

## **Wedded Bride 1181**

### Chapter 1181 Provocation

Rachel's laughter was filled with contempt and provocation, which severely annoyed Sheryl, leaving her in a state of anxiety. Sheryl involuntarily moved the computer's mouse to check her email.

She received an email message and holding her breath, clicked on the new unopened email with a shaky hand. She encouraged herself to be strong, yet she was shocked and heartbroken at the sight of the photos in front of her.

She thought about whether the photos were real and pondered on the thought, in the hope that she would convince herself that they were indeed fake. However, they looked real.

'Is Charles secretly dating Rachel? If that's the case, then why does he treat me so well?

If he has nothing to do with Rachel, then why on earth would he risk meeting her in private at Lavender Bar?' she brooded. Going through the photos, which seemed rather convincing, Sheryl wondered to herself whether it was enough to prove that they were indeed in a relationship.

At the mere thought of this, Sheryl felt her heart contort. She immediately felt like she was going to have an anxiety attack and she had trouble breathing. A dizzy spell also came over her, leaving her vision blurred. 'What did I do to deserve this? Am I going to lose him?' she wondered, sneering while

holding her chest that was in pain.

All of the happy moments spent between her and Charles flashed inside of her mind. At that point, she couldn't even comprehend the moment her husband started to get sick of her.

"Don't you just love my gift, Sheryl? I bet that you would love to have a conversation with me in person now. Am I correct?" Rachel suggested. Hearing Sheryl gasping for air, Rachel felt pleased with herself.

Judging by the sound, she speculated that Sheryl had browsed through all of the pictures she had sent her.

Sheryl's tone aroused Rachel's wild imagination. She suspected that Sheryl was consumed by a state of panic and pain. The more she thought about the pain she had caused, the more satisfied she was.

"Where are you? I need to see you," Sheryl said as she breathed and tried to regain her composure.

She initially believed that things would be fine if she pretended as if nothing had happened. However, now Rachel had sent her this. If she continued to play dumb, she might just lose her husband forever.

'I can't stand by a second longer. I should go meet with her to try and figure out what is going on between the two of them, ' she resolved.

"See...I knew you would be very interested in those pictures. I am currently in Tarsan Corporation. You can come over to my office directly if you'd like. I will wait for you here," Rachel concluded with satisfaction before hanging up the phone.

"I feel that we are close to getting exactly what we want. What do you say?" Rachel exclaimed in excitement. Sheryl's reaction served as a great comfort to her. 'It seems as though I will get Charles back in no time.

Even if I don't, at least I will make Sheryl suffer great pain, ' she thought. She was very pleased with herself.

She derived a ton of pleasure in tormenting Sheryl. She made a grave effort to simply put her enemy down and went to great lengths to intensify the results. Besides, she enjoyed upsetting Sheryl this way. She was having plenty of fun.

"Congratulations, Ms. Bai. When Sheryl is here, you can embarrass and humiliate her some more," Holley said with a sneer. She looked forward to whatever was about to happen once Sheryl met Rachel.

'Sheryl has always been blessed by God. So, I'd like to see whether someone would come to her

rescue this time around, ' she thought scornfully.

"I will! I will make her suffer all the insults I have ever felt before. She won't leave here without enduring agony," Rachel announced with hatred as she recalled her miserable past.

"I have no doubt about that. I am sure that you will teach her a very hard lesson when she is here,"

Holley echoed, cracking a slight evil smile.

Rachel and Holley were immersed in other people's suffering, especially when it came to Sheryl. Back to Sheryl, who had already taken care of all her urgent work, she grabbed her handbag and tried to make her way out of the company quickly. Waiting for the lift, Isla noticed her boss dashing out and decided to quickly rush after her.

"Where are you going in such a hurry, Sher?" she asked as she ran towards Sheryl.

"I'm just going out to meet a client. Have you contacted Lansh Technology yet?" Sheryl responded, trying hard to hide the emotions that were seeping through her eyes. Even though she wanted to, she had no intention of filling Isla in on the photos. 'I need to find out the facts first, ' she thought.

"Oh, by the way, I called that company's number several times, but nobody answered the phone. Since

I can't get through to them, I was thinking of going over there myself. I thought that I was a good employee. Nevertheless, it turns out that you're more active than me," Isla narrated. She didn't suspect that Sheryl was lying.

"Hmm...Perhaps you should. I must go now. See you later," Sheryl concluded as the lift door opened.

She didn't want to stay with Isla a single second longer, as she couldn't help but think about what she had seen earlier. She was afraid that her confidant might read her mind.

"Fine, Sher. Drive carefully and call me if anything happens, alright?" Isla said to Sheryl, who was already in the elevator.

"I will. You can rest assured, Isla. I am not a child," Sheryl responded as she held back her tears. At that point, she was on the verge of crying.

She felt as though she was losing her loving husband, Charles. She was utterly engulfed with fear and anxiety.

Her love for Charles was so deep that she couldn't allow any other woman to steal his heart away. It was her love for him that turned her into a coward in their marriage. Even though she knew Charles was having an affair, she was reluctant to mention it to him or question him.

She merely did this to guard her marriage and keep the ones she loved from being affected by the situation.

Once she finished her words, the door closed slowly. Sheryl was left in the lift alone. At the thought of her upcoming appointment, she felt uneasy and overwhelmed. She couldn't even imagine how Rachel was about to insult her and sneer at her shamelessly during their meeting. Finally, she arrived at Tarsan Corporation and entered the building, walking straight up to the front desk.

"Do you have an appointment, Ms. Xia?" the receptionist asked her politely.

Rachel had invited Sheryl to her company to meet with her, but didn't inform the front desk staff of her visitor. That was why the girl didn't dare to let Sheryl in directly. Since Rachel, the president of the company, and her new manager, Holley, were both difficult to deal with, she didn't have the guts to displease them in any manner.

She had to proceed in accordance with company policies no matter who wanted to visit her president.

As a matter of fact, Sheryl made a good impression on the receptionist girl. The latter was grateful to Sheryl for she helped her keep her job.

Moreover, she admired this female president's remarkable personality.

When Sheryl was rumored as being a cheater, she handled the crisis in a composed manner. The

receptionist was impressed to say the least. Since then, she already thought of Sheryl as her idol.

"Your president invited me," Sheryl replied candidly. Even though she was eager to meet Rachel, she

decided to wait for the receptionist to call her, instead of just walking to her office.

"Oh, I see. Wait here, please. I will call Ms. Bai first." Upon hearing this, the receptionist was surprised,

as she had heard Rachel and Holley talking about Sheryl just a few days ago.

Chapter 1182 You Are Not Good Enough

Although the front desk staff had only caught scraps of their conversation, she could tell just by their

tone and some audible words that both Rachel and Holley were hostile to Sheryl.

The receptionist wondered why Rachel invited Sheryl here if she disliked her.

'Is she going to give Sheryl a hard time?' she speculated with her eyebrows furrowed.

Then, she immediately shook her head, chasing the crazy thought away from her mind. 'I have read too

many romantic novels and watched too many dramas. Besides, what Ms. Bai planned to do with Sheryl

is none of my business.

Moreover, even though Ms. Bai hates Sheryl, she wouldn't be able to do anything to her in her office in

broad daylight, ' she assured herself.

After asking Sheryl to wait for she was going to inform her boss first, Sheryl looked at her with a slight smile and replied, "Sure. Please, go ahead." Sheryl had been wary in treating the front desk staff, making sure that she didn't get in trouble because of her. Ever since meeting the receptionist several times, she observed that she was a cautious girl who struggled to survive in this world as if she was walking on a tightrope.

Sheryl didn't mind waiting for confirmation, because for sure, if the girl had let her in without getting Rachel's permission, she would most probably lose her job once Rachel learned about it.

"Thank you, Ms. Xia. Please, take a seat and make yourself comfortable first. This won't take long," the girl replied in relief and proceeded to contact Rachel via the telephone.

A few seconds later, the other end of the line picked up, and a female voice reached the receptionist's ears. "Yes?" As soon as she recognized it was Holley on the other end of the line, the girl didn't hesitate to report about Sheryl's arrival. After all, Holley was Rachel's right hand woman. "Hello, Miss Ye, Cloud Advertising Company's president, Ms. Xia, is here. She said that she had an appointment



with Ms. Bai."

"Let her in," Holley instructed curtly as if she was expecting Sheryl.

The girl wanted to say something after, but she didn't get a chance to, for Holley immediately ended the

call. She felt a bit disappointed but tried to mask her inner feeling as she looked over at Sheryl and

said, "You can now come in, Ms. Xia."

Standing from her seat, Sheryl nodded at the receptionist and said, "Thank you." Then, she walked

towards Rachel's office.

The receptionist followed the retreating Sheryl with wide eyes. Sheryl didn't have any idea how obliged

she was to her when Sheryl expressed her gratitude with a respectful gesture.

Ever since the girl had taken the job, no one here showed respect to her. Besides, what was a

receptionist in the public's eyes? Then again, she was from a humble family, and she also had learned

how to face a cruel life. Moreover, she felt helpless and could do nothing about her current situation, so

all she could do was cope up living her life full of with contempt, unless she got a promotion or a better

job. This thought was what kept her strong and what helped her get through all the difficult time.

In the receptionist's eyes, Sheryl was different from the other people she had met. This female

president never showed anything else but respect, and the girl never felt like she was being looked

down upon by Sheryl. The girl initially didn't know that she was married to the most powerful and most

influential man in the city, Charles Lu.

When she learned about it, her admiration to Sheryl had increased a lot.

In her eyes, Sheryl was the real elegant lady, worthy of respect, for she was not one to bully others.

"You're welcome, Ms. Xia," the girl replied, not sure if Sheryl had heard it. The girl even rose from her

seat and bowed to Sheryl's receding figure, making sure that she showed her the respect that she

needed even from behind.

As Sheryl entered the main office floor of the company, all of the staff fixed their eyes on her out of

curiosity. After all, all of them heard a great deal about her. Sheryl ignored them all as Rachel's

secretary opened the door of CEO's office for her.

As soon as the door closed, Rachel looked at Sheryl, who was standing by the door, flashing her a

vicious smile. "You're very punctual, Ms. Xia," Rachel said, breaking the eerie silence.

Ignoring Rachel's greeting, Sheryl walked deeper into the office and found Holley sitting by the guest's

seat, following her with her eyes. Sheryl started to feel like she was entering an evil woman's lair, and Holley was her minion.

An obvious fake smile appeared on Holley's face as she greeted, "It's been a while, Sheryl. How have you been doing?"

The moment Sheryl joined the two women in the sofa lounge, the air thickened even more with tension and chill. She realized then that it was going to be tough for her to handle two enemies, who clearly were still plotting and scheming to ruin her.

With a faint smile, Sheryl took a seat in front of Rachel, and in a leisure and casual manner, she began, "I'm flattered, Ms. Bai. You even found an assistant to deal with me."

With a shrug, Rachel scoffed, "Well, it's true. Since you are aware of that, by now, you should have realized how deep my hatred is for you. Let me remind you that I made a comeback, and our fight isn't over yet," Rachel declared as she didn't try to mask her expression anymore. She glowered at Sheryl with her furious eyes that could murder her any second now.

She loathed Sheryl deeply to the point that she had imagined a lot of ways to rip Sheryl apart into a million pieces.

Sheryl kept her calm and replied, "I never wanted to make you my enemy. You should know that I was not the reason for your breakup." Sheryl had kept those words inside of her for a long time now. Finally, she had the right time to make that situation clear to Rachel.

Rachel let out a defiant laugh, the sound lingering in the room for a moment, before she snapped, "That's funny, but really? It was not your doing? Unbelievable." She leaned over from her seat and shot Sheryl a piercing stare. "If it weren't for you, Charles and I would not have ended, and I would still be his girlfriend. By now, I probably would have been his wife as well." As she spat out those words, she felt her face twist in a grudge. She couldn't believe that Sheryl still refused to admit that she stole Charles from her, and ruined her happiness.

"Don't be ridiculous. Even if he hadn't met me, he would still leave you for another woman. You and he were not meant to be together. You two are completely different people, and even if he didn't find another woman to replace you, things wouldn't still work out in the end, and eventually, he would choose to be single than be with you. Why can't you accept that?" Sheryl reasoned. Although she was already boiling inside, Sheryl still tried to compose herself and keep calm in dealing this two. She was

unsure whether she could convince Rachel to give up on Charles, but she would have to try her best for the sake of her family.

On the other hand, Rachel started to fume. "You're the one who's ridiculous! He would never do such a thing if you didn't exist!" she fired back at Sheryl. Rachel hated to admit what Sheryl had said even though she was telling the truth. After all, she had been the love of Charles' life.

'Since Sheryl appeared, things started to get different, ' Rachel continued to deceive herself.

"You know I'm telling the truth," Sheryl retorted without even raising her voice.

Rachel heaved a furious breath and remembered why she asked Sheryl here in the first place. She tried to calm herself down and shot back, miffed. "I did not invite you here to talk about this. But since you mentioned that Charles and I were not meant to be together, then how could you explain this? Why would he spend time with me? Or maybe, his feelings are coming back? He starts to change because he realizes that I really is the one for him?" Rachel smirked.

Besides, the purpose for bringing Sheryl here was to humiliate her and not the other way around. She wasn't going to allow her rival to lead the conversation.

Sheryl eyed Rachel intently, not even fazed or intimidated by her. Instead, she said, emphasizing each

syllable, "That's why I came here. I want to figure this out."

Sheryl didn't even try to mask her doubt.

"Oh, Sheryl, can't you just accept the fact that Mr. Lu really has no feelings for you? He only treats you

well, because he feels sorry for what you've suffered in the past three years. The truth is, you and he

are not the good match. He is such an excellent and high-standing man. You can't even match him.

You're just cowering behind his powerful stature. Why can't you see that you are not good enough for

him?" Holley chimed in with a look of disgust and pity. Holley couldn't help herself from butting in

anymore. She was upset that Sheryl had ignored her, so she had to remind Sheryl that even her half-

sister was also against her.

Chapter 1183 Intimate Addressing

"I wasn't talking to you, Holley. So, shut up. Don't you think you are being ridiculous?" Sheryl said,

turning to look at Holley with an icy glare. She resisted the strong impulse to expose Holley's true

colors in front of Rachel.

"You are being impossible. You are in no position to accuse me, Sheryl," Holley hissed. When Sheryl

wasn't around, Holley thought of herself as eloquent. But every time she faced Sheryl, she was always

rendered speechless.

She hated being trapped in such a helpless situation. 'Since we are in Tarsan Corporation, I can't let

her be so perky towards me, ' Holley thought.

"Oh, really? How about I share your miserable past with Rachel? That way, you two can assess who is more shameless!" Sheryl threatened as she stood up from her seat and made her way towards Holley.

"Don't you dare think you can do whatever you want just because you have Tarsan Corporation backing you. If you have learned nothing from your previous experiences, then you can forget all about my warning," she continued, staring deep into Holley's eyes.

"Come on, Sheryl. What's the point of speaking of her past now? You agreed to come here because you want to figure out what is going on between Charles and me. If you are curious about that, you should come here and ask me. Don't bully Holley," Rachel cut in, coming to Holley's rescue.

"Oh yeah, that reminds me. Ms. Bai, you do owe me an explanation," Sheryl replied, as she came back to her seat. When she heard Rachel mention her husband's name, her heart skipped a beat.

'She said "Charles and me,"

not "Charles Lu and me"

or "Mr. Lu and me."

Are they close enough to call each other by their first names?

I thought only I could call him Charles, ' she thought with a sting in her heart.

But she kept a blank face as she pulled herself together. She watched Rachel intently to scrutinize some information from her facial expression.

However, Sheryl failed to capture any emotions on her face.

Rachel's voice reverberated in the spacious room as she asked, "What did Charles say about our meeting at Lavender Bar the other night?" 'During our previous meeting, Charles didn't throw a tantrum. Perhaps Sheryl didn't fight with him blindly. Otherwise, he wouldn't have let me go so easily, ' she ruminated.

She was curious to know what Sheryl's reaction had been that day. 'What did she say to Charles that night after she saw us meeting in private at the bar? She must have said something. Otherwise he wouldn't have acted in a calm way like that when we last met, ' she wondered.

"Does that have anything to do with you? If you don't know what he said, then does that mean that you



did all of this behind his back? If there's something going on between you, why hasn't he never mentioned you to me?" Sheryl grilled her.

The thought hadn't occurred to her until Rachel raised the question. When Rachel spoke, she sensed the curiosity and confusion in her eyes.

'If she was really dating Charles, she wouldn't have asked me that question.

Charles would have told her everything if they were really in a relationship.

But she has no idea about what Charles might have said. Thinking back, I only saw Charles' back when I caught them at Lavender Bar. And his face wasn't shown in any of those pictures. Does this mean that Rachel organized all of this?' she analyzed carefully.

She threw several questions at Rachel in a confident tone.

It didn't mean that she was certain of her speculations. She wanted to see Rachel's first response when she heard those questions.

Rachel hadn't expected Sheryl to pose those questions. She was stunned, but regained her poise quickly. With a casual look, she replied, "Obviously, Charles doesn't want you to know about us. I showed you those pictures because I wanted to prove to you whom he really loves."

Rachel responded promptly so that Sheryl couldn't debunk her lie. Even though Sheryl started to suspect that this might be Rachel's trick, she didn't have any evidence to support her assumption.

"Ha! Do you think I will buy your story just like that? If Charles has really fallen for you, I'd like to hear that from him personally. I will never believe it until then. Besides, I have his children. What do you have to keep him with you?" Sheryl snapped back, looking at Rachel scornfully. Sheryl was deliberately provoking Rachel to see her response.

"Sheryl, I know what is on your mind now. You must have been living with so much fear lately. After all, your life will be a mess once you lose such an excellent husband like Charles. He is your husband today, but I am telling you, you can't have him by your side forever. You have kept him away from me for a long time. It's time for you to give him back to me," Rachel announced in a resolute tone.

"What are you talking about? Do you think he is some sort of item you can take as you like and throw away when you get sick of him? Don't forget that you married his uncle. Do you think he would be interested in his uncle's ex-wife?" Sheryl said in contempt.

Rachel was furious. Sheryl's defiant look infuriated her. She raised her hand to slap her, but the

moment her hand was about to touch her face, Sheryl grasped her hand tightly.

"Do you think I am just gonna sit here and take your beating?" Sheryl asked, her eyes berserk with fury.

She was annoyed and her grip on Rachel's wrist became tighter. Rachel grimaced in pain. She tried to

break free from the angry woman's grasp, but to no avail. Glowering at Rachel, Sheryl said

threateningly, "You should give up on your stupid dreams right now. If you were going to seduce a

married man, you should have done some investigation on his wife first. You messed with the wrong

person."

She released Rachel from her grip and scoffed at her pain-stricken face. She turned around and

advanced towards the door. When she caught sight of Holley, she paused and turned to meet Rachel's

gaze.

"Ms. Bai, now that you and I are in love with the same man...I mean, now that you are interested in my

man, I will give you a piece of advice. Holley is a greedy and untrustworthy person. You'd better think

twice before deciding to continue on working with her. If you keep her by your side any longer, you'll not

only lose Tarsan Corporation, but also the man you love," Sheryl warned.

Exuding a powerful aura, she walked out of Rachel's office in her four-inch high heels.

Rachel and Holley were left behind to glance at each other in utter defeat.

Chapter 1184 Giving In

"Look what she just did! How dare she do that to us? Sheryl Xia!" As soon as Sheryl had left, Rachel

released her anger and shouted towards the direction where Sheryl had taken her leave, venting all her rage out now.

"Who does she think she is? How dare she come to our company to boss around!" Holley fired as well.

She, too, was angered by how Sheryl acted around them. The reason she told Rachel to invite Sheryl to come to Tarsan Corporation was that they could make it hard for Sheryl and embarrass her.

However, it seemed that the table had been turned, and the one got humiliated wasn't Sheryl, but the both of them!

Being humiliated in their own territory was already embarrassing enough. Not to mention, it was two against one! This situation was really a disgrace.

Rachel turned to Holley and frowned at her. "This happened because of your silly idea! Did you see the arrogance on her face? The way she talked to us? How dare she!" Rachel fumed. She could not stand to take any setbacks, no matter how small they were.

Just the feeling of failure, even the tiniest bit would make Rachel so mad as if she was allergic to failure. She would get so angry that she would start blaming it to anyone else, and now she was blaming Holley as if the drawbacks were her fault.

"I would have to agree that Sheryl shouldn't have been so arrogant, but you can't blame all of this on me. This is not entirely my fault, and you know it." The situation made Holley intolerable, and worse when Rachel started to point her finger at her. She had been wrongly accused for so many times before, and she couldn't take it anymore. There was no reason for her to keep taking all the blame in silence.

After hearing what Holley said, Rachel started to realize that she had gone a bit too far with her words and complaints. If Holley became enraged and eventually decided to quit because of how bad she treated her, then no one else would be willing to help her deal with her situation. She took a deep breath in attempt to compose herself. A moment later, she looked at Holley with regret in her eyes, and in a sincere tone, she said, "I'm sorry, Holley. I didn't mean to put all the blame on you. I just got too overwhelmed by the anger for Sheryl just now that I took it all on you. I just hate how Sheryl can get

away with almost everything, and how she always gets what she wants even though she doesn't deserve them!"

From what Holley got from Rachel, she could tell that Rachel was starting to give in. Holley began to let go of her anger as well and tried to calm herself down. Even though she was not happy with how

Rachel blamed her for every failure, she had no choice but to, once more, keep these feelings of remorse inside of her and hide them with a more appropriate emotion. Besides, she still needed the

help of Rachel and her Tarsan Corporation to be able to deal with her situation afterwards, so working with Rachel was the only way to make sure that things would go smoothly for her in the end. In a calm

voice, she replied, "It's all right, Ms. Bai. This is also my fault. I, too, was a bit overwhelmed with anger.

I apologize for sounding rude. You are right, though, that it was because of my lack of preparation

which caused things to turn out like this. I promise you that, the next time around, I will be more careful and come up with well-thought-of plans before I act upon them."

When Sheryl walked out of Tarsan Corporation, her feelings of anger and worry did not get relieved as much as they should. Instead, she had only become gloomier. Rachel's words just now still felt like

needles piercing into her heart, stuck there so deep that there was no way for her to pull them out. The

longer they remained there, the more pain it caused. She felt like once she found a way to take them out, she would feel emptied out and die from the pain as well.

She knew that what she had said to Rachel was just mere words to hide her own anxiety. The toughness and aggressiveness she had displayed were no more than a facade to cover her own worries and weaknesses.

Rachel's words had stuck on her mind. Charles might not have loved Rachel as much as she claimed she had, but the fact that he did not repel or detest her in any way said something.

Charles even secretly arranged to meet Rachel alone without telling her.

Although it did not matter to her what reasons he had for meeting with Rachel, she still felt more and more anxious.

Worse, not only did she feel anxious, but she also felt a bit of pain and heartache as well.

He was the love of her life, and her most cherished person on earth, but why would he see Rachel?

Was he truly hers, or was he really Rachel's? She was Mrs. Lu today, but what about tomorrow? Could she still hold on to this title tomorrow?

All of these were a tangled mess in Sheryl's mind. She felt helpless as she could not think of a way to resolve it. She couldn't even see through it nor could she understand the situation. Moreover, she did not even know how to confront or approach these problems, and so she could not imagine how to deal with them.

All her mind could think about was the pictures that Rachel had shown her, and everything that had happened that night at Lavender Bar.

Since it had already reached this point, perhaps, it was the right time to confront Charles about this and ask him to tell her, face to face, what exactly had happened or what was truly going on. Not only that, she would also like to know, whom exactly he would choose between her and Rachel.

After a long battle of thoughts and scenarios in her mind, she decided to keep these questions to herself, or at least, keep them until Charles sat her down to talk about these things. She told herself that she would not ask a word before Charles opened them up to her. She also would like to see how long Charles could be able to keep this.

More importantly, she would like to see if it really gave him a sense of accomplishment to have successfully fooled her all this time.



However, the more Sheryl thought about this, the more miserable her mood became. Since her life was a total mess at the moment, perhaps the company would be a better place to find comfort and relief. At least, for now, it could be considered a temporary haven.

Thinking about the company, she started to feel appreciation and fortunate to have the Cloud Advertising Company. It became a last shield of protection for her, and as long as she had it, no matter whom Charles would choose to be in the end and even if he decided to leave her and their children, she would still have a way to stand once again and live. Shirley and Clark would still have a stable life ahead of them.

Sheryl could not help but chuckle at how far she had thought this through. Nothing had even been decided yet. Nothing had been confirmed. Charles hadn't even left her or told her anything about the matter, and here she was, already preparing and thinking about her life without Charles.

She shook her head in an attempt to clear her own thoughts, especially the negative ones. There was no use in fighting against what was destined to come for her life, and no use in trying to keep those who were fated to leave. Being sad and sentimental for a possible miserable future was only a waste of

precious time, which she could better use to focus on her work at hand. One thing was for sure in this ever-changing world, however, was that the money she earned herself, which she worked hard for and kept in her own hands, would never betray or leave her.

When Sheryl came back to Cloud Advertising Company, it was already time for time out for the day. As soon as she appeared in the office, her colleagues had no choice but to quickly return back to their respective seats and pretend to focus on their works as if they had forgotten about the time, and as if they were never in a hurry to leave the office right before she came back.

"Good evening, Ms. Xia!"

"Good evening!"

They greeted, and even their greetings sounded as if they were truly surprised. Of course, the surprise was not because of the fact that Sheryl had come to the office at this hour, but because it was to demonstrate how focused and fixated they were to the point that they hadn't realized that their boss had arrived.

Since she was not in a good mood, Sheryl did not bother to expose the act that these employees had put on. She nodded and acknowledged them cheaply as she walked straight to her own office. As soon

as she closed the door, she knew that those employees would quickly rush out of the building like they were escaping a prison on fire.

Sheryl ignored them and immediately sat on her chair, closing her eyes as she let the exhaustion and worry be released from her. Meanwhile, as Isla passed by Sheryl's office, heading to check out from work, she stopped after hearing some noises coming from the office and thought that someone had sneaked in, so she pushed open the door quietly just to see who was the intruder inside at this hour.

She was relieved to see Sheryl sitting on the chair, but she could not understand why Sheryl would be here at this hour, so she asked, "Sher?" Sheryl opened her eyes to see Isla, who looked very confused as she closed the door behind her. Sheryl forced herself to remain calm and did not dare to let any of her emotions be betrayed on her face.

"Didn't you go to meet a client? How come you're back so soon? Where is the client? Did he not show up? Or was everything settled already?" Isla asked with confusion written all over her face. Sheryl looked at her and noticed that she was about to go home already if not for the noises she probably made when she entered her office. Then again, Isla did not know where Sheryl really went, so she had

no idea what an emotional roller-coaster she had ridden on for the past few hours.

Sheryl took her time to answer when Isla approached her with a series of questions. After a pause, she managed to quickly regain from her thoughts and answered curtly, "Yep, settled."

"Oh, that's great, but why did you still come to the office if it's already settled? Shouldn't you be home by now and rest?" Isla asked without sounding like prying. She sensed that Sheryl was a little different today, and although she could not tell where the difference was exactly, she knew that something was going on with Sheryl.

A moment later, she realized that the reason for this difference was because Sheryl was not in a good mood.

For the past few months, Sheryl had never been in a good mood.

Being the person beside Sheryl for those few months, Isla would know without the need to ask.

Chapter 1185 No Answers

"I will go home later. You can leave," Sheryl replied absentmindedly, struggling to hide her emotions.

She focused her gaze on the screen to distract herself.

However, Isla thought that Sheryl was acting strange. 'Even when she was busy with her work, she never spoke to me this way.'

Isla decided to talk to her instead of going home. She closed the door and took a seat in front of Sheryl who was pretending to focus on work. With a concerned look, she said, "What's going on, Sher? If you have something on your mind, you can share it with me. I will always be here for you."

Sheryl shifted her gaze from the screen to her friend. Gazing into Isla's sincere eyes, she didn't know how to mention all that had been happening.

Each time she tried to tell her about the photos, words froze on her lips.

'If Isla learned about it, she would go straight to Charles and reason with him regardless of my opposition.

The situation might go out of my control.

I might end up in a weird situation with Charles, ' Sheryl mused.

"I am all right, Isla. I'm just a little worn out. After I take care of the rest of this work, I will go straight home and get some good sleep. You'd better head home too," Sheryl said with a faint smile.

She hoped that her lie would convince Isla. That way, she wouldn't confront Charles.

"Are you really okay?" Isla asked, raising a brow in doubt. But when she looked at Sheryl's sincere

face, she believed her words.

"Yes. If you don't have any appointment tonight, you can stay here and work extra hours with me. What do you say?" Sheryl asked deliberately as she sensed that Isla had begun to buy her story.

"I don't think so. My daughter is waiting to have dinner with me at home. Help yourself. I am not interested in playing with you here," Isla replied, shaking her head with a grin. 'I was buried in work all day. I don't need to work extra hours to prove that I am a hard-working employee,' she thought.

Her quick reaction amused Sheryl. She burst into laughter.

"I got to go. Don't work too late," Isla urged. She had promised her daughter that she would take her out for dinner. Since Sheryl seemed to be fine, she had no intention of wasting more time at the office.

"Be careful on your way home. See you tomorrow." Sheryl drew in a deep breath as she watched Isla walking away. 'Thank God she didn't see through my lie.

I don't want her to worry about me now,' she sighed.

Isla's footsteps faded. Only Sheryl's slow breaths could be heard in the spacious office.

And finally, she dropped all her defenses.

Sheryl burst out crying, her chest rising and falling rapidly. But to her surprise, there were no tears

coming out of her eyes. She was emotionally destroyed.

As she was being overwhelmed by these negative feelings, her cell phone rang shattering the dead silence. Resting her eyes on her phone, she saw that it was from Charles. With a hesitant face, she stared at the screen. More than a minute passed and she didn't pick up the phone.

The screen turned off. After a couple of seconds, the phone rang again. She didn't intend to take his call, but considering that he might be worried about her, she finally answered.

"Sher, I have a meeting tonight, so I might be home a little late. You and the kids go to bed early,"

Charles said as soon as the call connected.

'Charles isn't home...So he doesn't know that I am at the company, ' she thought bitterly.

It dawned on her that Charles wasn't in love with her as she had imagined. Otherwise, he would have known somehow that she wasn't home yet.

Perturbed, she didn't respond. Anxiety swept over her. The insecure feeling swelled up inside her heart. She was at a loss and didn't know what was waiting for her in the future.

"Sher, are you there?" Charles asked as there was no response from her.

She wanted to ask whether he was attending a meeting or hanging out with Rachel. But it was a hard subject for her to bring up.

She decided to let it go. Biting her lower lip, she uttered, "I see."

"What's going on with you, Sher?" Charles inquired as he sensed the abstraction in her voice. He had no idea what was troubling her.

He assumed that Sheryl was still angry at him. But he didn't even know why she was upset with him in the first place. He was completely ignorant of what was going on. He had approached Isla, but she refused to say anything. Sheryl remained silent too.

'How am I supposed to figure out the reason for her fury if no one tells me what is going on?' he wondered. He was clueless.

He couldn't think of anything he had done wrong. He hadn't ever done anything to upset his wife, let alone cheat on her. 'I love her with all my heart and I would do anything for her. So why is she giving me the cold shoulder?

How did we end up here?' he brooded. But he was slightly disappointed by Sheryl's indifferent behavior.



'We have been married for so many years now. It upsets me that she is still hiding things from me. No matter what it is, shouldn't she share it with me so that we can face it together?

Why did Sheryl decide to keep this to herself?' he mused, frustrated inside.

Sheryl was upset for her own reasons, and so was Charles.

It would be difficult for a man if he was being neglected by the woman he cared about the most. And few in Charles' shoes could keep calm and not complain at a time like this.

Dejected as he was, he had faith in Sheryl. 'Maybe if I give her some time, she might think it over and fill me in on what happened.

I have been so nice to her that even our friends can feel the love I have for her. She is not a fool. She will learn to trust me and open her heart to me, ' he reflected.

"I'm fine. Are you coming home tonight?" Sheryl asked gingerly. She shut her eyes to prevent the tears from falling. 'Now that he has chosen to see another woman, why would he be interested in my business?

Is he calling me because he still cares about me? Or is he doing this out of guilt?' she wondered with a

troubled look.

She didn't have answers for her own questions. And she was afraid to think further into it, lest she find

the answers which might break her heart.

Chapter 1186 As Long As I have My Children

"How can I stay here and not go home? I promise I'll be home after the meeting is over," Charles

replied with certainty, assuring Sheryl that he would be home soon. 'Does she really hate me so much

that she even doesn't want to see me at home?' he wondered.

"I see. Well, fine then," Sheryl uttered in a rude manner. His response immediately put her mind at

ease. If Charles was willing to come home, she thought that would have a chance to still get him back.

Her self-mockery continued to consume her. 'My gosh...When did I turn into such a coward? I mean,

I've even swallowed my pride, in the attempt to avoid losing him.'

Sheryl paused as she was waiting for Charles to say something more. However, a sweet female voice

came from the other end of the line. "Mr. Lu, everyone is already here and waiting for you."

"Oh, no problem. I will be right there," Charles said to the girl.

Taking a deep breath, he said to Sheryl, "Sher, the meeting is just about to start, so I have to go now.

Please, if you have anything to tell me, we can talk about it at home."

Charles was in quite a hurry to end the call.

Beep! Beep! Beep!

Holding the phone close to her ear, Sheryl sat motionless as the end-call beep filled the empty office. A

pensive look lingered on her face.

'Who was calling Charles?' she wondered.

Pondering on the thought, she recalled that she didn't even recognize the girl's voice whom he was

with. Her mind started racing with thoughts, leading her to even speculate that it was Rachel on the

other end of the line.

The thought upset her gravely.

'Charles didn't even say goodbye. He just hung up the phone immediately once he heard the girl's

words. If he's only going to have a meeting, I understand and I am cool with that. However, is he really

going to work overtime or is that just his excuse to mess about?

I don't know, ' she surmised.

Women are a lot more sensitive than men. Ever since she had caught Charles and Rachel at the bar

together, Sheryl's first instinct was that she was going through a somewhat serious marriage crisis. She was uncertain whether they would be able to get through it. However, one thing was for sure—she was having a horrible time thinking about the possibility of losing her husband.

Trying to empty her mind, she quickly refrained from thinking about the situation. Charles wasn't home, which meant that Melissa was taking care of their kids.

She was never afraid that Melissa might abuse her children. 'However, what if Melissa accuses me of not being a good mother for working late and not being present at this time? Will she give me a hard time for it? If that is the case, I will be in bigger trouble.

I can't let that happen. I wouldn't be able to get over that, ' she mused.

Sheryl was tired and didn't want to have an even more difficult time than she already had. To avoid fighting with Melissa, Sheryl tried everything in her power to prevent Charles' mother from finding any fault in her.

She decided that the only way to do so was to go attend to the kids herself.

Besides that, she hadn't even heard from Nancy, the maid. Sheryl was uncertain whether she had regained her normal state of health and if she could start working again. Had Nancy come back to work

in her house, then Sheryl wouldn't be in such a hurry to get home at this point. But since Nancy was discharged from the hospital, Sheryl hadn't heard any more news from her.

She hated the idea of calling up Nancy to ask her when she would be fit to return to work. After all, the maid almost got herself killed in the attempt to protect Clark and Shirley.

But if she didn't contact Nancy, she would have to continue to bother Melissa to take care of Clark and Shirley, and that was the least thing she wanted.

After weighing in her options, Sheryl decided to give Nancy a call. Wasting no time whatsoever, she took out her phone. As she swiped the screen to unlock it, she found that it was far too late to make a call. She then put her phone back in her handbag.

Sheryl decided that she was rather going to give Nancy a call tomorrow.

Collecting her stuff, she strode out of the company and drove straight to Dream Garden. Upon opening the door, she saw Clark and Shirley by Melissa's side, talking and laughing cheerfully in the living room.

She thought that the scene was rather strange, as she saw Gary who scarcely spent time with his grandchildren in the living room too. Sheryl was used to him staying in his study as he normally would.

"Sher, you're back," the old man greeted as he watched Sheryl walk into the house.

"Oh, yes, Grandpa. It's late. Why aren't you in bed yet?" Sheryl inquired cordially. She respected the old gentleman and cared for him dearly.

In Dream Garden, Gary was the most upright person and had never even thought of favoring anyone.

"I am not tired yet. Besides, it's not that late. Just look at you. You're just returning from work?" Gary replied loudly. Evidently, he was in a good mood, as per usual. He looked both energetic and healthy.

"Yes, you are right and no, it's not late. It's not even ten o'clock yet," Sheryl echoed with a slight smile after glancing at her wristwatch.

"No, it's not bedtime yet. However, you never came home this late. What took you so long, Mommy?"

Clark said, giving his mother a vast and skeptical look.

"I had a lot of work to finish, son. That's why I'm a little late. Why do you ask? Did you miss me?"

Sheryl replied dotingly as she waited for an answer from her cute three-year-old kid.

"Yes, I did. I missed you very much, Mommy. Shirley and I were both so sleepy and wanted to go to bed, but since you and Daddy weren't back yet, we decided to stay here and wait for you," Clark

answered frankly.

"Ah, is that so? You are a good boy then. What do you say? I think we should go to bed," Sheryl said

lovingly, as she stroke her son's hair. Since the moment Sheryl entered the house, Melissa hadn't spared her a single glance.

However, she was expecting it. Sheryl never expected Charles' mother to be nice to her. As long as Melissa maintained the peace, she wouldn't make a move against her.

"Okay, Mommy," the two kids replied with one accord. Clark and Shirley had a regular bedtime, which already passed. Now that their mother had returned, they wouldn't refuse to go to sleep, especially because they were well-behaved children.

"I am taking them upstairs. Please help yourself, Grandpa, Mom," Sheryl said to her elders courteously.

"Fine then. I'm sure the two dears must be tired. They were expecting you several hours ago," Gary returned softly, smiling from ear to ear with his eyes narrowing into slits.

Melissa didn't respond as she didn't care about Sheryl's feelings. In a mellowed tone, she said to her grandchildren, "Goodnight, Clark, and Shirley. We can play together again tomorrow, alright?"

"Okay. Goodnight, Grandma," the kids replied politely.

Melissa had always been satisfied with their behavior. She was very fond of her grandchildren.

'Even if Sheryl divorces Charles and he doesn't marry Leila, I will still raise the two kids by myself if I

can,' she thought. 'One day I'll kick Sheryl out of Dream Garden,'

Melissa swore to herself silently.

As the three headed upstairs, Sheryl led her children to the bathroom first to give them a bath. After

they put on their pajamas, they eagerly climbed onto the bed and fell asleep quickly.

Looking at the kids sleeping, Sheryl was overwhelmed with fulfillment and joy.

She was unaware about her and Charles' future, but as long as she had Clark and Shirley by her side,

she would remain a happy person.

Chapter 1187 Why Hasn't He Come Back Yet

Sheryl closed the door lightly and headed towards her bedroom to take a shower. When she walked

past the staircase, she heard Gary's voice from downstairs.

"Are Clark and Shirley in bed, Sher?"

Sheryl stopped and peeped down to find Gary standing near the stairs. "Yes, they are," Sheryl replied

instantly. "That's good. Are you busy now? If not, come downstairs. I have something to tell you," Gary

said and gazed at Sheryl waiting for a reply from her.



"I have nothing to do right now. I am coming," Sheryl agreed. She took the stairs to join Gary, who had turned around by then and had started walking towards the living room. Sheryl was bewildered inside, her mind clouded with umpteen unpleasant thoughts. As Gary summoned her like this, it made her all the more speculative. She had no idea what Gary was going to announce. She climbed down the stairs silently and thought in her mind, 'Perhaps Charles wants a divorce, but he doesn't know how to mention this to me. So he begged Gary to discuss our divorce with me.'

The moment the thought of her divorce with Charles came to her mind, she felt an unbearable heaviness in her heart. She felt like going numb in her head and she felt as if her feet were too heavy to be lifted. Sweat started appearing on her forehead. Sheryl had an instant impulse to just run into her room and lock herself. But she could not ignore Gary's command. Hence, she took a deep breath and pulled herself up together and decided to face it bravely.

She joined the elders in the living room soon. "What's up, Grandpa?" she asked nervously as she gazed at Gary's face. Gary looked solemn yet composed as he took his seat on the couch and made himself comfortable.

"Nothing important. Have a seat, Sher. Stay, Melissa," Gary said in a casual manner. His voice was low yet steady. Melissa and Sheryl took their respective seats in front of him and stared at his face trying to guess what he was going to tell them.

"What is it, Dad? Please go ahead. I'm listening," Melissa asked him politely. She was an excellent mother in front of Charles and an equally dutiful and respectful daughter-in-law to Gary.

Sheryl settled herself on the couch and gazed at Gary as she expected him to mention something important. She and Melissa guessed what was on Gary's mind.

"It's not a big deal. I wanted to tell you that I am traveling abroad tomorrow. Perhaps I will come back after a month or two. I am not sure how long my trip will last," Gary announced with a slight smile.

"You're going to travel abroad? Why did you never mention this before, Grandpa?" Sheryl asked with gaping eyes. Gary's announcement took her by surprise. Sheryl couldn't believe that what the old man declared had nothing to do with Charles. All this while, her mind was preoccupied with the thoughts of Charles being involved with Rachel all over again.

Charles had not yet revealed anything to Sheryl. At least, now as Gary called her, she thought this could put her anxious mind to rest. All the conflicting thoughts she had in her mind that rooted mainly

from not being properly informed would find an answer.

Gary's news wasn't a relief. Instead, she was more flustered. She felt like a prisoner who knew that she would be sentenced to death but the judge just delayed declaring the punishment.

It was inexplicable fear and panic that flooded her. She stared at Gary pretending to listen to him while inside her heart; she was falling apart bit by bit. She was tired. She needed an answer—a final answer —with Charles or without Charles.

"I and a few of my old fellows agreed to go on a trip the other day. If I back out, they will be mad at me,"

Gary explained and gave a wide smile as he took notice of the surprised faces of the two women. He referred to his best friends whom he had known for most of his life.

He looked forward to going on a trip with his old buddies. His face brightened up when he mentioned the upcoming travel.

"I remember that you enjoyed hanging out with uncles when I was newly married to Charles' father. So many years have passed, and you are still so much attached to each other just like before. In fact, to tell you the truth, such long-lasting friendship that you have makes me envious at times," Melissa said

in an articulate manner recapitulating the memories of the earlier time.

Back then, Melissa was the hostess of Dream Garden and Gary's beloved son was still alive.

"Oh, yeah, I also feel lucky to have met them. I have known them all my life. Yet the joy of meeting

them and spending time with them leaves me invigorated and enthused every time," Gary echoed with

a peaceful look on his face. He couldn't control his joy and gratitude when he spoke about his old

friends. A sense of contentment spread over his face as he spoke.

Since he had taken charge of Shining Company, he had undergone troubles and setbacks in his house

as well as in his business. His friends had been the only place for him to fall back upon. Had it not been

for them, he might not be able to have gotten through all of that. Now he had handed his company to

his grandson, Charles. Yet, he still had those good friends keep him company.

"I think it's a good idea, Dad. I am sure it will be an extremely relaxing trip for you. It's not good to be

locked up at home all the time. Since you are not young anymore, you should look around the world. It

will be good for your health and will also keep your mind feeling fresh all the time," Melissa voiced her

opinion. She was extremely supportive of Gary's plan to go out on a trip for one month. However, it was

not merely out of filial piety.

She felt relieved to hear that Gary planned to stay out of Dream Garden for an entire month. This would give her the space to execute her plans flawlessly and without any interruption.

If Gary stayed in the house, she would not be able to evade his eyes while taking forward her malicious plans. His presence would make her feel awkward and besides, he might also interfere and make things difficult for her. Secretly, she heaved a sigh of relief. However, on the face, she pretended to be the supportive and extremely concerned daughter-in-law.

'Gary is taking a trip. It's good news for me. Without him around, I will not have any concerns when I handle Sheryl, ' she thought.

"I just wanted to go out and get relaxed," Gary said in a casual manner maintaining the same contented smile on his face.

"Have you booked your ticket, Grandpa?" Sheryl inquired. She spoke after a long stretch of silence.

She took a while to come out of her anxious mindset. Her mind was so much filled with all sorts of uncalled for thoughts about her relationship with Charles, that it took a long time to process a piece of absolutely unexpected information. However, now she could finally pull herself up.

She tried to shift her mind away from Charles' cheating.

"Yes. We have also reserved a hotel. Everything is sorted. There is nothing to worry," Gary replied. He had gotten everything ready before breaking the news to the family.

"Would you like me to take you to the airport tomorrow morning, Grandpa?" Sheryl offered. Gary had always been a source of solace and security for Sheryl ever since she had come to Dream Garden.

She felt a little unsettled to learn that Gary would not be there for an entire month. Yet she couldn't meddle in Gary's decision. So she decided to see him off.

"Sure. You can drop me off. I and my friends have decided to meet at the airport." Gary accepted her offer instantly.

"Don't forget to call us when you get there. Otherwise, we will be worried about you," Melissa urged with feigned concern.

"Don't worry. It's not my first time to go abroad. I will take care of myself," Gary reassured them with a laugh. Then he remained quiet for a moment and looked around the house with a frown on his face.

"How come Charles isn't back yet?" he asked Sheryl.

Gary was feeling relaxed after discussing his traveling plans with Melissa and Sheryl. Then he

suddenly felt that while the whole family was at home, Charles had not reached yet.

The very mention about Charles came as a slap in Sheryl's face. She didn't know how to reply. 'Where is Charles? Is he on a date or in a meeting?'

What should I say?' she struggled.

"Sher, Gary is speaking to you. Where is Charles? Why hasn't he come back yet?" Melissa took note of Sheryl being quiet and reminded her, feigning to be nice.

Much contrary to the real situation, she sounded as if she and Sheryl had been very close. Whereas, not only Charles, even Gary knew that they didn't like each other.

Despite that, Gary's facial expression didn't change. He stared at Sheryl with the confusion in her eyes.

He looked like as if he didn't see through Melissa's trick. All he wanted to know was when Charles would come home.

Chapter 1188 Leave My Son Quickly

It was becoming clear to Sheryl that Gary was very smart. He had experienced so much that nothing could be hidden from him. But even if he knew what Melissa had done, what would he do?

Should he side with Sheryl or Melissa? Would he attempt to guide Charles to make a choice between

the two women?

Deciding not to involve himself in this dilemma, Gary felt that it would be better to pretend to know nothing.

After all, everyone had to live his own life, and be responsible for his own decision.

"Charles is working overtime at the company and has to attend an unscheduled meeting," Sheryl told Gary.

"Charles is a workaholic. When he is working, he seldom pays attention to other things. Having worked so hard for many years, he never has any spare time. Thanks to him, my life is quite relaxing now."

Gary nodded in appreciation. Sheryl could easily sense the love and pride he felt towards his grandson.

"Okay, that's all. I just wanted to tell you about my trip. It's late, so I should head off to bed. Tomorrow morning I have to get up early and catch my flight," Gary said as he smiled. Although Charles wasn't here, Gary was sure that Sheryl or Melissa would tell him about his trip.

Feeling tired and eager to go to bed, he stood up from the sofa and walked upstairs to his room.

After Gary left, only Melissa and Sheryl remained in the living room. An awkward silence fell over the room. Not wanting to be alone with Melissa, Sheryl decided she would follow Gary's lead and go to bed



as well. But as she started to walk away, Melissa stopped her.

"Sheryl!" Melissa said anxiously.

Sheryl stopped, but didn't turn around. After pausing she said, "Yes, Mom?"

"Have you quarreled with Charles again?"

Hearing Melissa's words, Sheryl immediately turned round. "What do you mean?" she asked suspiciously.

"I mean nothing. I just want to say, if you've realized that you're not a match for my son, then you should leave him! Don't get in the way of him living a happy life!" Melissa was sure that Sheryl and Charles must be in conflict because Sheryl acted slightly embarrassed when Gary had mentioned Charles.

Not wanting to be misunderstood, Sheryl didn't reply. Instead, she shook her head and walked upstairs.

A smile crept slowly onto Melissa's face when she watched Sheryl's receding figure. 'Everything is starting to go according to my plan, ' she thought happily to herself.

After taking a bath and snuggling up in bed, a sleepless Sheryl tossed and turned.

At around midnight, Charles finally returned. There was no smell of perfume or alcohol exuding from his clothes or body, and Sheryl couldn't find any flaws in his tired look. It seemed that he had truly been working late.

Moreover, he seemed to have worked very hard.

Pretending to be asleep, Sheryl was careful to keep her eyes shut.

Meanwhile, Charles didn't want to waken her so he tried to stay very quiet. His gentle behavior reminded Sheryl of the last time he had come late. Not wanting to wake her up, Charles had been very quiet as he tiptoed around the room and took a silent bath before slipping under the covers next to her.

Sheryl suddenly felt sorry for Charles. However, she mentally scolded herself, not wanting to be moved by his actions so easily.

The next day, Sheryl drove Gary to the airport and then went straight to the company. As for Clark and Shirley, Charles drove them to kindergarten.

It seemed that Charles hadn't noticed Sheryl's recent emotional changes. He didn't know why Sheryl was still cold to him.

So, after driving their children to kindergarten, he also rushed to work. Recently, the Shining Company

had been facing trouble. Rachel was the mastermind behind it. Although these problems weren't too hard to handle, Charles still needed to spend time on them.

"Sher, come here and help me, please," Isla shouted as soon as Sheryl walked into the office.

"What's wrong?" Sheryl rarely saw Isla so anxious unless she was facing a big problem.

"It's about Lansh Technology. Look, these people in the news are the founders of the Lansh Technology, aren't they?" Isla was shocked as if she had just discovered a new continent.

"What happened to the Lansh Technology?" Hearing this name, Sheryl was a little surprised. If the Lansh Technology had started business successfully, it would certainly attract the public's attention in the Y City.

After all, the research focus they had chosen was very special. In Y City, there were few such companies, so as long as they finished their research with precision and started a business successfully, they would definitely deserve a place there.

This was the reason Sheryl was willing to cooperate with them despite their inability to pay high profits.

So, at the beginning, Sheryl had been optimistic about both the future of this company and the futures

of the young people.

But now, the news of Lansh Technology was being broadcast. The bad news was that the founders of the company were now in conflict with one another. It was becoming apparent to Sheryl that Lansh Technology might not be able to start their business on time.

"The founders of the company had been in conflict before even starting the business. So imagine how much worse the conflict could get after starting business!" Isla signed as she read the news again.

Sheryl, however, was confused about the authenticity of this news. From her perspective, those young people seemed unlikely to fight with each other over something so trivial.

"Could they have been faced with

some unexpected problems that they don't want to reveal?" Sheryl tentatively asked Isla.

"I don't think they've been faced with any problem! Otherwise, they would have answered the phone.

Yesterday, I called them more than ten times but no one answered the phone."

Isla's first impressions of the company founders were not very good.

"Is this the only reason you believe they haven't had any problems? Maybe they didn't hear the telephone ring." Sheryl immediately discovered the reason why Isla was so angry.

"I don't know whether they heard the telephone ring or not, but that's unimportant now. Since they've been having difficulties starting their business, we naturally must stop our cooperation with them. I think

we should directly eliminate this company from our list."

Chapter 1189 Place A Bet

Isla didn't care much about it at all. Her visit to the company yesterday had given her a bad impression of it. Now that they were unable to keep the company running, she felt it was better to cancel their contract.

"Give me the contact details of the company. I want to make sure that I give it one last chance," said

Sheryl, unwilling to give up on those young men who had just started to branch out on their own.

Sheryl clearly remembered the passion in their eyes the last time they had come to their company to seek a contract with them. They longed earnestly to start a company of their own and display their competence.

Their desire was obvious and sincere. Sheryl didn't want to believe that those young men had forgone their faith in such a short time.

Even if they had left their faith behind, Sheryl didn't want to give up yet. She felt that she should make

an effort to hold onto her faith at least.

"Why are you so determined in wasting more of our time bothering with them?" Isla asked again in disbelief.

"I don't have anything else to do for now. I finished the other order yesterday. So, why don't I help you with this one? I don't see any problem in it," Sheryl said with a shrug.

"Oh? Are you challenging me? All right then, I'll give you their phone number. From now on, you are in charge of this order!" Isla obviously had no tolerance for provocation.

She was confident about her professional skills. She was ready to take Sheryl's challenge head on.

"Yeah, you can take it as a challenge! It will be pretty boring if there is no bet in place. What do you think?" Sheryl asked with a wide smile. She had been extremely bored these past few days. This was a rare chance for her to stir her blood. She couldn't let it slip through her fingers.

And Isla was the perfect person for her to get that kind of excitement from. Sheryl had no interest in seeking out trouble by gambling with others. All she wanted was to have a little bit of fun with her friends.

"A bet? Okay! You determine the rules. I'm in!" Isla was intrigued instantly.

"The rules are simple. If I can help reconcile the partners of Lansh Technology and convince them to keep running the company, I win. Otherwise, I lose," Sheryl stated simply.

"All right. It's a bet. Let's see, I place one hundred dollars on it," said Isla, taking a hundred dollar bill out of her pocket.

"That is too little! Let's go big! The loser has to pay the travel costs to Sanya for the winner. How does that sound?" Sheryl declared. She had been wanting to take a trip for a while now. She was hoping that if she lost, she could pay for Isla and they could go together on the trip.

"Travel costs to Sanya?!" Isla blurted out, her eyes wide in surprise. "Sheryl, that is too much! I can't afford it. I'm not as wealthy as you are. I don't have enough money to cover your traveling expenses.

Be realistic. You are the wife of a CEO, not me!" Isla scoffed, shaking her head at her friend's ridiculous bet. Isla was suspicious that it was a trap because Sheryl seemed so confident that she could win.

Sheryl was rich. If Isla fell for her tricks, she would have to cover the cost of her trip to Sanya. 'Charles should be the one paying for her, ' Isla thought.

"I see that someone has lost her guts to place the bet," Sheryl provoked her.

"You are right. I wouldn't dare agree to this bet. There is nothing you can do to force me." Isla raised her brow in suspicion once again. She was wondering if Sheryl was doing this to retaliate because she had asked Sheryl to treat all the staff to dinner before.

If Isla lost the bet, she would have to bear immense losses. She couldn't risk it.

"You are such a coward," said Sheryl, knowing that her plan hadn't worked. It would be no fun at all if Isla didn't take the bet.

"Yep, I'm a coward," Isla admitted without any embarrassment. She had nothing to be ashamed of since it was true that she couldn't afford to take such a huge bet. "Fine. Since you are such a spoilsport, we'll just cancel the bet!" Sheryl pouted, disappointed.

Isla was nervous as she dialed the number of the company. She held her breath as she sat in front of the computer. However, the line was not connected.

"See? I told you! No one is answering the call," Isla said, relieved.

"You already knew that the call won't be answered, so you should also know that I won't be budged by that. Why didn't you agree to the bet?" Sheryl asked. She always displayed a clear mind and rigid logic



when she argued with anyone.

"The bet you placed is too big for me and I can't afford it if I lose." Isla spoke her mind finally.

Sheryl laughed. "Isla, I'm honestly surprised that you have something that actually scares you," she said.

"Fine, forget it! Now that you want to play so badly, I will play with you just as you wish," Isla said,

giving in to Sheryl's taunts.

Isla knew Lansh Technology better than Sheryl did, so she was confident that she would be the one to win.

That company would not make it. It was impossible for it to keep afloat just because of a few encouraging words from Sheryl.

"Good! That's the Isla I know." Sheryl smiled.

Isla sighed at her friend's enthusiasm. She said, "Cut the nonsense and check whether you can get through to them or not." Isla handed the phone to Sheryl.

"Okay, I will make the call now." Sheryl dialed Lansh Technology's number which Isla had handed to her earlier.

But no one answered the call this time either.

Sheryl didn't give up and kept on calling.

But the call didn't go through.

"This is a waste of time. You stay here, Isla. I'm gonna go to Lansh Technology and see what's happening there," Sheryl said, shaking her head. She wondered if this issue could be solved if she showed up at their company in person.

"Sher, I'm coming with you. There's nothing important for me to do here anyway," Isla said, standing up from her chair.

Just a moment ago, they had been arguing with each other. But now, they were as intimate as sisters, as if nothing had happened.

They were best friends, after all. They had nothing to fear or care about as long as they had each other's back.

Together, they wouldn't let anything get in their way.

"All right. This will more likely be settled if we go together," Sheryl agreed without a second thought.

"I don't know if we can do this or not, and frankly, I don't care. But I want to see how you will find a way to change their minds."

"Actually, even I don't know how. We'll see when we arrive at Lansh Technology," Sheryl said.

"Well, then what's the hold up? Let's go!" Isla hurried Sheryl; she was as impatient as always.

"All right, let's hit the road!" Sheryl looked at the time. It was almost noon. They didn't have much time left.

Chapter 1190 The Unconscious Young Man

It was almost noon when Sheryl and Isla reached the skyscraper.

There were a multitude of firms inside the office building. The two of them entered and took the lift to the eighteenth floor.

As they exited the lift, they quickly looked around for Lansh Technology. It didn't take them long to find the company. They stood outside the office. Inside, the lights were on.

"Since those men went their separate ways, I thought that they might have closed down the place and ran away. It looks like I was wrong," Isla murmured in disbelief.

"What are you talking about? They are not in debt, why would they flee?" Sheryl retorted, shaking her head at her friend.

"Well, since they are not going to open the company, they will get their money back. Anyway, I don't think it's a good idea to continue to work with them," Isla voiced out her opinion, the same as before.

"Come on, this is not the time to argue with each other. Let's get inside," Sheryl said curtly. She hadn't changed her mind and she also had no intention of making Isla agree with her opinions. There was only one thought in her mind and that was to figure out what was going on with this company.

They entered the office, but there was no one at the reception desk to usher them in. No one from the office came forward to inquire about their visit either. The office seemed empty.

"Hello, is anyone here?" Sheryl called out, standing beside the reception desk.

Isla stood behind Sheryl. She followed the direction of her boss's gaze, but didn't see anyone inside.

"Is anyone here?" Sheryl raised her voice.

As she spoke, she and Isla walked towards the central part of the company.

They glanced around, but there was no one in sight. It was eerie.

"Sher, it looks like no one is here. Let's get out of here," Isla said with a frown. She didn't want to waste another minute wandering inside the empty office. The arrogant behavior of the staff had left a bad

impression on her.

She had made several calls before coming in person, but no one had answered the phone.

She wanted to cancel this contract as soon as possible. But Sheryl, on the other hand, had no plans of leaving.

She continued to call out to see if anyone was inside as she made her way into the office.

To her disappointment, she saw no one at all. But instead of giving up, she walked towards another

room inside the office, and ended up with the same result. She then entered several other rooms with

no luck. Frustrated, she decided to walk back to Isla. 'Did I come all this way for nothing?

Where are the staff members? Did the young men really give up on their new company?

Did they already split the money and leave like Isla had said?' Tons of questions raced through her

mind.

She was thinking that maybe she should have just listened to Isla in the first place and not come here

at all.

'What is the point of continuing to stay here now?' she wondered.

As she was about to turn around in a bid to leave, she caught glimpse of a silhouette inside an office in

the far corner.

Considering that she hadn't checked that room, she strode towards the office room.

"Did you find someone, Sher?" Isla asked curiously when she detected that Sheryl had become tense

all of a sudden.

Without replying, Sheryl proceeded towards the dark silhouette.

Since the door was ajar, she could clearly see the figure inside.

"Excuse me? May I come in?" she inquired cautiously.

However, the person didn't respond. He did not even raise his head from the desk to spare a glance at

the door.

Out of the blue, a rising terror overpowered her. She found the situation kind of creepy. 'It's really weird

that the lights are on in an empty office in broad daylight. And the only person in the office is seated in

a corner office with the door wide open. What's more, the person is completely ignoring me, ' she

thought.

Isla's company gave her a little courage. Or maybe, she could control her fear since she didn't believe

in ghosts.

She walked into the room.

Isla also sensed the weird atmosphere. 'Something is clearly wrong in here, ' she thought, a shiver running through her spine.

The sight of Sheryl walking in left her speechless.

Engulfed in fear, she couldn't join Sheryl to find out what was in that ghostly office.

Isla had meant to dissuade her from going inside. But before she could find her voice, Sheryl had already walked into the room.

"Hey! Is everything okay? What happened? Wake up!" Sheryl's panicked voice echoed throughout the company.

Scared as she was, Isla still ran towards the office in the corner.

'What if something happens to Sheryl? I can never forgive myself for abandoning her, ' she thought in fear.

She even started to blame herself for going along with Sheryl's idea and accompanying her to this creepy office.

"Isla!" Sheryl cried out, turning to her friend for help.

"What's going on, Sher?" Isla shouted back anxiously as she quickened her pace towards Sheryl.

When she dashed into the office, she saw an unconscious man at the desk.

The man was younger than her. Even though he was in a coma with his eyes closed, his fine features caught Isla's attention. 'He is a handsome guy, ' she thought, looking intently at the stranger.

"No wonder he didn't answer. He has blacked out," Sheryl said, worried about the stranger.

"Oh! But who is this?" Isla asked as she studied the young man. She felt like she had met him before.

A thought dawned on her. "Is he one of the founders of this company?" she guessed. She was unsure about her speculation, but she thought she had seen him at Cloud Advertising Company.

"Yes, he is," Sheryl confirmed her assumption. On behalf of Lansh Technology, this man had discussed the contract with Sheryl in Cloud Advertising Company. His immense passion towards his career had impressed Sheryl. So she recognized him immediately.

But she couldn't remember his name.

"What should we do? Should we take him to the hospital?" Isla asked, confused as to what to do next.



She stared at the unconscious man, not knowing if they should interfere anymore.

"Call the ambulance," Sheryl suggested with furrowed eyebrows. She had thought about driving him to the hospital.

But then she changed her mind. She had no idea why he had blacked out, and hence she couldn't perform any first aid on him. She decided to wait for the emergency personnel to come.

"Okay. I am calling now!" Isla replied in a fluster. She pulled out her cell phone and called the ambulance immediately.

When she got through to them, she filled them in on their location. Soon, the emergency personnel rushed to Lansh Technology and carried the young man to the ambulance.

Sheryl and Isla followed the ambulance to the hospital.