

Wedded Bride 561

Chapter 561 Is He Your Boyfriend

"Miss Ye," Sheryl addressed her from a distance. "May I ask if there is anything I can do for you?" Her investigative eyes locked with Holley's while she was waiting for her reply.

"George told me you didn't sign the contract, so I wanted to talk to you about that," Holley mentioned with a nonchalant smile on her face. "Is there any problem with the contract?" she then inquired.

"No, it has nothing to do with the contract," Sheryl said decisively. "Relocating to another city is not an easy thing. I would definitely need more time to consider this," she explained.

"But aren't you a native of Y City, Miss Xia?" Holley blurted out. That was definitely not a smart move of her. She regretted it as soon as the words came out of her mouth. However, it was too late to do anything about it at that point.

Surprised by Holley's question, Sheryl aggressively asked for a clarification, "How did you know my hometown is Y City, Miss Ye?"

'Only a few people know I was born in Y City; how would Holley know that?

It isn't as if she has known me for that long... Or has she?' Sheryl wondered failing to find a good explanation.

The last thing Holley wanted was to raise any more suspicions in her mind. She had to play it safe this time. "Oh, don't get me wrong," she explained kindly. "I simply heard Miss Wang mention it at the party, the other day."

Then, on a more cautious tone, she continued prying, "I also heard you lost part of your memory. Wouldn't you want to get it back? It's a big part of your life, after all. Doesn't it bother you not knowing your past?"

Holley noticed Sheryl was seriously contemplating on her words, so she went on, "I have a friend who is a doctor. He explained to me that spending time in a familiar place could help someone who lost their memories remember some of them again."

Suddenly, Sheryl cut her off by asking, "Why are you so interested in me, Miss Ye?" Something was off, and Sheryl couldn't quite put her finger on it.

Holley had always kept things to herself, so this change in attitude was strange. 'Even though she is actually trying to be nice to me, I still feel that I can't trust her,' she told herself.

"Do I look like a bad person to you?" insisted Holley through her reversed psychology tricks. "I can

relate to you because Y City is also my hometown. Though I lost my parents, not my memories. So, in a way, I feel both close and distant towards it. I believe you feel the same, don't you?"

Sheryl glared at her wistfully, pondering, 'I do have the same feelings as hers. Despite all the time I've lived here, I don't feel like I belong in this place.

It is totally a foreign place to me.

I guess I can understand how Holley feels about it too. But I wonder if what she's saying has anything to do with me deciding not to stay here.'

Noticing Sheryl was still lost in her thoughts, Holley continued,"It has been a while since I left this place. To be honest, I hesitated for a long time because I wasn't sure whether I should come back or not. My parents passed away here and I feared that coming back would remind me of their deaths. But when I set foot in this place, I realized I also had wonderful memories. I walked past familiar streets and ate some of my favorite comfort foods." A hint of nostalgia appeared on her face as Holley went on,"The only drawback is that I don't have any family here anymore."

Sheryl was listening to Holley without saying a word. After a short pause, Holley confessed,"You're the first friend I made after I came here. We have similar experiences; so I feel like I can talk to you, like

you can understand me. I think we can be good friends, and this is why I'm showing this kind of interest in your life."

Eventually, realizing Sheryl's reluctance towards her goodwill, Holley began apologizing, "If I made you feel uncomfortable, I'm sorry. I mean no harm. I just want to be friends with you."

Looking at her seemingly sincere eyes, Sheryl wasn't sure how to react. 'It seems that Holley is a good person. Perhaps I misunderstood her, ' Sheryl thought.

In the absence of any reaction from Sheryl, Holley decided to conclude her remarks, "Anyway, I can't force a friendship. I will understand and respect whatever you decide to do." With an unenthusiastic smile, she added, "Well then, I guess I'll leave now."

The disappointed look on Holley's face made Sheryl feel a little guilty. 'She was just trying to be friends, and I didn't even give her the benefit of the doubt, ' she argued with herself.

Even though still conflicted, Sheryl let her guard down for a minute and began expressing her thoughts, "Well... first of all, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have judged you."

"It's okay," Holley responded. She smiled at Sheryl and stated encouragingly, "I'm known to be a

persistent person. So I would have simply tried to prove to you that you can trust me and that perhaps we can even be best friends."

With a playful smile on her face, Sheryl replied, "I thought we were friends."

Holley liked her witty comment. Even though it surprised her, she couldn't help but let out a short laugh.

In an equally playful and witty manner, she commented back, "Oh, yeah, of course... what am I saying?

We're already friends." She ended that with a wink.

Holley then proceeded to leave, when she heard a familiar voice. "Miss Xia," said the manly voice from behind her. She quickly turned around and was immediately petrified by her utter confusion and awe.

There he was, as handsome as ever! Charles' striking appearance left her speechless. However, her excitement soon turned to anger as the dashing man walked straight past her and towards Sheryl.

'Are you kidding me? Three years! Three years have passed, and he is still under her spell. Why doesn't he ever notice me?' she wondered frustrated.

Clenching her fist, Holley found it hard to control her anger.

'Why? When I was Yvonne, Charles was in love with her.

Now I'm Holley, a different person, and Autumn is still the same but named Sheryl.

Despite this, he still prefers her over me. Why does she always get to be so lucky?' she thought filled with hatred.

Tightening her fist even harder, she could feel her fingernails cutting through her palms. Overpowered by fury, she was not about to go anywhere anymore.

'I completely changed my appearance and even now you can't pay attention to me, Charles? What does it take to get you to look at me?' she asked herself.

But asking herself was not enough anymore. She had to intervene, "Miss Xia, is he... your boyfriend?"

Holley forced a fake smile as she struggled to spit those last two words out. Charles was finally taking cognizance of Holley, who had been standing beside Sheryl all along. As he was observing her fine facial features, he couldn't shake the familiar feeling she brought him.

However, his gently squinted eyes looked wary. It felt like he had his guard on, like he would step back if she drew any closer.

"No, no, no, it's not like that," Sheryl denied her inference. Quite embarrassed and flustered at that point, she lowered her head in an attempt to collect her thoughts.

"I already have a boyfriend, and he is abroad," clarified Sheryl eventually. "He... is just a friend I've met here," she continued explaining. Charles felt quite irritated by those words. 'And I can't do anything about it! Sheryl lost her memory, so I'm just a stranger to her now, ' he realized.

"Is that so?" Holley asked rhetorically. 'You really think he is a stranger?' she giggled silently. 'Autumn, did you really forget this man? He is your husband. You used to love him so much and promised to spend the rest of your life in his company. How ironic!' she continued snickering covertly.

Chapter 562 Charlie's Birthday Party

Holley couldn't help but giggle in her mind. 'Just like that, this aloof and arrogant man is being taken for granted by his beloved woman.'

"Hello Mister," greeted Holley who was standing in front of Charles. 'Now, I'm more beautiful and a different woman. I'm pretty sure he will never recognize that I'm Yvonne Gu, ' she thought.

To totally forget her past, she didn't only change her appearance but also her voice.

Holley offered her hand politely. Charles narrowed his eyes and hesitated for a while. Then, he extended his right hand and shook hands with the unknown woman. He withdrew his hand immediately and turned around to face Sheryl. "Why didn't you answer my call?" the man asked loudly.

Sheryl looked slightly awkward not only because of Charles booming voice, but also for the reason that

she saw Holley's wry expression while shaking hands with Charles. To her immediate relief, Holley gave a little chuckle, turned her back and walked away.

However, many people stared at them. Sheryl pulled Charles' sleeves and they walked to a corner. "I was rehearsing. What are you doing here?" she asked.

Sheryl kept reminding herself that the man was just Charlie's father and nothing more.

Charles was a good observant. Sensing that Sheryl became distant, he raised his eyebrows and felt a little annoyed. Despite this, he pretended to look calm as if nothing had happened. "I came here and met my client in that nearby building. I know you live here, so I decided to pass by and see you. I'm planning to hold a birthday party for Charlie on Saturday night. Would you like to join us?" he invited.

"Saturday?" Sheryl mumbled to herself in surprise. "This coming Saturday is Charlie's birthday?" she asked, dumbfounded.

'Shirley's birthday is also that day. What a coincidence!' she said to herself.

"No, it's not his birthday," Charles replied. "Charlie's birthday had already passed, but I still want to hold a birthday party for him. I acknowledged him as my son very recently, so, I owed him a lot. I only want

to make amends," he explained, as his eyes darkened with sadness.

With a smile, he changed the subject immediately. "You will leave after finishing the show. Charlie likes you so much. I think he would really love to see you attend his party. I hope you can fulfill his wish," he said in a relaxed tone.

The coming Saturday would be the third year anniversary of Autumn's death. In the past three years, Charles regularly visited the depot to reminisce on how they met. But now, he found his wife, so he surmised that there was no need to visit the place again.

He also intended to share the "Sheryl" news with his friends and family at the party.

"But..." Sheryl frowned. 'BM Corporation is scheduled to hold a celebration party that day. As their model, I can't be absent from it.

I've already excused myself from the previous important meeting, I couldn't do it again, ' she said to herself, not knowing what to do.

"What's wrong Sheryl? Do you have other appointment on that day?" Charles asked assertively.

"I'm... I'm free on that day," Sheryl answered, as she came back to her senses. "Okay, I'll be there," she agreed.

'Charlie's birthday party is more important than that dull celebration party, ' she thought.

"Well, then I will arrange a car for you that day," Charles ended with a bright smile.

"There is no..." she was going to refuse Charles' arrangement and say she could grab a taxi. But

before she could finish her sentence, Charles butted in immediately. "That's it. I have to leave now," he

said, and then left with an approving smile written on his face.

Sue went out to look for Sheryl since her friend didn't return to the backstage for a long time. To her

surprise, she caught sight of Charles' retreating figure.

She shifted her gaze to look at Sheryl. Her confidant was staring at Charles' back pensively, which

made her look uneasy.

'Is Sheryl acting so weird because of that man?' she wondered, as she squinted at Sheryl. Then she

started to probe, "Sher, what are you looking at?" Sue asked as she walked closer to her friend. "I

thought you were talking to Holley. Who is that man?"

"He is Charlie's father," Sheryl replied blandly. "By the way, he came here to meet his client. He then

invited me to attend Charlie's birthday party."

"Did you agree?" Sue asked with a scowling face. Somehow she thought that the man was suspicious, but her friend didn't think the same way.

"Yes, I did," Sheryl nodded. "After the rehearsal, I'm going to pick up a birthday gift for Shirley. I will also choose one for Charlie. Do you know what kind of present boys about his age would like?"

"How could I know?" Sue countered with furrowed eyes. Seeing Sheryl was about to come back to the rehearsal, Sue grabbed her arm. "Sher, don't you think you're seeing this man a bit too frequent?" she voiced out her thoughts.

"Mimi, what the hell are you talking about?" Sheryl retorted frantically. "Each time we meet each other, we only talk about children. I don't think there's something wrong with that," she said defensively.

"Really Sher? But I think, he has another agenda whenever he approaches you," Sue commented, as she narrowed her eyes suspiciously. At last, she continued, "I think... he's into you and he wants to ask you out."

"Don't be ridiculous Mimi. He is a good man. How could it be possible that he has a crush on me?"

Sheryl snapped, as she looked away to avoid Sue's interrogating eyes.

Sue opened her mouth and inquired, "Do you remember the man I spoke to you about?" With a grim

face, she continued, "I told you I ran into a man at the hotel hallway. He was not properly dressed and came from a room adjacent to ours."

"Yes, I do," Sheryl nodded at her.

"He was... that man," Sue said in contempt. Upon hearing this, Sheryl froze as she contemplated,

'Although those are Sue's speculations, they do make sense to some extent.'

"That's his personal matter, It has nothing to do with me," Sheryl uttered with an embarrassed smile.

Sheryl tried to pretend that she didn't care about Charles. However, Sue knew her friend very well. She thought Sheryl might have some feelings for the man.

"Sher, I'm telling you these because I want to remind you that he isn't a good man. You should be wary of him," Sue warned. After a pause, she went on, "Now, he approached you and used his son as an excuse. Perhaps, he will think of some other alibi to be with you. Be careful, okay?"

"Oh, come on girl! I'm not an idiot not to see that," Sheryl answered, again defensively. She couldn't think clearly after knowing that Charles was that man. "I will just attend the party to give my blessings to Charlie. You think too much Mimi," she continued.

"You... listen..." Sue faltered, squinting at her. 'Sheryl doesn't realize her true feelings for that guy. If she continues to meet him, she may fall in love with him, ' she pondered.

Unwilling to waste time to argue with Sue, Sheryl walked to the backstage, leaving her friend alone.

Sue and Sheryl clashed with each other because of Charles. Sheryl thought, she misinterpreted her closeness with Charles. Sue on the other hand was sure, Sheryl would get hurt if she continued in accepting Charles' invitations.

Chapter 563 It's Not That I Refuse To Help You

Taking her opportunity while Sheryl was out, Sue dialed Anthony's number before she would change her mind.

The incessant ringing of his mobile phone woke Anthony. It was quite late, but he immediately reached out to answer the call. Since he didn't want to miss any calls from Sheryl, his phone was never on mute. Thinking it was Sheryl, he was surprised when he saw that the call was from Sue. "Miss Wang? Has anything happened to Sher?" he asked worriedly.

"No, no, Sher is all right." Sue hastened to dismiss his fears. She called Anthony to remind him about Sheryl covertly, but she didn't know how to effectively convey the message to him. Biting her lip, Sue was at a loss how to start the conversation. "Did I wake you up?" she asked fearfully.

"It's all right," Anthony replied, feeling relieved that there was no emergency. Since Sue was Sheryl's friend, he always treated her as his friend, too. "So, what's the news? Why are you calling at this time of night?"

She wanted to answer that "I'm worried that Sheryl might fall in love with other man." But instead she asked, "Shirley's birthday is coming up in a few days. How are you planning to celebrate it?"

"I don't have a plan yet," Anthony said, sounding annoyed. He couldn't believe that she woke him up just to ask what he was planning for Shirley's birthday.

His reply was unforthcoming, but Sue ignored it. "She used to celebrate Shirley's birthday every year, but she had to miss it this year because of work. I can see that she's very upset about that," she replied and then gave a pregnant pause. "If there's a way for Sher to celebrate Shirley's birthday without missing her work, that would be great," Sue hinted.

After listening to Sue's suggestion, Anthony decided to tell her about his plans. "Actually, I've already made plans for Shirley's birthday. You see, I had the same thought as you, so I booked a flight to Y City. We will arrive there in time for Shirley's birthday. I wanted to surprise Sher, so please don't tell

her," Anthony requested.

"That's great to hear. Don't worry, I won't breathe a word to Sher. Thank you, Anthony. I'm sure she will be very surprised," Sue said, smiling. 'Anthony is coming. Once the man finds out what a great person Sheryl's boyfriend is, I'm sure he will stop pestering her, ' she thought happily.

In her eyes, Anthony was the perfect match for Sheryl and not Charles.

"Sorry for disturbing you, Anthony. That's all I wanted to ask. Sweet dreams." Hanging up the phone, Sue was pleased that she had a chance to talk to Anthony and learn about his plans.

Meanwhile, Anthony couldn't fall back to sleep. He had a feeling that Sue called him for something else, but changed her mind at the last minute.

After thinking about it for some time, he dialed a number. "I will be in Y City in a few days. Before I leave, can you arrange to meet me?" he asked the person on the other side as soon as the call was put through.

"Autumn's already in Y City. I'm afraid that things might get out of control," he added with a frown. After hearing the response of the person from the other end, he nodded slightly and said, "Okay then, I'll contact you when I reach there."

Clutching the phone tightly in his hand, Anthony whispered, 'Sheryl, I've done so much for you. Please don't let me down.'

Meanwhile, Sheryl was unaware of what was brewing in the air. She was busy shopping for birthday gifts for Shirley and Charlie. Shirley's birthday present was easy to choose. She knew that her daughter, like any other girls her age, liked beautiful clothes, hair accessories and dolls. Soon enough, she spotted a pink dress that would fit Shirley perfectly, including matching accessories.

She had a little difficulty in choosing a gift for Charlie, since it was her first time to buy a present for a little boy.

Fortunately, during the time she spent with Charlie, she managed to find out his preferences, which were different from other boys his age. He had no interest in toys that ordinary little boys liked. Luckily, she remembered the book Charlie had read the last time they were in the library together.

Hurrying towards an outdoor equipment shop, she went in excitedly. "Excuse me, do you have an astronomical telescope?" she asked the storekeeper.

"Yes, of course," the storekeeper replied warmly, walking towards a shelf in the corner of the store.

"How about this one?" he asked while handing her a high-quality telescope.

Sheryl didn't know much about telescopes so she let the storekeeper recommend the best telescope for amateur stargazers.

"How much is it?" Sheryl asked after hearing the storekeeper brag about one beginner telescope in particular. "5, 800," the storekeeper demanded an exorbitant price for the astronomical telescope. In the end, after much haggling, he gave the telescope for 5, 000.

Feeling immensely pleased that she found the right gifts for Shirley and Charlie, Sheryl happily headed back.

Meanwhile, in the hospital

After being cooped up in the hospital for three days, Chris demanded to be discharged and sent home but Sam refused adamantly. "You are already a mother. Why are you still being headstrong? Don't you know that not only our baby but you also were in danger? If you will continue to disregard your health, what will you do if you don't recover completely?"

When he heard that Chris tried to manipulate Charles to accept Leila, he was really pissed. She, growing up with Charles, should have known Charles better.

Even Sam knew how stubborn Charles could be. Nobody could force him to do something he didn't want to do, even if you held him at gunpoint.

"But I'm going to be bored to death if I have to stay here another day," Chris complained irritably.

"When can I go home?"

"When the doctor gives the go signal, and not before," Sam replied readily.

Looking sourly at her husband, she knew that once Sam decided on something, he would never change his mind, no matter what she did. Resigning herself to another boring day, she turned away and sulked.

Suddenly a knock sounded on the door. "Come in," Sam called out.

The door opened slowly and Leila walked in, carrying a fruit basket. Sam frowned slightly as she strode inside the room. "What are you doing here?" he asked coldly.

"I'm here to see Mrs. Lin," Leila said softly. Hearing Leila's voice, Chris looked up briefly and said, "Oh, Leila."

Sam never liked Leila, but for Chris' sake he decided to be civil. "I'm going to see the baby. Take your

time," he said and left the room.

As soon as they were alone, Leila rushed to Chris' side and said miserably, "Mrs. Lin, you promised me that you would help me. You're the only one who can help me. Please, please, help me."

Leila grabbed Chris' hands desperately, trying to win her pity.

Leila's request put Chris in an awkward situation. How could she help her when she herself was already in trouble with her family for meddling in Charles' affairs?

Aghast, she withdrew her hands and told Leila reasonably, "It's not that I refuse to help you, but..."

With a frown of bewilderment, she continued, "As you can see, my hands are tied now. Even if I want to help you, I can't."

Leila's eyes narrowed angrily at Chris' words. "But you promised you'd help me. That's why I took your advice and acted boldly. What am I going to do without your support?" she demanded shrilly.

"I..." Chris felt a little guilty. Having a lot of time in her hands, she had time to think about what she did.

She realized that she was wrong to force Charles to accept a woman he didn't love.

"I've done everything I can to help you," she said, looking up at Leila with a hint of pity in her eyes. "But you know, my words have no weight with my brother now. I can only offer you a piece of advice."

Chapter 564 Much Resemblance To Autumn

Chris frowned and continued, "Charlie has the blood of Lu family. He rightfully deserves our love and care, but you..."

Chris paused for a moment and then continued, "After all, you are Charlie's mother. You'd better seek my grandpa's help to gain entry into Lu family."

She then suggested to Leila, "It will be better if you take Charlie with you. He will comfort and amuse my grandpa immensely. When he softens up enough, he may speak in your favor."

That was all the help that Chris had to give to Leila.

Leila had expected Chris to offer her fullest support and assistance. She desperately needed her help to be admitted into Lu family, however, she met with disappointment. Feeling helpless, she stood up to bid farewell to Chris, "Anyway, I am indebted to you for your earlier support. Now I have to rely on my own self to achieve my goal, it seems."

After Leila left, Sam came into the room carrying their son in his arms. Chris smiled and enjoyed the pleasure of amusing her son. Meanwhile, Sam peeled an apple, heated it and lovingly began to feed her.

"Did Leila come to ask you to appeal to Charles on her behalf once again?" Sam enquired.

"Why else?" Chris nodded gently with a resigned sigh.

"She has no right to keep pestering you," Sam said with irritation and distaste. "You should not entertain her but dismiss her instantly and rudely if need be."

"Sam, I know! I am not a silly woman." Chris admitted to her previous mistake. "After deep reflection, I realize I can not change Charles's mind. If I persisted in helping Leila, it would upset Charles."

On hearing Chris say this, Sam felt greatly relieved.

Isla, informed of Charles's decision to throw a birthday party for his love child, Charlie, lost no time in calling Charles, as the information came from a reliable source.

'How could Charles celebrate Charlie's birthday on the day that Autumn went missing? How could Charles forget Autumn so easily?' Isla wondered.

"Isla, why are you calling me?" Charles was sitting on the bed in Autumn and his bedroom. The layout of this room remained unchanged and untouched. He was happy at the prospect of Autumn's return.

Isla questioned Charles over the phone, "I was recently informed that...."

Isla paused, took a deep breath, and then continued, "you have decided to arrange a birthday party for

your love child on the same day Autumn went missing. Is this true? Can I believe this news?"

"Yes, it is true." Charles found it unnecessary to lie to Isla. He had decided that celebrating Charlie's birthday would add meaning to the painful day.

"Charles, how could you do this?" Isla fiercely questioned Charles, "On that day, we have planned to mourn to honor Autumn's memory. Instead, you change your mind and play with the emotions of that sad day."

"Isla, you misunderstand me," Charles had planned to give everyone concerned, including Isla, a big surprise by announcing Autumn's return at a wonderful moment.

"Charles, your actions and behavior disappoint me." Isla recalled how happy and proud she was to see Autumn blessed with a loving and dutiful husband like Charles. He had always remained devoted to Autumn. Only now she realized that Charles had another side.

'By no means would I let Charles celebrate his love child's birthday on that sad day though he may start anew, ' Isla thought with determination and disliked Charles in her mind.

It was beyond her tolerance for Charles to be disloyal to Autumn and Autumn's memory.

"Isla, give me some time. I will explain this matter more clearly to you later." Charles paused and continued, "I will give you a big surprise when you attend Charlie's birthday party."

"No, thanks." Isla sneered in reply, "I will go to mourn Autumn without you. At least I will forever honor the friendship between Autumn and me."

So saying, Isla angrily disconnected the call.

Reeling at Isla's hostility, Charles texted Aron in the hope that he would be able to convince Isla to attend the birthday party.

Aron assured Charles of his co-operation. Comforted by Aron, Charles set his mind at rest.

BM Corporation's Spring and Summer Fashion Show was scheduled for 2:00 PM. All the models and staff were exceptionally busy. Meanwhile, Anthony boarded an airplane for a neighboring city with Shirley.

Anthony pulled out his phone from his pocket to call someone. The person answered and immediately responded, "I am waiting for you at the entrance of the terminal."

Carrying Shirley in his arms, Anthony walked out of the international terminal. He met Andy who was dressed in a smart suit. Andy stared at Shirley with affection.

"Tony, where are we?" Shirley idly asked Anthony as she played with her doll.

"We are visiting an old friend before reuniting with Sher. Is it okay, sweetie?" Anthony tried to comfort Shirley.

Shirley was very excited at the promise of meeting Sheryl later.

Andy escorted them to a coffee shop near the terminal. It was well equipped with playthings for children. Shirley was extremely happy at this and was soon lost in play. Andy studied Shirley for quite a while and exclaimed, "Time does fly. Shirley is growing up so fast and so soon."

"Most definitely, she is." Anthony proudly replied with almost paternal love for Shirley.

"Shirley looks so much like Autumn," Andy remarked casually as he continued to gaze at the playing child.

"Exactly," Anthony smiled, "A true beauty. So much like her mother Autumn."

With past memories of happiness and sadness still vivid in mind, Andy cast a meaningful look at

Anthony. He then asked, "Anthony, I know you're not here to talk about the old days. Now let's get down to the business on hand."

Chapter 565 A Treacherous Show

Anthony gazed at Andy who was seated opposite him at the dining table as he asked coldly, "I came to see you for one thing... our secret agreement. Did anyone know about that?"

He had been in touch with Andy all these years. Back then, Andy didn't dare tell Autumn the news about her missing son, even when she finally decided to take the pills.

In fact, Andy was able to trace Leila and Autumn's son. He came to Autumn that time with the intention to fill her in of the news and their location. But Anthony stopped him.

Knowing Andy's son was suffering from heart disease, Anthony promised to help save his child in exchange for Andy keeping to himself the whereabouts of Autumn's son.

When Andy first heard of that offer from Anthony, he was irritated and accused Anthony of blackmailing him in exchange for his son's life. Anthony used to be a doctor so he was well-connected in the medical profession. He resourcefully found a suitable heart for Andy's son.

Anthony then made a deal with Andy that if he wanted to save his son's life, he should never tell others, including the Zhao family that Autumn was still alive.

Just to keep his child alive, Andy agreed reluctantly.

He thought at that time, 'Nothing is more important than keeping my child alive. After all, people are

selfish animals.

And besides, Autumn has lost all her memory about that life.'

"Don't worry Anthony. I did as you requested. No one knows Autumn is alive, including Abby," Andy

replied. "So, what's up with you and Autumn?" Andy asked with overwhelming curiosity.

"We're doing great. Actually, we could not ask for anything better," Anthony answered softly. He then

demanding somberly, "I hope you can keep our deal between us. I don't want anyone to know about

that. Is it clear?"

"No worries, I got that a hundred percent clear," Andy replied. Andy lifted his brows wistfully. 'Anthony

really loves Autumn so much, but he expressed everything the selfish way.

Once Autumn regains her memories and figures out what he did behind her back, she will hate him and

worst, leave him.'

Anthony had a hunch that what he did secretly was going to be found out. That was why he came to

meet Andy to remind him and fortify their agreement.

"How about... that boy? Where is he now?" he added. After finding the boy's location, Andy initially

planned to bring him back to Autumn. But Anthony stopped him. He didn't want that child to disturb his already happy life with Sheryl. Andy told Anthony everything he knew about the boy. "He is doing great.

Leila did a good job at raising him. She also introduced the kid to Charles. I think, he now lives with Charles," Andy replied.

Anthony was satisfied to know that the child didn't spend a tough life. At least, Leila loved and took care of the boy like her own son.

Autumn once told him that Leila would bring the boy to Charles. Now, he had no doubt about that.

"Are you going to stay here in Y city for good?" Andy asked in a softened tone. Andy stared at Shirley from the dining table. He felt sorry for the girl.

'Even though Anthony has treated Autumn and her daughter quite well in the past three years, still...

Charles is the girl's biological father, ' he thought to himself. Andy decided to leave Y City that time because he felt guilty as he saw Charles spiraled into a deep depression.

He was afraid he would tell Charles the truth if he continued to stay in the city.

Besides, at that time, his son's heart disease and eventually the deal with Anthony left him with no other choice but to leave Y city.

"No," Anthony answered stoutly, as he shook his head. "It was just a coincidence Sher came here for work. Once she finishes up here, we'll go back to America. We live a happy life now. We don't want to cause anyone any trouble or be disturbed by others. I think you understand, don't you?" he explained.

With a smirk, Andy remarked, "Three years... you lived with her for three years Anthony. Do you still have no confidence in your relationship?"

'Anthony is still afraid that other people will discover her. It only means that Autumn doesn't like him that much, or... she doesn't love him at all.

He is so worried. Perhaps he is scared that Charles will discover that Sheryl is Autumn, ' he mulled.

"That's not your concern," Anthony snapped with a stern look. He squinted at Andy and said impatiently, "Just keep your promise, okay?"

Anthony put on a poker face. 'He read my thoughts. It's annoying!' he said to himself.

Anthony walked to Shirley and carried her, bid farewell to Andy and headed straight to Y City.

BM Corporation scheduled their Spring and Summer Fashion show at 2:00 pm that day. The highlights of the show were the models and the stylish clothes with unique designs.

Most of the top honchos in the fashion business attended the show. Sheryl was the last one to walk on the runway. She didn't expect to be the center of the show.

She looked like a celestial maiden in a white long dress. Minutes before the runway walk, she found the heels of her white Louboutin shoes broken. She would certainly look like a fool if she didn't discover it and walked on the stage.

From the back stage ramp, she showed the broken shoes to Sue who escorted her from the dressing room. Stunned and worried, Sue immediately took off her high heels, raised and handed them to Sheryl. "Sher, how about you wear mine? Our feet size is the same anyway," she advised as she retrieved the broken shoes from Sheryl.

Sheryl stared at Sue's red, high-heeled shoes with furrowed brows. "Absolutely not!" she refused decisively. 'Her red shoes will totally ruin the look of my white dress,' she analyzed inside. As she was called already on the stage for her turn, Sheryl gathered her courage and decided to walk the runway barefoot.

As Director Ang took notice of Sheryl's bare feet, he inquired with his raised brows, "Where are your shoes?" Since it was already Sheryl's turn, he let out a sigh and ordered, "Come on Sheryl! Hurry up!

You are on in ten seconds."

After Holley's visit during the rehearsal, Sheryl found herself in an isolated situation. The rest of the models except Sue became hostile to her.

Before the show started, she was deliberately tripped by one of the models and found screws in her shoes. A few of the models even chided her face-to-face. Those incidents were the reasons why she became protective and examined her shoes carefully before her walk. There were signs of fresh glue at the sides of her shoes. It was evident someone broke the heels on purpose and glued them in a hurry.

They didn't dare to destroy Sheryl's dress for BM Corporation was going to showcase it the center piece. The troublemakers just wanted to put Sheryl down.

Sheryl took a deep breath and then tiptoed up to the stage.

Although she wasn't a supermodel, she was an experienced and excellent one. She walked the runway elegantly and naturally on tiptoe. She imagined herself wearing a pair of magic high-heeled shoes.

The charming smile on her face as she glided effortlessly took away the audiences' breath.

The show was spectacular. Sheryl was like a pretty fairy as she worked the miracle on the stage.

Impressed by her wonderful performance, the special guests who were present in the show stood up and clapped their hands ecstatically.

Aron was one of the audiences beside the runway of the stage. When he recognized Sheryl who looked exactly like Autumn, he was petrified.

He suddenly thought of Charles who had pulled himself up from his depression. 'Did he find Autumn?' he wondered, confounded.

After the conclusion of the show, Sheryl heaved a long sigh of relief. When she returned to the back stage, she found George and Holley anxiously waiting for her. They gladly hugged and gave her their cordial congratulations. It was not until the host called out the couple's names did they leave for the stage. Once her bosses left, Sheryl sunk on one of the models' couches and took a break.

"Drink some water," Sue offered, as she gave Sheryl a bottled water. Sue embraced her impressively.

"Congratulations girl, you did it! Fortunately, you thought of that excellent idea. Otherwise, the show would have been a mess," she remarked.

With a sneer, Sue raised her voice and said scornfully, "There are always some jealous women out

there. Most of them have very little talent, so they resort to dirty tricks to bring down the performance of

others. They are so gullible."

Sue was defending Sheryl. 'If she wore this pair of shoes, it would have been a total disaster and

embarrassment for her, ' Sue thought to herself.

Chapter 566 Just Forget It

It would be terrible and wrong to spoil BM Corporation's show. The more serious consequence would

be that Sheryl's career as a model would be finished.

Thanks to her cautious nature, she had checked her shoes carefully and didn't wear the glued shoes.

Obviously, one of the other models was trying to sabotage Sheryl. Sue was apoplectic with rage at the

trap. She thought it necessary to discover the person who did this to Sheryl. Seeing the anger on Sue's

face, Sheryl tugged at Sue's arm and comforted her," Just forget it! There were no serious

consequences."

She wanted this to be over. It was not worth stressing over a trivial issue. She would soon go back to

the United States while the other models would continue to stay in Y City. They had signed agreements

with BM Corporation to that effect. Thankfully she had signed no such agreement. She showed

magnanimity and decided she would forget the incident. She wasn't expecting to be picked on and bullied.

"She just got dumb lucky. Just an unbelievable amount of luck. If only I knew breaking her shoes would bring her so much publicity, I would have torn her clothes instead. Then I wonder how she would explain that to the company," one of the models bitched backstage.

"Yes, that is what you should have done. Wonder why she is so favoured by our boss? Is she really that excellent a model? Why should she enjoy a higher salary and get special treatment? She is just an old lady with a child. It's so unfair," the other models jealously said.

"Hey!" one girl yelled at Sheryl. She seemed to be the chosen representative of the other models.

Staring fiercely at Sheryl, she threatened, "I am warning you. You had better give up your agreement with BM Corporation. Go back to America, or I'll destroy you. You will lose everything."

"Damn bitch! How dare you talk all this nonsense and bullshit!" Sue cursed and swiftly ran towards that girl. She was enraged. She wanted to slap that girl's face, damn the consequences. It was a knee-jerk reaction. Every time someone taunted Sheryl, she would rush in to defend Sheryl on the spot. It was not only because Sheryl was her best friend, but also because she admired Sheryl's hard-working

attitude. Sheryl hurried to pull back Sue and calmed her," Just forget it. I won't lose anything just because she is spouting crap." Sheryl firmly believed in keeping far away from trouble. She was too good hearted and stable to be troubled by unwarranted provocation.

Sue did not share Sheryl's view and said solemnly," Sher, you are too soft and good-tempered. They were bullying you and may do worse things in the future. How can you tolerate this rubbish?"

"As usual Sheryl remains quiet while her follower jumps in on her behalf itching to fight," the other models sneered. They mocked and laughed at Sue for sticking her nose where it didn't belong.

Sue lost her cool and reached out to punch the speakers. Sheryl once again held her back. She stared at Sue and then cunningly asked," Mimi, if you were bitten by a dog, would you bite it back?" Sheryl couldn't bear the mockery anymore. It was useless to get angry and would lead to further frustration rather than satisfaction.

"How dare you compare me to a dog?" the woman standing foremost of the group immediately reacted with anger.

"I didn't say that. You just did and if the shoe fits who am I to dispute it," said Sheryl with a shrug.

Sheryl twisted her mouth and sneered. She took one cool step forward and kept moving. Her pace was slow but confident. She got close to the woman and loudly announced, "I had decided to give up the agreement with BM Corporation. You see, I don't think as highly of that corporation as you do.

However, seeing that you don't like me staying,"

Sheryl paused and stared at them with a provocative smile. She added, "I must definitely stay now.

Wait and see, we will soon become good colleagues." She had been struggling with her decision to stay on or leave. The provocation was a good excuse for her and gave her the push to reach a final decision. She hadn't discussed the agreement with Anthony. But inside her head, there was a small voice urging her to stay on. It would take some time to persuade Anthony but she was confident of convincing him.

The onstage host was calling out to the models to take their bows. The group stopped quarrelling and went on the stage.

The show was a huge success. George and Holley's wide smiles lit up their faces. Sheryl was the best by far, so they expressed their gratitude to her and invited her to the celebratory dinner.

Sheryl declined to attend their dinner invitation. Instead, she asked politely, "Mr. Han is your offer still

open?" As informed to the other models she would sign the agreement and turn it into reality as soon as possible.

"Of course it is," George replied making eye contact with Holley who was holding his arm. A grin spread across his face. He said sincerely, "The agreement I showed you will never expire. You, my dear, are always welcome." Holley wanted to be Sheryl's boss so that she could wreak revenge on Sheryl. She would never forget the sufferings that Sheryl had brought for her.

"Then here are my terms — my annual salary should be increased by one third. Besides, I want the biggest apartment. You know, that 130-square-metre one. If you agree to these terms, we can sign the agreement tomorrow itself," Sheryl said loudly. Not anticipating a positive answer, she stared at George unblinkingly. The unreasonable requests were just by way of a joke. She instantly regretted bringing up the subject of signing the agreement. She shouldn't have made a solo decision. She should have discussed it with Anthony first. While George was silently considering these outlandish requests, Holley replied, "Fine. We promise to give you all that you want." She didn't care about what it cost to make Sheryl stay. The most important thing for her was to revenge her sister. Holley looked at Sheryl smiling

a sweet but false smile. Her words carried the same weight as George's. After all, they were a couple.

George had deep feelings for her and understood her intention at once. That was the reason he agreed with her.

However, the other models turned gloomy and depressed. Most of them looked down upon Sheryl and were suspicious of her professional skills. They didn't think she deserved better treatment than themselves.

George and Holley left a stunned Sheryl. She and Sue went back to their room. Sheryl sat on her bed and was lost in her thoughts, 'My requests were demanding and unreasonable. Why did BM Corporation agree? It is unbelievable.'

"Sher, are you determined to stay? Have you made up your mind?" Sue hesitatingly asked with her brows knitted.

She thought Sheryl's decision was a hasty one. "You told me you would consider it carefully and also discuss it with Anthony. I don't think you have done either of that."

"I don't know. I wasn't expecting her to agree," Sheryl whispered in a sad tone. Her brain seemed to have stopped functioning. She had thought her unreasonable demands would be declined. There was

an unspoken agreement between her and Anthony. She had promised to go back to America after the show. But now as Holley had agreed to her demands, she found herself in an awkward position.

"It was a spur of the moment and a very rash decision," Sue commented with a sigh. Frowning, Sue thought, 'When Anthony comes to know about this whole thing, he is going to be extremely upset. His greatest fear is Sheryl's staying in Y City. Then it is very possible for her to come across her daughter's biological father.'

"I can see that," Sheryl said faintly. To continue to stay on or leave Y City had been bothering her. In fact, she hadn't made a final decision. Now that issue was finally settled by her hasty decision. She had really gotten herself cornered.

"Just forget it. I won't think about it now. It is useless," Sheryl sighed and moaned. Suddenly she was struck by an urgent thought. She quickly rose to her feet and took out a telescope from the closet.

She then changed into a fresh dress and told Sue, "Tonight is Charlie's birthday party. I will attend that instead of our celebratory dinner. If anyone asks about me, tell them I am not feeling well and resting."

Thus explaining her whereabouts to Sue, she rushed out of the room with the telescope. She was so

eager to go out that she didn't hear or listen to Sue's reply.

Charles had sent a chauffeur driven car for her. When the chauffeur saw her, he respectfully held the door open. She gracefully seated herself and they drove away. As soon as they reached, she stepped out of the car.

Red carpets led up to the hotel door. The carpets had footprints of different shapes, sizes and colors printed on them. It reminded people of their childhood.

The dining hall was decorated with bright yellow balloons. There was a huge birthday cake in front of the stage. The warm scene reminded her of Shirley whose birthday was also today. Without her mother with her, Shirley would surely have an incomplete happiness.

Sheryl was the first guest to arrive. She noticed that a table in the center of the dining hall was surrounded by about fifteen chairs. "Miss Xia, you are here," Charles greeted Sheryl warmly as soon as he saw her. Noticing her tired face, he suggested, "There is still some time before the party begins. You can go upstairs and rest in the room there. I guess you are tired out after the show. Rest there for some time until I call you down."

Sheryl didn't refuse Charles's kind offer. She was really tired. Also, being alone with Charles in the big

hall left her embarrassed.

She went upstairs with Charles. In order to make her more comfortable, he had asked a masseuse to give her a massage. He hoped that would help her loosen up a little.

He didn't accompany her further. Today's dinner was a very important one. He wanted to personally make sure everything went well.

Gary arrived at the hall after Sheryl. He brought with him a copy of 'A Guide to Chess' for Charlie's birthday present. Isla and Aron followed with their daughter Amanda. Isla looked unhappy. If Aron hadn't smoothed things over for Charles, she wouldn't come. She hated Leila and it was hard for her to accept the fact that Charles and Leila had a son.

Thanks to Aron's persuasion, she was here finally. She didn't talk to Charles though. Instead she glared at him with dislike.

Aron thumped Charles on the back and didn't say anything. He knew Charles would understand what he wanted to convey. Empty words were not needed between them.

He thought, 'Three years have passed. Tough times never last but tough people do. I am so happy

Charles's wife is back. I hope Isla won't get too excited.'

"Come in. Come in and have a seat," Charles smiled in welcome. He knew Aron had gone to BM

Corporation's show. So by now Aron must surely have recognized Sheryl as Charles's wife.

Chapter 567 | Underestimated You

It was Charlie's birthday. Charles left no stone unturned to make it the best and the most special

birthday party for his son. Sam attended the party alone as Chris was recovering from post delivery

weakness.

Leila and Charlie were the last to arrive at the party. Charlie dressed like a gentleman. In his looks and

mannerisms, he looked like a miniature version of Charles. It did not take long for him to get spotted by

little Amanda who had always been fond of her handsome uncle — Charles. Now, a boy who looked

exactly like Charles drew her attention.

She came closer to Charlie and stood behind him. She was happy to stay with him.

As for Charlie, he was rather miffed at being followed by a girl. He frowned at her and moved away

from her as fast as he could.

"What are you doing here?" Isla asked, as she was flabbergasted to find Leila in the party. She just

knew that Charles had a child with another woman. But it was really unbelievable to accept the fact that

the woman was none other than Leila. She sneered at Leila and blurted out, "What a shameless woman you are! Tell me, how did you manage to hook up with Charles? And you even gave birth to a little bas..."

Isla stopped herself for uttering "bastard". 'I can't blame the innocent boy for his mother's fault, ' she told herself and tried to calm down.

Isla could not bear the sight of her. She did not spare her from her scornful remark. She snorted at her, "It looks like I underestimated you."

Leila had dressed up for the party. She already considered herself as the mistress of the Lu family. She was beaming with joy. Heart of heart, she considered this party from Charles to be a gesture of accepting her in his life.

She was in an excellent mood. Even Isla's harsh words failed to dampen her spirit. However, she withdrew her smile in front of Isla. "I know I owe a lot to Autumn. But now she is no more. And Charles and I... we have our child. I hope you can forgive me," she said trying to look apologetic in front of Isla.

It was a coincidence that Charles chose this day to celebrate Charlie's birthday. Today was his real

birthday. It was the same day three years back, when she took the boy away from Autumn.

"Forgive you?" Isla sniffed at Leila, "What are you thinking? Charles will marry you? Never! Stop fooling yourself. Just keep in mind that you will never be Charles' wife even if Autumn has left the world. Don't forget who you are. You don't deserve him."

Isla was getting uncontrollable. Each and every word uttered by Leila stung her so hard. Her heart bled for Autumn. "You can never take Autumn's place even though you have his son. No matter how many kids you have from him, he will never accept you. Mark my words. You were, are and will always be just a shameless mistress. Nothing more than that," Isla cursed, as she took out her wrath on Leila.

"You..." Leila faltered at the face of such blatant humiliation. She was just too angry to even utter another word. Isla's face turned red as she blurted out her anger on Leila. Her harsh words pierced Leila's heart like a sharp dagger.

"Well, that's enough. Don't get angry. It's sheer wastage of time speaking to her," Aron interfered. He drew closer to his wife and took her hand. He actually was observing them from a distance. Knowing how much his wife hated Leila, he just waited till she vented her feelings out on her.

Charles witnessed the entire episode. But he had no intention of coming to her rescue. Instead, he

blasted on her right after Isla finished scolding. He walked up to Leila and spoke to her in a very cold voice with a very stern look on his face. "What are you doing? I did not invite you here to put up a fight with Mrs. Gu. If you continue to behave like this, you can feel free to leave the party now," he said, as he made himself very clear to her.

"She started..." Leila stammered, abashed with a pitiful expression on her face seeking sympathy from Charles. All of a sudden, she felt like an outsider. 'No one is willing to speak for me, ' she thought with a bitter smile.

Her dreams came crumbling to see how indifferent Charles was towards her. Even though she was completely broken inside, she didn't let it come on her face. She didn't want to leave a bad impression on the guests.

'Isla gave me a hard time just because she thought I won the game. Even Charles can't forget Autumn.

But none of it matters to me. I will be there for him. I will wait for him and have the last laugh of victory. I

will win him over, ' she kept remembering the ultimate goal of her life which comforted her and helped her to calm down.

"Ladies and gentlemen..." Charles turned around and welcomed the guests with a cheerful voice.

"Thank you very much for attending my son's birthday party. You must be feeling curious about him, but

I'm not going to explain to you. Charlie is my son and I have no doubt about this," he announced

looking at Charlie with a proud smile on his face.

Leila stood close to Charles gracefully, as if she were his wife.

When Charles finished his speech, she opened her mouth. "Thank you for coming here. I never

expected Charlie could have such a grand birthday party. Thank you for coming here to celebrate my

son's birthday," she expressed, and then bowed to the crowd deeply.

However, to her disappointment, no one paid attention to her.

Leila was not expecting such cold reaction from the guests towards her. No one was with her in the

party. Not even Charles. She felt really embarrassed to be left out like this. Still, she forced a fake smile

on her face and pretended as if nothing had happened. "Well, please have a seat. There is no outsider,

so you can enjoy the meal," she continued politely, turning to the guests.

'No outsider?

Except me, '

Leila ridiculed herself inwardly.

"Wait," Charles summoned the attention of the guests once again. The enthusiasm in his voice echoed in the hall as the guests turned around and waited for his next announcement. Charles turned towards his friends and relatives, and continued, "Today I invited you here to introduce my son. But more importantly, I'd like to introduce someone else to you."

"Now, who is he talking about?" Leila mumbled to herself. A mix of apprehension and fear filled her heart.

'Something bad is going to happen, ' she thought.

"Charles, who else did you invite?" Gary asked, as he looked at his grandson with curious eyes. 'We've got all on our list. Who else did he invite?' he wondered.

"Please wait for a moment. I'll be back right away," Charles gave a mysterious smile as he excused himself from the guests. He headed up the stairs to look for Sheryl.

Sheryl was worn out after the rigorous rehearsals these days. She had called for a masseur and was enjoying a relaxing massage. The hands of the masseur moved over her skin making her feel

comfortable.

Charles pushed the door open gently to find Sheryl lying on the bed in a tranquil state. He gestured the masseur to keep silent and asked him to leave. Then he tiptoed beside her bed and stood there. Sheryl had no idea that Charles was standing near to her.

With her eyes still closed, she pointed to her waist and said, "I want a massage here, please."

"How are you feeling now?" Charles asked tenderly as he rubbed her waist softly. Charles voice out of nowhere inside her room startled Sheryl. She opened her eyes to confirm her assumption. She was so petrified to see him inside her room that she sat up instantly. She was absolutely flabbergasted.

"What... What are you doing here?" she asked, dumbfounded. 'Where is that masseur?' she wondered.

Then suddenly, she blushed and lowered her eyes. Charles kept looking at her. The same coy look on her face that still tugged at his heartstring.

Charles gazed at her lovingly. "I found you look so tired, so I didn't think of waking you up. The party has begun already. Let's go," he said politely.

"Well, okay," Sheryl replied meekly, her face not yet over from the state of shock. When she was with

Charles, she behaved like an obedient child.

She got up from the bed and approached to get her shoes that were lying at a distance. Watching her walking barefooted, Charles promptly brought the shoes for her.

He squatted down in an attempt to help Sheryl wear her shoes. Once again, she grew red with embarrassment and stopped him at once. "Well... I can handle it myself," she muttered.

'How can I allow a man to help me wear my shoes? It's so awkward, ' she said to herself.

Chapter 568 Reunion Without Recognition

After wearing her shoes, Sheryl, with a concerned look, followed Charles and said, "I don't know what

Charlie likes, so I just got him an Astronomical telescope. Do you think he'll like it?"

With a smile of reassurance, Charles replied, "Don't worry. He'll love the gift because it's from you."

She heaved a sigh of relief and smiled at him.

In the small confines of the elevator, there was an awkward silence. Sheryl eventually cleared her throat to ask, "Is Charlie's mother going to be there?" There was a slight quiver in her tone.

Slightly taken aback by the question, Charles countered, "Why are you asking this?" He felt slightly uncomfortable at her mention of Leila.

"I'm just curious, that's all," Sheryl replied. The dissatisfaction she noted on Charles' face did not deter

her from continuing. Awkwardly, she said, "I've never met Charlie's mother. And she raised Charlie to be a good boy."

In her mind, Charles' son was far more obedient than her daughter. So, it made her curious about the woman who guided Charlie so that he turned out to be a good boy.

Charles chose to keep quiet. He didn't want to talk about Leila in front of Sheryl.

Meanwhile, in the spacious private room, Leila was fidgeting in her seat while waiting for their mysterious guest.

All the other guests were seated and cheerfully talking to one another. Leila felt isolated and thought it unnecessary to be there.

Fifteen minutes had passed, but Charles still had not made an appearance. Isla was slowly running out of patience.

To begin with, Isla was not enthusiastic about attending the birthday party. "Where's the host? If he doesn't show up, I'm leaving," she grumbled.

Her behavior upset Aron, who commanded sternly, "Sit down!" He threw his wife a glance and realized

it was the first time he ever spoke to her in that tone. "Since we're already here, just be patient," he went on. Softening his tone, he said, "Perhaps the guest is meant to surprise us."

But Aron's expression had terrified Isla, so she didn't pay attention to his subtle hint. She obeyed his order, sat back down and saw Amanda following Charlie. With a frown, Isla stood up to carry her daughter back to their seats.

But Amanda had other ideas. She struggled to get out of her mother's arms and wailed about wanting to play with Charlie. The little girl's behavior annoyed Isla, and as she lost her temper, she lightly spanked Amanda in her behind.

The little girl burst into tears. Aron looked at his wife disapprovingly and immediately took his crying daughter from Isla. Amanda's wailing echoed throughout the room further upsetting her mother.

Suddenly, the door was thrown open. And all eyes were fixed on who was about to enter, including Amanda, who had stopped crying. The girl was staring at the door with curious, round eyes.

The crowd inside the room stared at Charles expectantly as he entered the room. Stepping aside, he turned to the woman behind him. "Come in. Charlie is waiting for you," he said softly.

Nervously, Sheryl stepped inside the room slowly. As she moved forward, the people in the room saw

her slender figure approaching.

When they finally saw her face, everyone was stunned, and the room became silent.

There before them stood the woman who caused Charles to be miserable for the last three years. It

was unbelievable that she was back and standing beside him.

The woman before them and Autumn looked exactly alike, yet they sensed something was different

with her.

All eyes were on the beautiful woman, who stood feeling that she was under intense scrutiny. Sheryl

suddenly felt awkward and shy.

It was several minutes before the shock of seeing their mysterious guest wore off. Then, everyone

looked ecstatic and began chattering.

The people inside were the ones who cared deeply for Autumn. And they were all glad to see her safe

and sound.

Everyone but Leila rejoiced at seeing Autumn.

The moment she realized it was Autumn, Leila felt as if lightning had struck her.

Scenes of Autumn sprawled on the ground, helpless, in the depot three years flashed through her mind. Leila began trembling in fear. Her legs felt as if they were about to collapse, so she gripped the edge of the table for support.

"No, it can't be! I must be dreaming..." she muttered.

Panicked, Leila thought, 'She died three years ago. How can she be standing in front of me?'

Isla, who just moments ago had lost her temper, was happiest of them all. Hearing the noise Leila made, she glanced at the woman with a contemptuous smile on her face.

Mumbling to herself, Isla said, "Autumn is back. And her happy days are about to end." She could not stop herself from looking at Leila.

Still trying to figure out if she was dreaming or not, Leila's mouth dropped open as she witnessed aloof Charlie running towards Sheryl and wrapping his arms around her leg. "Dear Sher, what took you so long?" the boy asked sweetly.

"I'm sorry," a smiling Sheryl replied. She knelt to look him in the eye. "Am I late for the party?" she asked Charlie while looking up at Charles.

"No, you aren't." It was Charles who spoke up. A peaceful smile lined his handsome face.

In his heart, he was thinking, 'Your return is the best gift. It's never too late.'

Staring at his beloved, he could not help but be pleased.

As this scene unfolded before Leila's eyes, she nearly broke down.

She wondered, 'The three of them are standing there like a happy family. Why? What is going on?'

Filled with jealousy and hate, Leila kept thinking, 'Why does Charlie refuse to accept me but treat this woman in such a friendly manner?'

Finally, Charles said, "Let me introduce you to everyone." Charlie held Sheryl's hand as his father introduced her to his guests. She had no idea they were the people most important in Autumn's life. It amazed her that everyone was happy to see her and felt like they all knew who she was.

When Charles introduced Sheryl to Aron's wife, tears were streaming down Isla's face. Sheryl was both surprised and concerned. Then Isla hugged her tight while saying, "Autumn, you're finally back. I'm so thrilled to see you. You're really here!"

The enthusiastic and emotional greeting overwhelmed Sheryl, who looked to Charles for help. Seeing the excitement and sorrow on Isla's face, she was at a loss for words and also felt a bit sad. When she

looked at Isla, her expression seemed to mirror hers.

"You're scaring her," Aron cut in, while gripping his wife's hand. Isla's excitement kept her from noticing some details about the woman. But Aron didn't miss them.

For one, he remembered Charles introduced her as Sheryl, not Autumn.

"I'm sorry. My wife mistook you for her best friend. You two look exactly alike, you see," Aron explained with a slight smile. His explanation helped Sheryl understand the other woman's excitement.

Isla heard this and argued, "What are you talking about? She is..." Isla kept telling herself, 'I've been waiting for three years, now she's finally back.' Aron discreetly pulled her to a corner and whispered, "Can't you see?" He threw a glance at Sheryl. "She doesn't remember her past and what happened. So, stop being too excited," he warned his wife.

Her husband's words jolted Isla. She did notice that Sheryl acted as if she didn't know herself. But she was still glad that her friend was back safe. 'That's all that matters,' she thought.

Charles introduced Sheryl to everyone except Leila as if he ignored her intentionally. However, Sheryl approached Leila and offered her hand as she asked, "You're Charlie's mother, right?" Leila's heart started to pound as she shook hands. "I've always wanted to meet you. And now, here you are," Sheryl

said politely.

"You wanted to meet me?" Leila asked, sounding incredulous. Now, she started to quake in fear. 'I

watched her die. How can she be standing in front of me? How am I going to face her?' Leila thought

nervously.

Chapter 569 None Other Than Autumn

Leila was stunned when she met Sheryl. Though Sheryl had lost her memory, Leila feared her and was

afraid that there would be severe consequences to this.

Leila could not restrain herself and blurted out, "You are presumed to be dead. How could you be here

in fine health?" Sheryl looked at Leila with a perplexed expression on her face. "Are you talking in your

full senses? Are your words sensible and reasonable? I cannot figure out what you are trying to say."

"No... no, I did not mean anything serious..." Leila managed to calm down and continued to stare at

Sheryl. Sheryl was indifferent to Leila and turned away.

'It seems Autumn has really forgotten the past. What on earth could have happened?' Leila wondered.

"Well, let us join the dinner!" Gary was the happiest person on earth to welcome Autumn's return. It had

been three long years of separation.

Sheryl was supposed to sit beside Charles. Meanwhile her old friend Isla kept looking at Sheryl. She

was thoroughly perplexed. She found herself hesitant to talk to her.

But Sheryl smiled at Isla politely without any recognition.

Sheryl's presence left all present absolutely stunned, especially Leila.

Leila still could not believe her eyes. Her confused thoughts kept playing in her mind. 'Sheryl somehow

looks like Autumn.

But is she really Autumn? What is her true identity?'

During dinner Charlie was very delighted to chat with Sheryl. This upset Leila. She took Charlie aside

and scolded, "Charlie, why are you being so attached with Sheryl? Stop troubling her with your chatter."

"Do not touch me!" Charlie pulled away from Leila with evident dislike.

Charlie's aversion to Leila was more evident than ever now.

Sheryl's sudden appearance, the growing affinity and chemistry between Charles and her and Charlie's

obvious love for Sheryl — all this drove Leila mad with jealousy.

'What justifies Autumn's popularity?'

Has she not been out of Charles' life for three long years?' Leila jealous thoughts continued to torment her.

"Have some more. Eat well. Enjoy," said Charles as he served a sweet and sour spare rib to Sheryl.

She expressed her thanks with a sweet smile at him.

Seeing this, cunning Leila decided to test Sheryl's true identity. She sweetly offered her beef tenderloin stewed with potatoes. "Miss Xia, please have this tasty dish."

"Oh. If it pleases you I will. Thanks," Sheryl replied with a gentle smile but actually she was hesitant to eat the dish. It contained potatoes to which she was allergic.

Isla swiftly and harshly scolded Leila, "Leila, how could you ask Autumn to eat potatoes. You know she is highly allergic to them."

Leila gave her a cold smile and said, "Isla, don't forget that it is Autumn who is allergic to potatoes not Sheryl. Don't confuse them in your mind."

"She is none other than..." Isla nearly blurted Autumn's name. As Autumn's best friend there was no chance of her mistaking anyone else for Autumn.

"Well, thanks for your kindness," Sheryl immediately mediated between them to thwart an argument.

She wanted to maintain the happy and festive atmosphere of Charlie's birthday.

"Miss Xia, are you allergic to potatoes?" Leila slyly questioned. She was completely satisfied with her plan.

Sheryl managed to give a reasonable explanation to Leila, "I am prone to heat rash, a discomfort in my chest and shortness of breath when I consume potatoes. That is why I avoid eating such food."

Hearing this Leila grew alarmed. She had to accept that Sheryl was indeed Autumn, her mortal enemy.

On the other hand Isla was thrilled to have her closest friend Autumn back.

Leila felt foolish. She had helped reveal the true identity of Sheryl.

However Leila remained confused about Autumn's return. She still could not get over it as Autumn was supposed to be dead three years ago.

Plagued with growing suspicion, Leila decided to plan her next move against Autumn.

She knew she could not use Charlie in her plan against Autumn, as Charlie was obviously growing fonder of Sheryl with time.

However Sheryl had obviously lost her memory. This was beneficial to Leila's scheme.

Charles was determined to win back Sheryl while Charlie wanted to sit closer to Sheryl and be with her.

Sam who was sitting beside Charles voiced his doubts in whispers. "What on earth has happened to

Autumn? How could she totally forget her past?"

"I am also confused about that," Charles shook his head and replied. "Ever since we met, Autumn has been oblivious to her past, but I don't care. I will not ever separate from her now."

Sam sighed, "Charles, I think it necessary to apologize to you for Chris's unwarranted interference in your personal matters."

"It does not matter. I will begin a new chapter in my life now." Charles had almost forgotten how Chris had tried to get him to marry Leila.

"Charles, later I will make Chris understand and admit to her mistake." Sam would have felt very embarrassed if it were not for Charles' understanding and tolerance.

Meanwhile, Sheryl was finding it hard to sit through the birthday party. However, she knew she could not abruptly leave.

Anthony in the meantime had brought Shirley to Sheryl's hotel. He planned to surprise Sheryl. On reaching the hotel he called Sue to tell her to inform Sheryl of his arrival.

Shortly afterwards, Sue was rushing out alone to meet Anthony and Shirley.

"Aunt Sue!" Shirley lost no time in rushing towards Sue and giving her a loving hug. She wanted to make up for their long separation.

Sue kissed Shirley affectionately and asked endearingly, "Shirley, did you miss me?"

"I missed you so much!" Shirley expressed her love for Sue while nodding her tiny head.

Sue was a little upset by Anthony's serious look and casual greeting.

She realized Anthony had come to meet Sheryl not her.

"Sue, where is Sheryl?" Anthony finally enquired about Sheryl's whereabouts.

"She is not here." Sue complained to Anthony, "Sheryl headed to the birthday party of a little boy soon after our fashion show ended. She did not even attend this evening's victory banquet. Even I do not know exactly where she is."

"Why did you not go with Sheryl to keep her safe?" Anthony was too worried about Sheryl. He could not bear to stand there patiently chatting with Sue. He knew he was wrong to be angry and irritate with Sue.

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Sue's face grew dark with anger and discontent. Knitting her brows, she asked coldly, "Anthony, what's going on with?"

"I..." Anthony stammered, as he realized his rude act. "I... am so sorry, I didn't mean it," the panic-stricken man apologized.

He let out a deep sigh pensively. Since Sheryl returned to Y City, he had been anxious and afraid to lose her. But for awhile, he reassured himself, 'It is impossible for Sheryl to meet Charles. After all, Y City is huge.' But, when he learned that Sheryl wasn't with Sue, he got irritated again. He could have exploded but then managed to contain himself. Anthony opened his mouth, "I was too shocked. Today is Shirley's birthday. Why would Sher celebrate with other boy's birthday?" he asked, as he squinted his eyes.

"How would I know? Have you ever paid me to keep an eye on her?" Sue responded with anger and dissatisfaction in her voice. Judging by her tone, Anthony knew she was still mad at him. He gazed at her with guilt and made an apology again. The woman's fury vanished at the sight of his sincere face.

Sue started to answer Anthony's question. "Sheryl knew the little boy after coming here. She likes him very much. They often went out. Later, she also met the boy's father. Since then, the three always hang

out together. I have a hunch that the boy's father has a thing for Sher. I reminded her to stay away from him so many times, but she didn't listen. I did my best," she said as she shrugged her shoulders.

Taking notice of the worried look on Anthony's face, she assured him with a smile, "But I believe there is nothing to worry about. Sher agreed to meet them simply because she adores that little boy."

"Well... do you know where she is?" Anthony asked, as he clenched his fist. 'She still met Charles, ' he thought with anxiety and rage.

"I have no idea. How about you give her a call and ask where she is?" Sue suggested. She briefly looked at Anthony, and then said, "I'm in a party. I... have to go back there."

"Sue!" Anthony called out her name, as the woman turned around in an attempt to walk away. Slightly embarrassed, he scratched his head and said, "Well... I'm really sorry for yelling at you. By the way, you look great today."

Flattered, she flushed and lowered her head. After a while, Sue leered at Anthony. "Come on man, stop apologizing. Hurry up and find Sher!" she urged. Then she turned around and started walking back to her party.

As Anthony watched Sue's shadow disappear, he took his cell phone from his pocket, called up Sheryl and asked, "Hi Sher, where are you?" Being ignorant of her boyfriend's return to Y City with her daughter, she blurted out the address of the hotel. The man hang up the phone as soon as he learned Sheryl's location.

Disappointed at not seeing her mother, Shirley tugged at Anthony's right arm. "Tony, where did Sher go? Why is she not here?" she asked in a cheerless voice.

"Your mom left for another kid's birthday party an hour ago. Don't worry Shirley, I'm taking you to her,"

Anthony replied with a stern look. 'Sheryl, I ardently hope... that we're as good as before, ' he thought.

Anthony had lived in Y City for a long time. Even though he was away from it for several years, no big changes had taken place. The restaurant that Sheryl told him about was quite famous in Y city. So, it didn't take him a long time to find the place.

Anthony and Shirley arrived at the restaurant. He spoke to the receptionist and found out where the birthday celebration was being held. He got the private room's number and went straight to it. The door was closed but he heard the cheerful laughter coming from inside. He froze immediately and lost the courage to push the door open.

He was definitely afraid of losing Sheryl. The thought that she might fall in love with someone else temporarily paralyzed him.

When Shirley recognized Sheryl's voice coming from inside, she tried her best to push and slowly open the door. As she spotted her mother, the little girl gave a bright smile and sprinted towards her.

"Hey Sher!" the little girl called out cheerfully. When Sheryl heard her daughter's voice, she was stunned and even thought she was dreaming. But, she soon realized it wasn't a dream. The sight of her lovely daughter dashing to her was so real and joyful.

Apart from Sheryl, all the party guests' eyes were fixated on the bubbly, little girl.

Charles' eyes almost popped out when he saw Shirley. His raw instinct told him that she must be his daughter. Perhaps, that was the great power of blood relationship, and the strong bond that defined a family.

"Who brought you here, Shirley?" Sheryl asked with a wide smile, as she took her daughter in her arms fondly. Charlie who was beside Sheryl stared at Shirley fascinatingly. He could not remove his eyes away even for a second.

"Sher, Tony said you were celebrating with another kid's birthday. Is that right?" Shirley asked, as she visually scanned through the guests. She focused on two cute kids, one was a girl and the other was a boy. Somehow, she liked the latter very much.

"I'm so sorry, sweetie. I had no idea that Anthony took you with him to visit me here in Y City," she apologized, looking like a kid who made a mistake. "I bought you a birthday gift. How about we celebrate your birthday after the party is over?" she negotiated, as she saw the unpleasant look on her daughter's face.

Shirley pursed her lips and turned her gaze away from her mother. When she caught sight of the gigantic birthday cake, her eyes sparkled with joy. Charlie saw Shirley's reaction. He approached the little girl and asked, "Do you want to have some cake?"

Shirley stared at the boy and nodded at him. 'He is so cute, ' she thought to herself.

"Come on, let's get some," Charlie offered as he held Shirley's hand and walked towards the finely designed cake. Isla's daughter, Amanda, followed behind them. The three kids stood in front of the cake and sliced a piece for each. They laughed and ate merrily.

Charlie didn't like to play with kids about his age. However, he was very fond of Shirley and couldn't

help but treat her well.

Anthony stood at the door for a while, but no one came to usher him in. As he saw the familiar faces inside, he assumed Sheryl's identity had been discovered. Despite this, he entered the room. He made his way to Sheryl. "Sher," he called sweetly.

'Anyway, she is my girlfriend and her name is Sheryl not Autumn, ' he told himself.

When Charles saw Anthony, he immediately recognized the latter. He suddenly understood why he couldn't find Autumn anywhere. He surmised that Anthony had kept her hidden.

'I didn't think of him as a suspect that time because he was Autumn's friend.

Now, he even had the guts to show his face to me. If Sheryl and the kids weren't around, I would punch him to teach him a lesson, ' Charles thought furiously.

"Anthony, why did you not inform me that you are coming to Y City?" Sheryl asked with a bit of embarrassment and anger in her voice. Anthony's sudden appearance in Y City caught her in surprise.

However, she wasn't delighted to see her boyfriend here. Instead, she felt a little embarrassed.

"I was planning to give you a surprise," Anthony replied with a slight smile. He recognized a lot of

people in the party and even leered at Leila and the boy who looked exactly like Charles. 'I stole Sheryl away from him and hid her for three years. But they still met each other. Is this fate? he mulled.

"Who is he?" Anthony asked Sheryl as he looked at the direction of Charles. Charles sharply caught that look from Anthony and gave a sneer. He walked closer to Sheryl and stood behind her. That gave a picture perfect moment where a gorgeous woman closely stood right in front of a handsome man.

And just beside them were their children: Shirley and Charlie who were playing and laughing heartily together. They were like a portrait of a happy family. At that scenario, Anthony was definitely the outsider.

Anthony felt his heart ached. 'Sheryl is my girlfriend. Charles and she were over a long time ago, ' he thought. He gave an approving smile and pulled Sheryl to him naturally.

He held Sheryl's shoulder and looked at Charles. "Hello there, I'm Anthony, Sheryl's fiance," he proudly introduced himself as he tried to shake hands with Charles.