediately stopped when she noticed how

his eyes looked at her in such seriousness that it looked like he actually meant what he just said. Her cheeks turned pink as she said, "Stop making fun of me! This is not funny at all."

As she felt the warmth on her cheeks, she was about to turn her back on him, but George was able to pull her to face him back by holding her hands.

Sula felt embarrassed as she felt George's eyes frozen on her face that she was able to look at anything but him. "Let me go!" she demanded.

"Sula, please," George said, making Sula stop struggling and face him unconsciously. When he got her attention, he felt even more determined to speak the words in his heart. "I know that this is all too sudden for you, but I really have thought this over and took you here to ask for...your hand in marriage."

"Stop! Don't say another word!" she interrupted. This was really too sudden for her and too overwhelming to the point that she felt hesitant and almost afraid to answer. "I-I don't know what happened to you and Miss Ye, but I have already made up my mind to leave the city and decided that I will never stand between you two. So please, cut the act, and stop making fun of me anymore."

Sula gave George a serious look, not minding anymore if she was expressing what she truly felt.

Before he could reply, she added, "Well, it is true that I love you, but I already have accepted long before that I will have no place in your heart. That's why I gave up hoping that we could be together."

George looked at her in surprise and awe. This was the first time Sula had been actually expressing her genuine feelings. He held her hands firmly and said, "Believe me, I'm not making fun of you." He felt sad and down when Sula still did not believe him, but he continued, "I remember you mentioned that you dream of a lawn wedding, so how about this place? This place is perfect, isn't it? Just say the word, and I will make a reservation here immediately, and then we can arrange the rest of the wedding preparations as soon as the date is set. What do you think?"

Sula was driving mad at all this. "What the hell do you want, George?" She managed to push him away, making George finally let go of her. She buried her face under her palms and cried, "I don't understand. In fact, I am very much confused right now. What did you do to me the time I still hoped that you would love me back? You just pushed me away and ignored me as if it was really impossible for you to love me back. However, right now, when I already decided that I would give up on you and leave for good, you are asking me to marry you. What is it that you really want after all?"

She took her hands off her face to look at him for a moment and then turned to look down on the floor.

She heaved a deep breath before she continued, "I beg you, George. Please, just let me go. I don't want to be the spice of your life. I've already accepted my place in your life, so please."

George tenderly seized her shoulders and said in a gentle voice, "Sula, look at me." She hesitated for a moment and eventually looked at him. He then said, "Listen to me first. Don't reject me right away or even speak until I am done speaking, okay? Just know that I meant every word that I said a while ago and those that I will be saying right now, so please listen."

Sula wanted to turn her back again and push herself away from him, but she knew she was already trapped in those dark but soft eyes the moment she stared at them. She could do nothing or even say nothing but listen to what he was about to say.

George cleared his throat and started to speak. "First of all, I would like to apologize for hurting you deeply. I realized that I had done so many foolish things for Holley before, and I had let you and my mother down. It wasn't my intention, but still, I admit that I had done you wrong. Right at this moment, I have decided that I am ready to pay for my mistakes. I promise. I will let the past stay in the past, and for my present and future, I want to live with you for the rest of my life. Believe me, Sula. I mean what I

say. I will be nice to you, and I promise that I will make you happy as you deserve to be."

Sula looked at him in his eyes for a moment, trying to find any hint of lie in them. When she found nothing, she shook her head and said, "I still don't understand you. Do you really mean that you want to marry me?"

George felt down for still feeling a doubt in Sula's heart, but he knew he deserved it, so he nodded eagerly and said with conviction, "Yes."

Sula's eyebrows furrowed into a frown as she asked, "But, why?" Here was George in front of him. He was the man, who had just claimed that he was going to lay his life down for Holley, and now that very same man was asking her to marry him. She was very much confused at this sudden change of heart.

George heaved a deep sigh. "Well, you see, I need to thank you for exposing the truth about Holley Ye.

Last night, when you got drunk, you had said something about her, which made me see right through

her. It was like the final piece to a puzzle I didn't know. I was trying to figure out until that piece of

information you told me was a perfect fit. Holley has been cheating me all these years. I feel

disappointed with myself for not realizing that sooner."

He paused for a while to look down on the floor and then returned his gaze back to Sula before he added, "I admit that I did something wrong, so now I am very much determined to make up for it before it's too late.

So please, Sula. Trust me. If you agree to marry me, I promise that I will make you happy, and you won't have to worry about anything else."

Without thinking, Sula asked suddenly, "Do you love me?" For Sula, that was the most important thing to consider before she could make any further decision on this matter. Regardless whether or not George really meant what he said, Sula had to know his feelings towards her to even consider answering his marriage proposal.

Love?

As for George, the question caught him off guard that he was left speechless.

Sula looked at him and saw the hesitation in his eyes, which made her feel sad. His hesitation answered it all. It was clear that he did not love her back. After knowing that his beloved had been cheating on him, he probably just proposed out of impulse, and since she was the person beside him when he felt sad and down, she was the one he asked to. At this point, if she was not there for him, he

would probably have asked anyone.

At this thought, a bitter smile formed on Sula's face to cover the fact that her heart ached even more.

She knew that she loved him, but it was not enough to accept his marriage proposal. Even though she could not deny her love for him, the mere fact that George did not reciprocate that love gave her no intention to say yes.

Sula heaved a deep sigh and raised her head to look at him straight in the eyes. "If you don't love me, then why offer to marry me?"

Chapter 1013 An Uncomfortable Feeling

"I..." George faltered, not knowing how to reply. He was dying to take his revenge that he ignored how important a marriage was to a girl.

He had already broken Sula's heart in the process. And if that was not enough, he still tried to use her to achieve his goal. He was not even sure how he could bear causing her this much pain and trouble.

Sula's eyes remained glued onto him. A bitter smile flashed on her face as she clarified his motives,

"You proposed to me because you want to get even with Holley, right?"

"Sula, I can explain," George tried to defend himself. But the heartbroken girl refused to hear his

explanation. 'What was even there to explain?' she thought to herself. Eyes simmering with bitterness, she interrupted him, "I know how much you love her. I was too naive and wayward. I thought that as long as I stay with you, you would pay more attention to me. So I treated you well and waited patiently. I supposed you would be touched and, eventually, you would fall in love with me.

But I have changed, George. I am no longer the girl who would be too excited to sleep at night just because of your praising words."

She continued calmly, "After so many things that had happened these past few days, I realized that your love towards Holley is well-founded and I can never win your heart.

Even after you learnt about all the terrible things that she had done behind your back, you still have no heart to expose her lies. You only wanted to get even and see her suffer. Your love for her is too strong."

"No, Sula, you've misunderstood," George retorted weakly. He couldn't deny that Sula saw through him.

A self-mocking smile emerged on his face. He kept his head down and swallowed what he had intended to say. He could feel the weight of her stare on his shoulder even without looking.

"I have reflected a lot and as much as I want to, I know that I can't force you to love me," Sula began soberly. She paused to give him time to oppose her thoughts, but he never did. "I am going back to Korea," she finally announced. "I am done getting in between you and Holley. If you really feel sorry for me, please let me go after the meal.

I don't want to be used as a tool for your schemes."

"Sula," George called out hesitantly. He halted for a moment to regain his composure and to collect himself. Resting his eyes on Sula, he earnestly confessed, "I know that I hurt your feelings and disappointed you. I admit that I proposed to you mainly because I want to take revenge on Holley. But I also said that I wanted to compensate you, and I mean it.

It's true that I love Holley very much. We have been together for three years. It's not that easy to just let her go." He smiled miserably and then continued, "But after she has done so many bad things and made a fool of me, how could I not hate her? Anyone in my shoes will love to see her reap what she sowed.

I know I haven't taken your feelings into consideration. I thought that you would always be there no

matter what I did to you. Turns out I was wrong." Frowning, he said frankly, "So I mustered up all my courage before I came here."

Gazing into Sula's eyes, he blurted out his thoughts, "You are right, I am not in love with you now. But if you can give me a chance, I promise that I will stay and take good care of you. I will not hurt you again.

Can you please give me a chance?"

Meeting his earnest gaze, Sula responded, "Love cannot be forced, George. No matter how hard you try, you can't force yourself to fall in love with someone you don't love.

Look at me. I did everything I could but I still failed to win your heart."

With a resigned smile, George tried to still push his luck. "I know you will not believe me no matter what I say. I will prove myself with my actions. I will try to love you. I only hope you can give me a chance."

When Sula didn't respond, he changed the subject. He caught up on their childhood memories to the ones while they were in the university. He reminded her on the days they spent playing at the beach during summer when they were kids. Then he mentioned how they played a trick on a teacher in high school. And how he used to wait for her at the cafeteria every Tuesday during college just because she asked him to. To Sula's surprise, most of their pleasant memories that he remembered were the ones

which she thought he had long forgotten.

She gaped at George, at a loss.

"I know you can't trust me now. But I would like to spend the rest of my life with you. I hope you can think it over." Noticing the troubled look on her face, he added, "You don't need to give me your answer right now. I'm giving you two days to consider it. During these days, I would try my best to persuade you. Once you come up with a decision, please let me know immediately, okay?"

The sincere look on his face made it harder for Sula to turn him down. With a wry smile, she nodded,

"Okay. I will think about it."

"I will wait for your answer," George said with a hint of optimism in his voice. He felt relieved that Sula didn't turn him down immediately. He poured a bowl of fish soup and placed it in front of her. "Try this.

It's delicious. If you like it, I will take you here next time," he said gallantly.

"Thank you," she replied. Sula felt kind of awkward to be receiving such treatment. In the past, she used to watch and admire Holley whenever George treated her nicely like this. She dreamt of being in her place one day but never really expected it to come true.

During the meal, George kept adding food onto her plate. His sweet acts drove Sula's concerns away.

For the first time, she felt comfortable in being with him again. The meal was going very well.

The fish soup was tasty and Sula decided to take another serving. She picked up the bowl of soup and lifted it near her lips. Out of the blue, she felt uncomfortable. She felt a sudden pain in her stomach that was urging her to throw up. Covering her mouth with her hand, she hurriedly left her seat and ran to a corner. She bent over and retched.

"What's wrong?" George was taken by surprise as she sped past him. As he recovered, he jumped to his feet and sprinted towards Sula. Patting her back gently, he asked worriedly, "How you feeling?"

"I am fine," she replied. Sula kept vomiting but nothing came up. It took her a few more minutes before she could compose herself again. George escorted her back to her seat and poured a glass of hot water for her. She took a sip and felt much better.

Noticing that she no longer looked nauseous, he tenderly asked, "How do you feel?" "I feel much better," Sula replied softly.

Staring at the fish soup, she already lost her appetite. "Let's go!"

Watching her pale face, he felt worried that she might get collapse any moment. He held her arm and

led her to the exit. "I am taking you to the hospital for some check-ups," he offered. "There is no need," she refused.

But no matter what she said, George insisted on driving her to the hospital. With no other choice, she succumbed to him.

As they were leaving, Tim followed them with a confused look. He asked, "What's going on, George?

Why are you leaving now? You barely touched your food. Don't you like the food here?"

Chapter 1014 Medical Result

"Of course not!" George denied hastily. "I'm sorry that we are being impolite. But I have to take my leave right now. Sula is not feeling well today, so I need to take her to the hospital. I'll visit you next time."

"Your fiancée is sick?" Tim asked with a mix of surprise and concern in his voice. Then he added immediately, "Please go ahead! I wish everything is fine with her." George smiled courteously and walked ahead.

The next moment, George drove Sula to hospital. As he bypassed all the other cars and made way for his car to be on the fastest lane on its way to the hospital, he kept checking with Sula about her health

condition. His anxious expression and caring behavior warmed Sula's heart.

She smiled and assured him, "I'm fine. Don't worry about me."

It took them precisely half an hour to reach the hospital. After making sure that Sula was in the safe supervision of the doctor who had started conducting her health check-up, George called Donna to inform her of Sula's illness.

During this entire period, George treated Sula with utmost care and concern. He didn't allow her to do anything. Instead, he finished all the formalities for her. Sula was immensely touched by this gesture.

She felt loved and wanted like never before.

"Doctor, how is she now? What's wrong with her?" George asked in a concerned voice as he walked into the doctor's room. Waiting for a moment or two for the doctor to reply, he asked again, "How is she now?"

The doctor kept checking the reports and did not reply to him. George was startled to mark such a casual attitude on the doctor's part. He gazed back at Sula with a stern frown settling on his face. His face relaxed to see Sula in a rather contented state. He gestured for her to tell him what the doctor said. "Take it easy," Sula said. Sula assured him once again. She felt embarrassed to see the childlike

anxiousness in George so much so that he could not even wait to get a reply to the question. She

pulled his sleeve softly and said, "Take a seat."

"According to the reports, your wife is pregnant." After a moment of silence, the female doctor's voice

echoed through the room, making George freeze at his place. She pushed up her large spectacles up

her nose as she looked up nonchalantly at the already startled face of George and continued, "The

baby is very healthy now. But you should still be cautious in the first three months. You'd better not

have intercourse during this period. Remember to do regular check-ups in the hospital. Do you

understand?"

"What... what did you just say?" George pulled himself out from the reverie and asked, "Did you just

said that she is pregnant?"

"Yes." The doctor nodded. She noticed that George was utterly shocked without a hint of the delight of

a father-to-be. She frowned as she took a quick glance over both George and Sula's face. "Is there any

problem?" she asked.

Even Sula's face had a blank expression as she stared at the doctor with her jaw dropped. In all this

time they had been intimate only for once, how could she... just be pregnant?

"Doctor, maybe there is a mistake? How can I be pregnant?" Sula gazed at the doctor looking utterly embarrassed.

"A mistake? Not a chance! The reports are clear enough. And besides, I am too much experienced to make such a mistake!" the doctor said sounding offended at Sula's remark. Then she glanced at George and Sula once again and narrowed her eyes in suspicion. She nodded her head slightly and asked, "Are you... unwilling to have it?"

She couldn't help looking down on this young couple. 'The young people are becoming more and more irresponsible now! If you were not prepared to be parents, why didn't you take measures to prevent the pregnancy in the first place?' she thought angrily.

She heaved a deep sigh and shook her head. "If you don't want the baby. Then turn left and..."

"Yes! Yes! We want the baby!" Before the doctor could even finish her words, George replied nodding vehemently. Yes! He sounded alert and completely in his senses as she said those words. His face slowly broke into a contented smile as he repeated, "We want the baby." Hearing his voice mingled with joy and excitement of a father-to-be, the doctor smiled and heaved a sigh of relief.

"George, you..." Sula mumbled. She still had the blank expression on her face. She was surprised that George was ready to accept the baby. She stared at George in astonishment.

"Sula, you just go and take a rest outside. This room is too stuffy for you. I'm going to talk to the doctor about some dos and don'ts. You just wait for me outside. It won't take long," George smiled at her as she obeyed him and walked out of the room quietly. "Don't go too far. I'll be with you soon."

Sula took slow and careful steps as she walked out of the doctor's room. Her mind was clouded with a lot of conflicting thoughts. She looked back at George's face with disbelief. The next moment she found herself sitting on the bench waiting for George.

When Donna arrived at the hospital, the first sight to her eyes was Sula sitting alone in the corridor, absentminded. Donna became infuriated because she thought George had left Sula alone. She rushed to Sula and asked her, "Sula, where is George? Why isn't he with you?"

"He..." Before Sula could explain anything, Donna continued blaming George, "I should have known that this is what he would do! Shit! I shouldn't have let you go with him!"

Donna tried to calm herself down and sat next to Sula. Clearly, the priority at the moment was Sula's

health. She could deal with her unreliable son later on. She put her hands on Sula's shoulder and asked tenderly, "How are you feeling now? What did the doctor say? Why are you sick all of a sudden? Is it because of some stomach ailment or indigestion?"

"Auntie..." Sula sighed and then her face broke into a smile. "You asked me so many questions at one time. Which one should I answer first?" she asked.

Donna smiled and felt relieved to find Sula in a relaxed mood. It seemed that Sula was not very upset at the moment and she could even joke with her. Donna then asked again softly, "What's the medical result? What did the doctor say?"

"The doctor said..." Sula hesitated, unsure of how to break the news to Donna. She lowered her head trying to find appropriate words to tell Donna.

"Mom, you are her!" All of a sudden, George's voice broke through their conversation. He came out of the doctor's office. He stared at the two of them and smiled. "Let's go home!" he said.

"First tell me what happened? What's wrong with Sula?" Donna insisted for an answer. "What did the doctor say?" she asked George.

"The doctor said..." George couldn't help smiling from ear to ear. He continued, "The doctor said... Sula

is pregnant!"

As George spoke, he stared lovingly at Sula who was sitting there timidly with her head hung down.

Even though he didn't feel very strongly for Sula, right now, when he knew that Sula was pregnant with

his baby, he felt a special connection with her. The thought that a part of him and Sula was growing in

her belly made him feel like being on cloud nine.

He was so delightful that he even forgot about his retaliation to Holley. At this very moment, his heart

was completely occupied by the small baby.

"Pregnant?" Donna asked in amazement. She glanced at Sula who was sitting there quietly. She

couldn't believe it until she noticed that Sula didn't deny.

Donna was so happy. She held Sula's hands and mumbled, "So... I'm going to be a grandma? I'm

going to have a grandson?" She grinned from ear to ear.

"Mom, be careful with your behavior from now on!" George said in a stern voice as she touched Sula.

He cautioned her, "Sula is pregnant now. Don't be so rude and scare her!"

He then smiled, "Besides, how do you know that it's a boy? It could even be a girl!"

"Boy or girl. I have no bias towards anyone. They are the same for me. I love them both!" Donna smiled as she said. She patted on Sula's hand softly and sighed, "Sula, this is really the best news I've heard recently. It's been such a cherished wish for several years."

Donna and George were cheerful, while Sula was distracted.

According to her primary plan, she had enough time to consider George's proposal. But now...because of the unexpected child, her plan didn't work anymore.

She touched her belly gently and smiled bitterly. "Auntie, I... I feel tired now. I want to go back home and take rest for a while."

"Right! Right! Let's go home now." Donna's voice echoed joy and contentment. As they walked, Donna held Sula's arms cautiously and led her out of the hospital protecting her from getting pushed accidentally by the passersby. George was also mindful of every step taken by Sula making sure that she does not fall. Sula felt rather stressed out due to this sudden care and attention from the mother and son. She was amazed thinking about how much importance they attached to the baby.

Chapter 1015 George's Work

After they got home, Donna reminded George to take Sula to her bedroom to which he happily agreed.

He gave Sula his arm for her to lean on and he carefully supported her as they climbed up on the stairs

together. But before they could enter Sula's bedroom, her steps faltered and she suddenly pulled

George's arm away, which surprised him. She lowered her gaze and stared at the floor for a while. She

then slightly turned to shift her gaze at George, who was standing patiently at her side. With a faint

smile on her face, she softly said, "George, I am too tired today. I need to have a good sleep. Can we

just call it a night?"

Sula did not want him to keep her company. But George could understand her request for him to leave

and decided not to force her to let him get in.

He nodded and smiled heartily at her. "Well then, have a good rest. I will be downstairs. If you need

anything, just call me."

"I will," Sula responded, flashing him with a sweet smile. She watched him as he headed downstairs

and decided to wait until he was out of her sight before entering her room.

Soon after taking a shower, she laid down on her bed. She couldn't help savoring the feeling of finally

having that quiet and calm moment for herself. She was lost in thoughts as her mind drifted to all the

events had happened earlier that day—George had asked her hand for marriage and she had found

out her pregnancy after she had undergone a medical check-up. All of these had happened suddenly and way too fast that she could barely handle them. She found it really daunting and somewhat unacceptable.

She unconsciously laid her hands on her belly. Though it didn't feel like swollen at all as she touched it gently, it surely seemed that there was a life forming inside.

Her mind was in a mess as her thoughts lingered on this. She could tell that George was delighted though surprised and even Donna mimicked his happiness too. Both of them were so excited about this baby coming into this world. However, she had no idea whether she should give birth to this baby or not.

She was indeed confused. "My child...can you tell me? What should I do next?" Looking mirthless, she talked to herself.

"Why did you come down so soon?" Donna asked. George descended the stairs at a slow pace, taking his time as he had too much to reflect in his mind. As soon as he reached the ground floor, he noticed Donna standing in the living room, staring at his direction. She continued to ask him with a frown, "Why are you here already? You are supposed to stay with her for a while."

"I intended to stay with her, but she said she wanted to sleep early tonight. So, I didn't force her to let me stay with her." George didn't draw himself back from his deep thinking. When he snapped out of his musing, he looked pleased. "Mother, would you please take care of Sula in the following months. She needs someone to look after her closely in terms of her diet."

"Rest assured. You don't need to worry about such small stuff. It's all on me." Then Donna gave him a stern glance and warned him, "Well, you'd better take good care of your own stuff too."

Donna paused for a while, then she raised her eyes and let out a deep sigh. She asked George with much concern in her eyes, "Now that Sula is pregnant, it is time for you to consider when to hold the wedding for you two. And you still have something else to worry about. What about Holley? How are you going to deal with her? I hope that will not slip out of your mind, or have you come up with an idea yet?"

"Be at ease. I know how to deal with my issue with Holley," he reassured her.

They continued their conversation which mainly centered on Holley when George's phone rang inside his pocket. Taking it out, he subtly wrinkled his brow as he stared on the screen showing Holley's

name.

"Is it her calling?" Donna instinctively queried. She was able to catch George's sudden change of countenance as he looked at his phone.

"Yes," George responded. Then he immediately went outside to put himself through the line. After collecting himself, he assumed a calm and gentle voice. "Holley, what's going on?"

"Dear George, where are you now?" George heard her say on the other end in a voice cloying in sweetness. "My stomach aches very much. Can you...come up and stay with me?"

Holley was, in reality, feeling tensed up. George had never been so indifferent to her like this before, so she felt obliged to make a phone call to him at this time, to sound him out. The mere idea of George having a change of heart towards her could totally freak her out.

"Stomachache?" George found it a little odd to believe, but he still pretended to be worried and prompted in an anxious tone, "Is it because of the baby inside your belly? Can you bear it as patiently as possible? Where are you now? I am coming for you right away."

"I am at home." Holley managed to force a reply, pretending to be so weak that she could barely speak even one more word.

"Okay, stay there. I'll be there soon." George hang up shortly.

Relief washed over her the moment she sensed anxiety in George's voice. And she was now assured that George was not suspicious about her at all. She heaved a sigh of relief; it made her feel so good.

With a smug smile tugging in her lips, she positioned herself on a chair crossing her legs; she was waiting for George.

"Mom, I have to leave right now. If Sula wakes up, please take care of her for me," George casually declared as he made his way back to where his mother was seated. Then as if he remembered something, he begged, "If she asks you where I am, you just tell her...that I have something important to deal with personally. I will be right back soon."

"Fine. You should better pick up the pace to settle down the issue over Holley once and for all." Donna sighed with a helpless look. "Sula now is pregnant. We can't keep hiding this from her parents anymore. So I am planning to give them a call and tell them the truth. But if they know about the affair between you and Holley, you will be doomed!"

"I assure you that I will try my best to settle this as soon as possible," George replied firmly.

Holley was contentedly lying on the sofa while eating snacks and watching TV when she heard someone was outside knocking on her door. Realizing that it could be George, she instantly projected herself into someone looking feeble and fragile.

As soon as she opened the door, George rushed to her. He studied her carefully from head to toe and probed her anxiously, "My Holley, are you feeling OK now? Which part do you feel painful on your body?"

"Stomach..." Holley pointed at her belly and confided weakly, "It has been like that since I got up earlier this morning. I..."

"How could you just bear it? You are pregnant! You can't ignore any kind of ailments. Understood?"

George chided her gently, "Come up. Let me take you to the hospital right away. Let's take a check of your body."

"No, no need." Panic gripped her when she heard him say those words. She couldn't let him take her to the hospital, so she had to make an excuse to make George drop the idea. She decided to change the topic. She mumbled, "It's not necessary. I just miss you so much. George, why...why did you spend a whole night outside instead of sleeping at home? Where were you? You even neglected to give me a

call to tell me your whereabouts. Don't you care about me anymore?"

"I..." George was speechless. He gave her a wry smile and calmly explained, "I have found a job. I was working outside last night. I have to make enough money for you and the baby in your belly. As I said before, I will try my best to give you two a happy and healthy life."

"Work?" Holley couldn't believe her ears. "Are you kidding?"

"Why should I?" George beamed at her. "I earned 200 last night!"

"You are crazy." Holley didn't drag her eyes off George. Hearing that, she still found it impossible to believe. But from George's steady look, she thought George wasn't joking at all. "What are you doing? Why do you choose to work outside to earn such a low income instead of staying in your own company?"

"Don't be so worried. I am fine." George grabbed her hand and kissed it on the palm. Then he raised his head and expressed in a soothing tone, "You are always concerned that I will not be able to take care of you and the baby, aren't you? Now you know, that I do have the ability to make money and raise both of you even if I leave the company."

George tenderly caressed her face and gazed at her lovingly. "Have faith on me. Though I will suffer long hours of hard work every day, I am not afraid of that. I will even try my best to look after both of you. I promise!"

"No, George. Listen to me. You should quit the job tomorrow." Holley softly held George's face and made him look toward her in the eye and then suggested, "You don't need to suffer that. You only need to be obedient to your mother. Be her son, listen to her and please her. It can be as simple as that. Why will you have to opt for working outside alone and make yourself suffer like that?"

"They are exactly two different things." George frowned. "The money I earned last night...I worked for that. I made it on my own. And that makes it different."

Holley couldn't help letting out a wry smile. She had been struggling so hard for such a long time, but definitely not to this extent of George disaffiliating himself from his family.

"George..." She provocatively leaned herself into George's arms. Lifting her finger, she gently moved it around his chest in circles.

Then she held his eyes, trying to seduce him in this way. She knew so well where his sensitive parts on his body were, so she believed George would not resist her temptation and would resort to having sex

with her if she kept on touching him like this. It was hard for her to persuade George by reasons, but it might be easier for her to talk to him after they had made love. Probably it would work.

Much to her surprise, George stopped her by holding her arm firmly. He immediately stood to his feet and looked at her sternly. He growled, "You are pregnant. We cannot do such a thing in the first three months. We should think about our baby inside your belly."

Chapter 1016 Pills

"It's okay..." Holley wrapped her arms tightly around George and refused to let him go. He was finally able to gently push her away and said to her, "No, we cannot do this."

With confusion all over her face, Holley looked at George. Never before, would George have refused her like this.

"What's the matter with you? Why do you push me away?" Feeling a bit dejected, Holley looked at him as she inquired.

"Holley, its just that, you... well, you are pregnant." George frowned slightly as he replied, "I've heard from a doctor I know that it would be better to stop doing that during the first three months of your pregnancy. Otherwise, it may do harm to the baby."

George smiled slightly and continued, "Take this time to get some much needed rest. Don't think about it too much, okay?"

"George, you..." Holley was unwilling to hear such nonsense as she continued trying to reach out to hold George. He avoided her reach with a steadfast expression. He smiled at her and said, "It's about time for me to leave anyway. I have to work later. Let me take you to your room to rest."

George escorted her to her room so she could rest. Once she realized that there was no changing his mind, Holley gave up on trying to pursue it.

On the night table next to the bed George saw a cup of water and a white pill. He knew from past experience that it was one of Holley's painkillers.

Severe pain crippled Holley during her period every month. So she needed to constantly take painkillers to cope.

"What is this...?" The gleam of a disapproving smile flashed across his face as he saw the pill. He attempted to act as if nothing were on his mind as he inquired.

"It's.... It's nothing." Holley stumbled over her words and smiled awkwardly. She had just finished her period few days before and forgot to put the remaining pills back. It was only natural that she was

caught off guard when George saw it.

She stepped forward and threw the pills into the trash can. Then she turned to George and said, "I had a really bad headache a few days ago and I wanted to take a painkiller. It occurred to me that I'm pregnant after I opened it. So I lay down on the bed for a while without putting it back."

"You had a headache?" George asked as he took Holley's hand, nervously. "Was it that bad? Do you want to go to the hospital to get checked out?"

"No, I'm okay. " Holley explained to him in a hurry. "I'm fine. It was hurting then, but I'm completely okay right now."

Holley felt that something would happen if George stayed here any longer. She smiled and said to George, "I thought you said you are going to work later. If you don't go now, you might be late."

Keeping up his act, George raised his hand to check the time. He said to Holley, "You're right. I almost forget about that."

He went to the wardrobe to pick up some clothes and said to Holley, "Holley, make sure that you get plenty of rest these days. Help yourself if there is something you want to eat. Don't deprive yourself of

anything. I will stay in my office for a couple of days. Take care of yourself."

"Why would you do that?" Holley replied with a frown. "Are you sure that your body is up for that?"

"I'll be okay. Don't worry." George smiled and he pinched her face gently. "It'll be early in the morning when I get off from work every day. And it's not good for you or the baby if I wake you up. So I'd better stay at the office. Don't worry about me. You can rest assured that I will come to see you as soon as I have time."

"But..." Holley frowned slightly trying to signal that she was not happy with his decision.

"Come on. It's gonna be okay." A slight smile flashed on his lips. He said to Holley, "Everything that I'm trying to do... is for the future of us and our children. I hope you can understand that."

Holley realized she was not going to be able to dissuade George. She nodded her head slightly and said to him, "Well, I definitely don't want you to make it hard on yourself. Come back if you don't feel too tired. We still have some savings. It would be enough for some time."

"Okay. Just set your mind to getting rest," George replied her with reassuring eyes. Holley nodded with a smile.

After leaving Holley, George went to Donna's place. Seeing all the clothes George was taking, Donna inquired, "Why did you bring all those clothes back? Does Holley know about that?"

"Don't worry about Holley. I've taken care of everything already." Taking down his belongings, George asked Donna, "Where is Sula? Has she come downstairs at all?"

"Yes, she came down once." Donna breathed a deep sigh and said to George, "She didn't look well while you were gone. She might not know your intentions."

"Okay, I'll go upstairs to see about her." George winced bitterly. He blamed himself deeply inside. No wonder Sula would feel insecure since he had been spending most of his time with Holley.

He went upstairs and knocked on Sula's door. A solemn sound came from inside, "Come in."

George pushed the door, and saw that Sula's eyes were very red, as if she had been crying.

He forced a smile and came to Sula. "What's wrong? Were you crying?" he asked patiently.

"Who was crying? Not me." Sula turned away from him, doing her best to avoid George's eyes. She let out a cold smirk and said, "What reason do I have to cry for?"

"So... are you mad at me?" George asked with a smile.

Without giving him a verbal response, she seemed to acquiesce the fact that she was a bit perturbed.

George had just made a promise to marry her. And she found out about her pregnancy immediately.

She was a total wreck, unsure of what was to come next. To add insult to injury, George went to see Holley. That just added fuel to the hurt she already felt.

"Sula, you really have it all wrong this time." George smiled slightly, with a gleam of bitterness on his lips. He explained to Sula, "I went to see Holley to comfort her only. Moreover... I wanted to get my few clothes back so I can change while I am here. I will stay with you from now on. I will accompany you and our baby all the time. I will go with you to every doctor visit. I will be there every step of the way!

Are you okay? How are you feeling?"

"Are you serious? Don't play with me right now." As Sula looked at him, she realized that this time... he was unlikely to joke with her, especially now.

"Of course I'm serious." A shadow of smile once more graced George's face. "Don't worry about that.

I... I am going to spend my time with you and our baby. No matter what tricks Holley plays, I won't trust her anymore. I am all yours."

"George..." Sula looked at him, still no smile could be found on her face. She asked, "You... Why on

earth are you here with me?"

Sula inquired, with eyes fixed on him, "I know how you feel about me. However, if the reason you

choose to be with me... is because of the child, I would rather give it up..."

Chapter 1017 The Wedding Anniversary

"What the heck are you talking about?" George asked as he arched a thick brow at Sula's words. The

quiet air in the bedroom suddenly felt a bit stifling for him. "When I'm with you, I realize that you're the

one who really loves me by heart. I know my love for you back then wasn't as deep, but Sula, please

trust me! I will do my best to love you if you give me a chance. Time will prove that I can be a good

husband and father," he explained.

However, Sula still wasn't fully convinced. "But..." she hesitated.

"Stop talking about it now," George gently cut off her ramblings. "The most important thing for you now

is to take care of yourself, got it?" he told her with a tender smile on his face.

George's sincere concern and warm comfort finally got to Sula, and she brushed off her worries. Her

eyes bore straight into his, and she just nodded obediently.

'Since George is so sincere and genuine, I should give him, our baby, and even myself a chance, ' Sula

pondered.

The digital clock on the nightstand showed that it was nearly dinnertime. Donna had gone upstairs to their room to remind them to eat, and she was greatly relieved by the sight of George lovingly caring for Sula.

She knocked carefully on the ajar door to alert them of her presence. "I never thought that I would see you both in such a loving relationship. All my efforts in setting both of you up for so long weren't in vain after all," Donna joyfully said with a grateful smile on her lips.

When he heard Donna's voice, George alarmingly looked up and sighed in relief. It was just his mother.

"Mom, I'm really sorry for bothering you before with my rude behavior," he said apologetically. After his heartfelt apology to Donna, he immediately promised, "Rest assured that I will shoulder my responsibilities for I'm a father now. From now on, I won't ever let you down."

A cheerful smile made its way to Donna's face. "If you had made that clear earlier, I would have been more joyful than anyone else," she said blithely.

After a while, they all trooped to the dining room to eat dinner. Donna served Sula a bowl of hearty chicken soup. "Sula, you should have more chicken soup. Since you're pregnant now, you need to eat

more nutritious soup for both you and the baby," she thoughtfully said.

"When I made this chicken soup, I picked the chicken in the supermarket myself and then stewed it the whole afternoon. If you like it, just tell me so I can make it for you next time," Donna added in a warm and gentle tone. The smell of the delicious looking soup wafted in the air.

However, Sula's face went a little white as she looked at her bowl. She had already eaten a lot and she might be stuffed to death if she didn't stop eating.

"Aunt Donna, it's enough. I am too full to eat anything else," Sula smiled and politely declined Donna's additional serving. Even if Sula had refused to have any more soup, Donna still felt greatly relieved when she looked at Sula in front of her.

It felt like all her suffering was finally rewarded. She had worked tirelessly to bring Sula and George together, and now that they finally were, she was quite thankful and assured.

Once Sula had finished her meal, George took it upon himself to wash the dishes while Donna went with Sula into the living room. Donna graciously held Sula's hands when they sat on the sofa and said in a low, uncertain voice, "Sula, I want to ask you a question." She paused for a bit and then continued,

"What do you think of your relationship with George?"

"I...I don't know," Sula sheepishly replied. To be honest, she had a lot of concerns about their relationship. A vexed smile formed on her lips as she worriedly shared her issues with Donna. "Aunt Donna, I'm completely overwhelmed now. I couldn't feel whether George's words were true or not. I'm afraid that I would be trapped in endless regret if I trusted him," she said.

"My poor girl."

A warm smile made its way to Donna's face as she comforted Sula, "George is my son. I know him more than anyone else on Earth. I can assure you that he has made up his mind to break up with Holley Ye completely this time."

A deep sigh escaped her lips and she continued, "Sula, we had gone to great lengths for so long, just to win back George's heart. Now is the time, isn't it? Why do you still hesitate?"

However, it seemed that Sula still wasn't fully placated by Donna's words.

"Aunt Donna, please stop talking about it," she chimed in. The older woman's remarks just made Sula feel more confused and completely lost. "As for my relationship with George, please give me more time to consider it carefully," she added with a bitter smile.

"All right then." Donna sighed again and still tried to subtly convince Sula, "Sula, please don't blame me for forcing you to make a decision so quickly. What I did is merely for both of your future."

"With your unborn baby in the picture, you couldn't...deprive the baby's right to have a father," she added.

"I will take it into account," Sula simply nodded. "Aunt Donna, I know that you do it for me. I'll decide as soon as possible," she continued.

"Okay, I understand," Donna nodded.

"By the way, there's another thing I want to tell you," Donna said again as she got up from the sofa.

She paused for a second and looked straight into Sula's eyes. "I called your parents and told them about your pregnancy. They will come here tomorrow to visit you," she said.

Sula's eyes widened slightly in surprise at Donna's words. "So early?" she said with a frown.

"Well, pregnancy is not just something I could simply hide from them," Donna calmly said. "Well, I see,"

Sula said with a nod.

When they finished talking, Donna left the living room and went to bed. Sula just sat on the couch and thought about her relationship as she waited for George to finish up the dishes.

In Dream Garden

The familiar sight of his house relieved a tired Charles, who had just come back from a business trip.

When he went inside, Shirley was the first one who rushed to welcome him. She ran to him as fast as she could with her short legs and clutched his left leg on the floor when she reached him. "Daddy, did you bring me a gift?" she asked innocently.

Shirley's adorable face made Charles smile as he gently held her in his right arm and kissed her cheek.

"Of course, I didn't forget to buy something for my little sweetie," he replied with a smile.

His answer pleased Shirley immensely. Meanwhile, Sheryl had just finished cooking their meals. The lovely sight of father and daughter bonding that greeted her when she came out from the kitchen made her heart swell in delight. Shortly after she said, "Shirley, come down! You are getting heavier and heavier now. It's too heavy for your father to pick you up in his arms. He just came back, so let him rest."

"I'm good," Charles answered with a gentle smile. Then, he took Sheryl in his left arm and pecked her on the lips. "See, I could carry both of you," he said playfully.

"Stop it," Sheryl lightly chided. "Dinner is ready. Wash your hands and come eat," she added with a grin.

"Okay," Charles agreed. As their family life became increasingly stable, Charles and Sheryl enjoyed a steady and prosperous lifestyle.

They were like a contented old couple with children who lived a simple but happy life.

After their dinner, Charles went and played with their two children for quite a while as Sheryl continued her projects. When she went downstairs to check on them, she found a red-faced Shirley drenched in sweat.

She looked pointedly at Charles and held her daughter in her arms. "Look at you, you're sweating a lot.

Go and get ready for bed, you still have school tomorrow," she said.

Then, she called Nancy and asked, "Nancy, please give Shirley a bath."

Shortly after she went back upstairs and into the bathroom. When she came out, Charles was there by the door.

"You startled me," she said with a hand to her chest. "Didn't you say that your business trip would last for a week? Why did you come back in a day?" she asked. His face had a mock expression of hurt as

he put a hand to his heart.

"What? Don't you want me here?" he teased. His lips stretched into a suggestive smile as he slung an arm around Sheryl's shoulders. Sheryl glanced at him and playfully hit his chest in return.

"How could it be? I was just surprised, that's all," she said.

"I changed my schedule to come back today."

He rubbed her shoulders and asked, "Have you forgotten it now?"

There was a short pause before he continued, "Today is our wedding anniversary."

Now, Sheryl was stunned for a second. Her mind took her back to the day when they got married three years ago which was exactly today, but that at time she still used the name Yvonne Gu.

"Wow, how do you still remember that?" she asked with a smile.

"Of course, I'll always remember it," Charles replied earnestly. His lips skimmed down her neck and

kissed a delicate collarbone. "I remember everything about you clearly," he added.

Chapter 1018 Susan's Trouble

When Charles kissed her with so much passion, Sheryl nearly lost her mind and didn't even notice

anything that happened. She didn't even know how she ended up with him in the bed, naked and

wresting with him with love and desire in her soul.

After they finished, Charles put an arm around Sheryl's neck. They were both naked and lying in the bed, sweating and glistening with their lovemaking. "I only came for today... tomorrow I have to take an early flight back," he told her.

"So you came back just for our wedding anniversary?" Sheryl asked, surprised. She lifted her head a bit and looked at him.

Charles nodded and smiled at her, causing her to get flustered. "I...uh... I don't know what to say..."

Finally, she just heaved a sigh, relaxing into resignation. "You know, I don't really put much emphasis on our wedding anniversary. If you can't make it, just stay there. I won't care about you not being here."

"No, that's different," Charles replied as he shook his head. Then he smiled at her again and continued,

"Sher, we've been apart for too many years...and I've suffered a lot without you here with me. Now that you're with me again, I'm not going to be away from you on this very special day."

He gave her a hug and kissed her on the forehead. "From now on, I promise that every wedding

anniversary, I'll be there with you. When I finish my work, why don't we go traveling...something like a honeymoon?"

He wanted to make up for the hurt he caused her three years ago.

"Okay." Sheryl grinned at his suggestion. She loved that idea. "And we can bring Shirley and Clark with us," she added.

Charles squinted and asked in an unsatisfied voice, "Have you heard of a couple bringing their kids on their honeymoon?"

"No, but who cares?" Sheryl asked, not thinking it would matter much. "We have our kids with us now.

Why not bring them? We can make it a family trip, all happy together." She frowned, seeing that

Charles was unwilling.

"No way!" Charles shook his head immediately. "It's going to be our honeymoon, so no kids. We can bring them with us next time we go on a trip," he persisted. "Next time we can take them with us."

"You are a father. How could you be so selfish?" Sheryl frowned a little more, helpless as she asked.

"I'm just a kind of selfish man, so what?" Charles answered shamelessly.

When Sheryl woke up early the next morning, Charles was already gone. As usual, Sheryl got dressed and then went to prepare breakfast for their two kids before heading to her workplace.

When she arrived at her workplace, she was surprised to see that Susan was already there. "Susan, why are you here?" she asked surprisingly.

"Sher. Thank God. Finally you are here," Susan greeted her with an air of exasperation and politeness.

She walked over and took Sheryl's hand. "Can we go inside and have a little chat?" she asked Sheryl.

"Sure." Sheryl nodded and then led Susan into her office. She poured Susan a glass of water and

handed it to her. Then she gave her a worried look. "You came here so early...Is anything the matter?"

she asked.

"BM Corporation has terminated its contract with me..." Susan told her with a glum expression, her

voice getting quieter.

Sheryl actually felt happy when hearing this news. She didn't expect that Cary would take such a quick

action after she entrusted Susan's affairs to him. Anyway, he didn't betray her trust.

She gave Susan a small smile. "Isn't that good news for you?" she asked in a reassuring voice. "Why

do you sound so sad? Don't you want to end your contract with BM Corporation?"

"Sher..." Susan's voice trailed off, her brain buzzing with her thoughts. She put her hand on Sheryl's

arm. "It is undoubtedly a good thing. But... Cary, at this point, acts like my creditor and always orders

me around. He even wants me to work in his company. I really don't know what I should do now. So I came here to avoid him."

Hearing what Susan said, Sheryl couldn't stop a smile from appearing on her face. Her eyes sparkled with amusement. "Okay, tell me, what did he do to torture you?"

"He..." Susan opened her mouth to complain and vent, but her voice suddenly stopped. After searching her memory for Cary's bad behaviors, she realized that she didn't find too many of them; what Cary would order her to do was run errands for him.

It couldn't be denied that he did her a favor in her contract termination with BM Corporation. Maybe it was necessary for her to do something for him.

But she still wanted to express her dissatisfaction toward Cary, even though she did not know why. So she continued, "He truly crossed the line. He knew that my leg wasn't healed yet, but he still ordered me to go all over and run errands for him and he also brought me to a lot of meetings with various business partners...Sher, you know that I hate those meetings and parties most."

Susan furrowed her eyebrows as she thought. "What's more..."

"What else?" Seeing Susan's confusion and hesitation, Sheryl knew that it might not be as simple as she had expected.

Susan continued, a grim expression on her face. "What's more, he always introduces me to others... as his girlfriend."

The more she complained, the angrier she got. She stared at Sheryl and added in a bitter voice, "Sher, how could there be a person like him in the world?"

Sheryl burst into laughter after hearing Susan's innocent question. She looked at Susan and replied in a calm voice, "Susan, maybe... he did that because he wanted to cover up the true relationship between you and him. I think you also know, you can leave BM Corporation due to that lie he told. So he had to declare you as his girlfriend in case that others would doubt your relationship. Do you understand?"

"I understand. I also know he helped me a lot in my contract termination with BM Corporation," Susan said, nodding. But she then smiled wryly and added, "I'm grateful for his assistance. But... now the contract issue has been solved. How could he... continue to say I'm his girlfriend? Isn't he afraid that others would really think we are a couple?"

"I don't think he is worried about it," Sheryl told her. Then she gave Susan a gentle smile. "Susan, Cary is a nice man. How about you try to get along with him?"

"Sher..." Susan furrowed her brows. "I didn't come here today to hear such a suggestion from you."

With great sadness on her face, she stared at Sheryl and continued, "Now Cary even treats my house as his. He often goes to my house and visits my parents. My parents even treat him like their own son now. What's more, today he... said he will take me to see his family. Sher, could you help me? I really don't know what I should do now."

Seeing Susan's anxious expression, Sheryl felt upset for her, but also confused. "I also couldn't help you with this. But I want to suggest that you go to see Cary and talk with him."

"But..." Susan's anxiety did not disappear. "But whatever I say to him, he still keeps harassing me. I truly have nothing else to..."

Sher, please just help me..." Susan held Sheryl's hand and began to beg.

Seeing this poor girl, Sheryl finally couldn't be cruel and refuse her. So she smiled before she opened her mouth to speak. "Fine. I will have a talk with Cary for you. Before our meeting you have to deal with

him yourself."

"Okay, that's okay." Susan resigned, having no other choice than to accept her terms.

After dismissing Susan, Sheryl called Cary. "Cary, don't you think you are proceeding a little fast?

Susan is scared of you."

Chapter 1019 Apologize

Cary, who was on the other end of the line, smiled, "So, what you're telling me is that Susan complained

to you about me? Am I right?"

"Exactly," Sheryl also smiled as she responded to him. "We were talking and somehow your name

came up. She just left. She seemed really startled this time around."

"You know, Sheryl, it was not all my fault," Cary sighed. Then he started explaining himself, "I had to lie

about Susan. I told everyone that she was my fiancée, just to help her get out of BM Corporation. Other

than that reason, I don't have an excuse for interfering in any manner. However...who knew things

would develop like that. My grandfather heard the rumor and insisted that I take Susan home and

introduce them to one another. I didn't have a choice. That is why I have to take her to see my family

this evening."

"What? You didn't have a choice? Well, it seems to me that you aren't reluctant to introduce her to your

family at all. Instead, you want to do it, right?" Sheryl was making fun of Cary intentionally. She then switched her tone suddenly and became very serious. "Cary...I don't know whether I should be saying this to you, but I feel like I have to remind you that she is, after all, a girl. She is bashful. So, I think you..."

"Sheryl, stop. You can rest assured. I know what I feel and where to draw the line. I won't embarrass her. I wouldn't feel right to do so," Cary interrupted Sheryl. He then reassured her about his intentions,"I have to tell you. After spending time with Susan, I really did fall in love with her and I'm serious about starting a relationship with her. However, I'm not going to push her before I am sure about how she feels. So, that's why I prefer to just... I prefer to tease her. At least for now...I want to let her know how strong my feeling is towards her. I want her to be my woman for life, and I will remind her to stay away from other men every single day! You can count on that."

Hmm! Sheryl couldn't help but let out a chuckle. She commented,"Well, if you really like her and you are sincere about it, then I can rest assured that you'll do the right thing. Cary, I am well aware that even though Susan doesn't admit it, I know she has feelings for you. There's no need to ever doubt her

in that regard."

Sheryl hung up the phone and smiled once more. She then decided to visit Sue. She recalled that she hadn't seen Sue in a long time. Sheryl bought some fruit along with her during her lunch break and then headed over to Anthony's house.

"Who is it?" Laura asked after hearing the doorbell ring.

Hearing Laura's voice, Sheryl felt a bit scared, even though Laura had been quite friendly to her the last time they met. Regardless of how Laura treated her now, Sheryl remembered how much Laura hated her in the past.

"It's me, Sheryl," Sheryl answered after hesitating for a moment. The door opened and Sheryl saw Laura standing in the doorway with a smile on her face. She then greeted, "Hello, Sheryl. What brings you here? Have you come to pay a visit to Sue?"

"Uh...yes." Sheryl nodded. She felt weird talking with Laura like they were friends. She added, "I haven't seen her for a long time and that's why I came to visit. I also wanted to know how she's been lately. I've brought some fruit for her."

"You don't need to buy her any gifts. Sue will be happy to merely just see you," Laura smiled politely.

She leaned to the one side of the door and in a friendly manner, invited Sheryl to come inside. "Please, come in. Sue is upstairs."

"Thank you, Aunt Laura." This time around, Sheryl noticed that Laura seemed different and that she might have changed her attitude towards her.

"You are welcome," Laura smiled. They walked inside together and Laura continued speaking. "I know that you are Sue's best friend. I know that she will be very happy to see you. So, make yourself at home. You are welcome to visit here at any time, but don't bring any gifts next time. It's unnecessary.

Since Sue has fallen pregnant, I have prepared a lot of food for her at home. The refrigerator is packed at the moment."

"It's just a small gift," Sheryl smiled. As she was about to go upstairs to see Sue, she said to

Laura, "Aunt Laura, I'll see you later then. I'll just go visit Sue first."

"Sher, wait...Before you go, I want to tell you something," Laura called Sheryl back after a moment of hesitation. She stared at Sheryl's surprised face, took a deep breath and bowed to Sheryl.

"Aunt Laura, what are you doing? Please, don't do that!" Sheryl was shocked by Laura's unexpected

behavior. She quickly dashed over to help her up. She felt the perspiration increase on her back.

"Sher, I owe you this at least," Laura lowered her head with shame and smiled bitterly. She then

proceeded to speak. "I was so wrong to have done all of those things to you. I was mean and treated

you very badly. I know I've hurt you with my words and behavior. You are so generous to forget about

everything I've done, but I can't just forgive myself like that. I cannot pretend as though nothing ever

happened between us. Even though I can't go back to change what I did, I will try my best to make it up

to you! I promise you that."

She breathed a sigh of relief after finally speaking out. Then she continued,"Honestly, I feel quite

ashamed of all of the things I've ever done wrong in the past. I was supposed to be an elder of your

mother's generation. However, my actions have failed to ever match the responsibility that came with

being an elder. I have cursed you with words in the worst way, and harassed you so senselessly, just to

separate you and Anthony. I was really mad before, and quite crazy! Now when I think about the things

I have done to you, I really don't understand why I was so crazy at that time. It's really not who I am

and I know that it was shameful!"

"Aunt Laura, it's all in the past now. You don't need to mind it at all," Sheryl smiled. She recalled that

she had been mad at Laura in the past, especially after what Laura had done to her. However, now she decided to let everything go. After all, it had happened a long time ago.

Even though she and Anthony had separated, she was pleased that they had both found happiness apart from one another. Charles was her dear husband, whom she adored and Anthony was going to marry Sue. It all worked out perfectly in the end, regardless of what had happened.

She comforted Laura, "Please, Aunt Laura...just let it go."

"No! I cannot!" Laura shook her head and sighed, "I'm abundantly grateful that you are so kind to me, but Sher, I have been a decent person my entire life, except for my misbehavior towards you, of course. I have done so much wrong!

I recall when you and Anthony were together, I cursed you out so viciously and treated you as though you were my mortal enemy. I feel ashamed even to think about it now. I can't even make sense of why you tolerated me for such a long time... You have a kind heart...I mean you even helped Anthony's father with his work. When I compare myself with you, I realize that I truly am a horrible person." Her voice trembled as she spoke. Analyzing her words, she continued, "You and Anthony... Both of you

loved each other very deeply. However, I... I felt the need to use dirty tricks to separate the two of you.

In fact, I nearly succeeded in making the two of you become enemies. I really regret it!"

Laura started walking closer to Sheryl. She then took her hands and tried to explain, "Sheryl, you are a really good person, and I've known it from the first moment we met. Nevertheless... I was too selfish to accept how good you were. I didn't want Anthony to marry you because of your kids. I admit that you were good enough, but... I still hope that you can understand my selfish motives as a mother somehow.

Not that it can be justified, of course."

"Aunt Laura, I have already told you not to mind the matter, as it is in the past." Sheryl didn't know how to persuade Laura to forget about what happened.

"I'm sure you're over it, but I'm not," Laura insisted. She stared at Sheryl and continued, "This matter has been troubling me for a while now. I really believe that I owe you an apology. So... I'm truly sorry, Sher."

Noticing that she was ready to bow again, Sheryl stopped her immediately. She placed her hand on Laura's shoulder, in a means to comfort her, "I really don't mind it at all. So please, Aunt Laura, don't..."

Laura continued, "You are Sue's bestie and you used to be the dearest lover of Anthony. I really messed

up your relationship, didn't I? I really feel sorry about it.

I must apologize to you today to untie the knot between our overbearing minds. I hope that everything that's past wouldn't damage or affect your friendship in the future."

Chapter 1020 Sue's Worries

"Please don't say that. It's all behind us now. Besides, I never blamed you," Sheryl said with a genuine smile. "In fact, I also did something wrong. We should just leave the past behind."

"I'm glad to hear that," Laura returned as she smiled in relief. She motioned to the stairway at the end of the hall as she continued, "Sue is resting upstairs. You may go and check on her now.

Please stay and join us for dinner. I will cook some delicious food for you." "No, thanks," Sheryl refused her offer instantly.

"Come on, Sheryl, please say yes," Laura urged. Narrowing her eyes at Sheryl, she asked skeptically,

"Are you still mad at me? Otherwise, why would you refuse to eat with us?" "No, please don't get me wrong," Sheryl explained as she shook her hands.

The frown on the elder's face disappeared. She beamed, "Then stay and have dinner with us. You can also spend more time with Sue."

Watching the hesitant look on Sheryl's face, she persuaded her, "Sue has been required to stay home recently. She must feel dull. I'm sure she would be delighted to see you."

"Okay, I will stay as you wish," Sheryl finally agreed.

Since Laura showed her great hospitality, she couldn't find a reason to refuse her invitation. Sheryl

headed upstairs and went straight to Sue's room. As she came in, she saw her staring out the window.

Hearing her footsteps, the pregnant woman turned around and caught sight of her bestie. As expected,

her presence brought her great satisfaction. Ecstatic, she sprinted towards her and held her hand. "Oh,

Sher, you're here!" she gushed.

"Oh, geez! Couldn't you slow down?" Sheryl frowned at her reckless friend before she said, "You

scared the hell out of me. Let me remind you again. You're pregnant so you should always be careful."

"It's okay," Sue assured her with a smile. She then started to whine, "You have no idea how boring it is

to stay home all day. I was about to call you up. It is really driving me nuts."

"Come on, Mimi, it's not that bad. Anyway, you can't go anywhere now," Sheryl comforted as she took

her hand and led Sue to sit on the bed with her. "You know, it's not safe outside. Since you are having a

baby soon, everyone will be worried if you go out alone. What if anything happens to you? We can't

afford to bear the consequence."

"I know they do this for my good. Anthony told me the same. In fact, I understand why he's doing this.

But I got nothing to do at home. Every morning when I wake up, Anthony already left for work. I only go

downstairs during breakfast and lunch time. I spend most of the time in my bedroom. When Anthony

gets off work, we have dinner together. Then we usually go for a walk and that's the only time that I can

relax. Such a dull life is really not my thing. Sometimes I thought it would've been better if I hadn't

gotten pregnant," Sue uttered with a resigned smile.

"What are you talking about?"

Sheryl scowled with a warning, "You always say such stupid things. I am telling you, your unborn baby

can hear you." "Is that so?" Sue was shocked.

She rubbed her baby bump and explained hurriedly, "Oh, honey, I was just kidding." Looking at the

rattled Sue, Sheryl burst into laughter.

She teased, "You will be a mother soon, but you still act so childish."

"Anthony has treated me very well. But I can't help but worry that something bad may happen."

Sue let out a sigh and went on, "Sher, I think too much, right?"

"Exactly," Sheryl confirmed. She then suggested, "Mimi, your first priority is to take care of yourself and your baby. You need to eat and sleep well. The wedding date is fast approaching, but Anthony and his family will get everything ready for you. All you need to do is have a good rest and be the most beautiful bride during the ceremony. So stop worrying over nothing."

"But I don't know," Sue responded with a troubled look. "I want to clear my mind and focus on my baby.

But I feel depressed whenever I think of my mother and Allen." She sighed heavily and narrated,

"Doris' mother came here again the other day. Anthony asked me to stay in the room, but I still heard them talking. She lost her daughter. No matter what kind of person Doris was, she was still her precious child. It's natural that she couldn't forgive us.

I know Allen is my brother. But justice should be served. I only hope he would contact me, so I can persuade him to surrender to the police."

"I don't think that's a good idea," Sheryl voiced her opinion as she furrowed her eyebrows.

"Why not?" Sue took a deep breath before saying, "When I heard the heartbroken screams of Doris' mother, I felt terribly sorry for her. I am about to be a mother as well, so I can understand that she is

having a hard time."

"You are too kind. You always take the blame for others," Sheryl remarked as she cast a dissatisfied glance at her confidant. "Of course she feels sad about losing her daughter. But have you ever thought about this? If she hadn't schemed with her daughter in an attempt to swindle money from you, she wouldn't have lost her."

"You're right, but..." Sue tried to think about it thoroughly. A crease formed between her eyebrows as she continued, "Anyway, her daughter is gone. No one wanted such a horrible thing to happen."

"Yes, no one wanted it to happen," Sheryl followed. "But did you cause all of this?" she questioned.

"I understand that Doris' mother must have felt sad so she came here and wanted to bring your brother to justice. But I think she came here mainly because she wanted to get a big sum of money from Anthony. Her daughter is dead, but she still planned to use her death to blackmail Anthony. Why would you pity such a woman?" "But she already lost her daughter. It's natural that she wants to get some compensation.

Don't you think so?" Sue still spoke for Doris' mother. "It's not your fault. You didn't murder her

daughter. In fact, you are also a victim. But she comes here to harass you from time to time. I can't

agree with her extreme acts. Do you think it's right for her to pester an innocent person that way?" As

Sue didn't argue with her, she continued, "Anthony must have already looked into her intentions. He

knows what that woman wants, but he still makes no compromise.

Do you know why?" Sheryl watched as Sue seemed to ponder on this thought.

She remained silent so Sheryl decided to continue with her conclusion. "Because he knows that once

he gives her some money, she will ask for more another time," she explained.