

Wedded Bride 581

Chapter 581 I Believe You

Anthony couldn't help but asked Sheryl for confirmation when he heard about Charles's visit. "Did he come to see you?" Anthony asked with knitted eyebrows which showed his displeasure. "What did he want?" he added.

"Nothing," Sheryl replied shortly. She didn't expect this might upset Anthony even more. In fact, Sheryl really didn't know the purpose of Charles's visit today. And she was not interested to know anyway.

However, Anthony didn't believe her. With a frown, he asked a question that Sheryl didn't expect. "Sher, do you really value his words more than mine?"

Aghast, Sheryl asked in return, "What are you talking about?" She couldn't hide the surprised look on her face. She really couldn't understand why Anthony would always lose his temper whenever things would involve Charles. It actually gave her a headache already. "He came to see me but I sent him away. Don't you believe me at all?"

Anthony went blank for a moment after hearing Sheryl's words. He felt bad after realizing that he seemed to have misunderstood her. Now, he couldn't help asking himself, 'Since when had things become wired between us?'

To make it up to her, he immediately replied, "Sher, you know that's not what I meant." As much as possible, he didn't want to make things worse between them so he needed to make Sheryl understand him. Despite feeling nervous, he tried to pull Sheryl's hands to hold them, but she just shrugged him off.

"Anthony, when did you become so sensitive? Why don't you believe me any more?" Her voice was full of resentment.

"No. I just..." He still tried to explain but couldn't find the right words to say. Well, It took two to tango.

They had been together for quite a while now and whatever the situations were right now, both of them should be held liable. "I believe you. I just don't trust him," he uttered in exasperation.

Sheryl felt exhausted dealing with this topic. She found it really useless to argue about it. So, she tried to find something to talk about. She stared at Anthony quietly while contemplating. After a while, she said, "About the contract, I have considered the consequences. I also asked Shirley's opinion about it.

She likes staying here and she wishes to study here. So..." It took a while before she could finish what she wanted to say. She took a deep breath before she continued. "I would grant her wish and I've decided to stay."

She did her best to sound as convincing as possible, not wanting to get any negative comments from Anthony. She was really wondering why they would always fight every time they met. She had always wanted to have a good, peaceful, and calm conversation with him every time they talked, but things would always happen the other way around. Anxiously waiting for his reaction, she couldn't help but wish that this time, Anthony wouldn't oppose her.

Fortunately, Anthony smiled. Well, he also contemplated a lot. Since Sheryl wanted to stay, he would respect her decision.

"What a coincidence! Actually, I wanted to..." He stopped for a while. He could see Sheryl's expectant look. She was waiting for him to finish what he wanted to say. "I wanted to talk about that with you too,"

he continued. Before saying more, he let out a soft laugh. "If you wanted to stay, I have no objection to it. But..." It seemed like he had more to say. Sheryl stayed quiet waiting for him to continue. "I'd like to remind you..." He intentionally kept his words hanging to see Sheryl's reactions to every word he just said.

"What is it?" Sheryl couldn't wait any longer. She felt like Anthony was deliberately keeping his words

hanging so she immediately asked without waiting for him to finish. In her mind, Sheryl thought that

Anthony just wanted to warn her again to stay away from Charles. But she was wrong this time. What

Anthony wanted to say was about BM Corporation.

Anthony frowned slightly and continued, "I tried to do some investigations on BM Corporation, but

whenever I wanted to dig deeper, it seemed that someone would block my way. I felt like someone

wanted to stop me from investigating. Isn't it so weird? So, I would advise, if you must sign the contract,

I hope you would also keep an eye on it."

What Anthony found out was all the models in BM Corporation signed five-year contract and this made

him worried.

"I got it," Sheryl promptly responded. She gently nodded her head to show to Anthony that she

understood his point. She felt relieved that they could finally talk.

She cast a glance at Anthony and said, "Anthony, there's really nothing between Charles and me. I

hope you would believe it."

She paused for a moment before she continued. "Whether it was in the past, in the present or in the

future, there's nothing between us. We are like two people living in two different worlds. I hope you can

trust me with that."

A hint of pleasure showed in Anthony's eyes after he heard what Sheryl said. "Silly woman." Anthony couldn't help but laugh. He felt happy of what he heard. He stretched out his hand to caress Sheryl's hair and said, "It's all because I care for you."

"I know." Sheryl couldn't help but bow down her head to hide her flushing face because of Anthony's gesture. She couldn't resist his sweet approach. To hide her nervousness, she also let out a soft laugh and said, "So, in the future, don't be silly to have a fight with Charles, okay? Look at you, you're already a grown up. Save me from some worries, alright?"

Sheryl let out a sigh and look up to meet Anthony's gaze. She continued, "What if you got your fingers burned, who would you hold responsible for it? Who would you blame?"

"Burn my fingers?" Anthony exclaimed. "You couldn't be serious, right?" Anthony sneered, "You've already seen him today and you must have seen the wounds on his face."

A proud expression appeared on Anthony's face while he continued. "Don't worry. If I have to fight with him, the worst thing would a draw. I wouldn't have anything to lose."

"You sound so confident," Sheryl muttered. She couldn't help but give Anthony a perplexed look. She suddenly felt familiar of this situation. It was as if they were brought back to the time they just first met.

But obviously something had changed.

"Sher..." Anthony's voice brought her back to her senses. Anthony broke into a laugh when he saw the expression on her face. He then decided to end their conversation. "It's already late. I think I'd better leave."

"Okay." She couldn't find what words to say. So she just slightly nodded her head. She still couldn't fathom Anthony's words so she seemed to behave strange.

Anthony then let out a sigh. He was actually reluctant to leave. He was expecting Sheryl would stop him from leaving and ask him to stay. But, it seemed impossible for now. If he wanted to stay and spend the night with Sheryl, he would have to wait until they got married.

He shot a sad glance at Sheryl before saying, "You should go to bed too. Don't stay up late." Sheryl could feel that he had not done yet. She knew, he still had something to say. Finally, he voiced it out, "By the way, would you mind if I take you to meet my parents in two days?"

Sheryl was a little taken aback but she did her best not to show it. "Well, I don't." After a short moment

of hesitation, she eventually agreed.

Actually, Anthony was thinking that Charles's existence had brought a lot of changes including the relationship between Sheryl and him. Their relationship seemed to have changed a lot and that was why he thought of bringing everything back on track. And this was the time to make everything back to what and how it used to be.

Anyhow, she had already agreed to meet his parents before she came to Y City from abroad. So, there would be no more reasons to have it delayed.

Feeling satisfied with Sheryl's response, Anthony then left. The next day, Sheryl contacted George first thing in the morning. Since she had decided to stay, she thought it was just the right time for her to make a move. This was now the right time to sign the contract.

They had agreed to meet at the hotel's lobby. Shirley was still sleeping and Sheryl didn't want to take longer so she decided not to wake her up anymore and just left by herself. When she arrived at the lobby, she saw George waiting for her and with him was Holley. She didn't expect that George would bring Holly. Sheryl actually felt uncomfortable of her presence.

"Hi, Holley. I didn't expect to see you here," Sheryl took the initiative to greet Holley.

"Hello, Sheryl," Holley greeted back. With a smile, she continued, "I felt so happy when George told me that you finally agreed to sign the contract, so I begged him to take me to witness this moment. I hope you don't mind."

"Of course I don't." The expression on Sheryl's face was unreadable. She just smiled back at Holley.

George, who was standing next to Holley, looked at her with a not so pleased expression and said, "I wanted you to take more rest but you insisted on coming with me. Well, maybe after Sheryl signed the contract, you two can go shopping together."

"You caught me." Holley also took a glance at him. She laughed and continued with a giggle, "Hurry up.

Sign the contract now. I couldn't wait to go shopping with Sheryl."

"Well, you're right. Let's get this done." While saying it, George took out a document and showed it to Sheryl. "Sheryl, this contract was well prepared so I hope you wouldn't find any problems with it. If everything's fine with you, please sign your name on it and we will be officially partners." George couldn't hide the excitement in his voice.

"Mr. Han," Sheryl said in a soft voice. She didn't take the contract. Instead, she just smiled and said, "To

be honest, I have considered it for a really long time. I know I'm fortunate enough to get all my conditions satisfied and I shouldn't ask for more but..."

"But what?" George interrupted her the moment he sensed a reluctance from her expression. With a knitted eyebrows, he said, "Don't tell me you've changed your mind."

Chapter 582 Are You Doubting Me

Sheryl gave George an embarrassed smile and replied, "Mr. Han, I know my abilities and I trust my judgment. So after making careful considerations, I would like to sign the contract with you, but..." She paused for a while. "I felt guilty to take such an enormous salary. Therefore, I think the article here in the contract should be revised," she continued.

Catching a glimpse of Holley beside him, George faintly replied, "Miss Xia, you shouldn't belittle yourself." "I firmly believe that you deserve this salary," he added.

"Thank you for believing in me. But..." Sheryl still wanted to resist. She paused for a moment before she continued, "I still stand on what I just said." With a smile on her face, she still kept convincing George to believe her. "I have been feeling indebted to you since you helped me solve the school admission problem of my daughter earlier, so I couldn't take too much. By the way, for the apartment,

please arrange an 80-square meter house for me just like the former ones." She deliberately change the topic from salary to accommodation to distract George's attention. "In addition to that, I wished to cut down the previously-negotiated price by 1/3. What do you think of that?" she added.

George was appalled. He couldn't understand why there were some people like Sheryl who already had a greater opportunity to earn more yet wouldn't just grab it. Wasn't it unbelievable? Why did she want a lower salary where in fact other people were striving to earn more?

After letting out a sigh, he tried to rebut Sheryl's demand. "Sheryl, it's really unnecessary to reduce your salary. We offer you this because you just deserve it. Most especially that you have a daughter to raise." Holley didn't want to give up persuading her.

Sheryl couldn't help but laugh after hearing George's words. She replied, "I gave birth to my daughter so I must be responsible for raising her. I also need to discipline myself as to set a good example to her. And also, I made this request because of a personal reason."

"What reason?" George questioned faintly. He still couldn't understand Sheryl's point in doing this.

Sheryl paused for a few seconds and remembered what Anthony had told her the other night when they talked. 'BM Corporation is so unpredictable that the only thing I could do is to figure out these

terms and leave a way open for me in the future, ' Sheryl told herself.

"I knew that BM Corporation's contracts with other models are all five years. In my case, I would like to request for a one-year contract. Would that be okay?" Sheryl asked with a smile.

"A one-year contract?" As expected, George was shocked to hear this request. He and Holley couldn't help but frown.

Sheryl felt distraught since BM Corporation had never had such a precedent for anyone. However, she didn't give up and still tried her best to be more convincing in front of George and Holley.

"Yes, a one-year contract," she firmly confirmed. She added, "Mr. Han must know that modeling is a young person's profession. I am no longer very young. Additionally, I have a daughter. I wish to become a good example to her. I only wish to earn enough money to set up a small store. As such, I could later on enjoy my life peacefully.

However, if I signed a five-year contract with your company, I would be 30 years old then. By that time, I know that no one would hire me as model anymore. Mr. Han, your company would surely suffer losses if that happens. So I think, a one year contract would just be beneficial to both of us." Sheryl

finished her long explanation.

"What if I insist on a five-year contract?" It seemed that George would also not want to give in. He

couldn't hide the frown forming on his face anymore because of disagreement.

"If you'd really insist..." Sheryl stopped her words for a moment. She was watching the faces of the two

people in front of her intently. Then she continued, "I would not sign the contract." "I hope that you could

understand that my daughter is more important to me than my career," she added with a smile.

"I think it's just a trivial matter," Holley butted in. She smiled and threw an assuring look to Sheryl.

"Since Sheryl wants a one year contract, why not make her an exception? What do you think,

George?"

Holley sweetly fondled George's arm while saying this.

"All right," George seemed to admit defeat now. With still a trace of frown on his face, he waved at the

assistant behind him to come closer and he whispered something. Afterward, he turned to Sheryl and

said, "Wait for a moment, Miss Xia. I have already instructed my assistant make a new contract."

Sheryl didn't say anything. She was actually contemplating and wondering why George just gave in to

Holley's persuasion.

"A couple of days ago I saw you and your daughter." Holley's sexy voice brought her back to her senses. She looked at Sheryl while she continued talking, "Your daughter is so cute. Could you bring her with you next time?"

"Uh..." Sheryl was actually hesitant to answer. "Okay." After a while, she finally agreed.

The assistant quickly finished the new contract and handed it to George for signature. Then he handed it to Sheryl. "I believe we can have a harmonious cooperation," he said.

Laughing, Sheryl carefully checked the contract to make sure that everything was in accordance to her requirements. Eventually, she signed the contract and said with a smile, "Happy cooperation."

Holly felt relieved after seeing Sheryl sign her name on the contract.

"It was rather a hard work for us to convince you sign a contract with us, Miss Xia." George smiled and took a bunch of keys from his bag and handed them to Sheryl. "These are the keys of the apartment I've prepared for you. You can tidy it up before moving in tonight if you want. Later, I will arrange someone transfer the apartment into your name."

"Thank you, Mr. Han," Sheryl sincerely expressed her gratitude. Taking the keys, Sheryl felt mixed

emotions. 'I've always wanted to have my own house. Today, it finally came true, ' she thought.

"You are welcome," George happily replied. With a smile, he added, "In order to keep you away from boredom, the apartment is just opposite Sue's. I hope you'd like it."

Hearing Sue's name, Sheryl paused. 'Sue has never contacted me since she moved away. She didn't even call me. Tonight, I must find her to have some talk, ' she told to herself.

Their friendship didn't need to end over such trifles.

"So..." Sheryl said with a shrug. "Could I go now?" She smiled, stood up and turned to leave.

"How is it? Do you feel satisfied now that you've made her sign the contract? Your wish was finally granted." George turned to Holley after Sheryl left.

Laughing wryly, Holley looked at Shirley's direction. "This is just the first step. The next step would be the real beginning."

Holley's eyes kindled with so much expectations. On the other hand, Sheryl could sense something was odd so she turned her back to look at the two. Seeing her action, Holly altered her expression and put on a friendly smile while still looking at Shirley's direction.

George seemed to still feel worried about Holley's plans, so he said, "Holley, I think Sheryl is different from what you've told me. I think she's not what you think she is."

"What do you mean different?" Holley asked with knitted brows.

"I couldn't tell," replied George hesitantly. "I just thought that she's not as bad as you've said. Otherwise she wouldn't have asked for a lower salary," George said in disbelief.

"That was just all her pretense! George, are you beginning to doubt me?" Holley growled furiously. "Tell me, are you doubting me?"

Chapter 583 Meeting Her In The Elevator

"No. It's not like that." George sighed and thought that he'd better change the topic. He could talk about anything to Holley but this one. She would totally become a different person when someone tried to talk about Sheryl with her. George decided not to risk saying anything. Instead, he put his arm over her shoulder and smiled. "Forget it. I was just wondering why you'd agreed with her request to sign just a one-year contract," he tried to explain.

Holley turned to him and sneered, "One year is enough." Her eyes showed a sudden hint of rage.

"George, could you please leave the modeling company for me to handle?" she added.

Unable to resist her coquetry, George immediately agreed. But he still warned her, "Look, let's make this

clear. You can do whatever you want to take revenge on Sheryl. However, if you cause losses to the company, I'll have to find someone else to replace you."

"Deal!" Holley replied firmly.

Sheryl soon arrived her room. When she was about to enter, she heard some voices. They seemed to be talking and laughing. She knew it was Anthony who came and played with Shirley.

She opened the door and greeted them, "Morning."

Anthony smiled and replied, "Morning, too. Come and have breakfast. I brought the famous pancakes here in Y City. "

Sheryl knew what pancakes he was referring to. She saw a lot of people waiting in a long queue to buy those pancakes at that shop before. But she hadn't tried it yet. She then took a small bite to check how it tasted. After taking that small bite, she realized she didn't like it that much. So she didn't eat more and instead, drank a glass of soy milk.

Suddenly, Sheryl heard Shirley asking Anthony to take her out. Anthony agreed but Sheryl interfered and immediately said no.

Anthony paused and turned to her. He asked, "Why not?" Sheryl looked at him and explained, "You knew that I've already signed the contract with BM Corporation, right? So that means I need to move in to the apartment they have arranged for me. I will be moving there tonight." Anthony nodded to show his understanding and sat beside the table. He then opened Sheryl's contract to take a look at it.

He carefully looked through the contract. Fortunately, he didn't find anything wrong so he felt satisfied and relieved.

"I think it's a good idea to sign an annual contract. In this case, you can quit anytime if something comes up," he commented. Sheryl smiled and looked at him. She was pleased to hear Anthony agreed to her decision.

Actually she was really grateful to him. He had helped her a lot and would always remind her if there were things she would forget.

Anthony paused a bit. He seemed hesitant to continue. Eventually, he said, "Sher..." He paused for a while before he continued, "I've booked a flight to US tonight. Since you've already decided to stay here, I have to deal with some stuff in the US. Also, let me just deal with the landlord about your moving out here. Leave everything to me. I'll just send all your belongings to your new apartment later,

okay?"

"I can go with you," Sheryl offered. She knew that Anthony would always be there for her and would always help her in everything but she didn't want to cause too much trouble for him. She didn't want to give him so much burden so she tried not to rely on him too much.

"No, you don't have to," Anthony quickly answered while shaking his head. The truth was that Anthony was hiding something from her. Sheryl was not aware that the reason why she could rent that apartment for a very low price was because Anthony had already bought it. So Anthony couldn't go with Sheryl because he wanted to sell the apartment without her knowledge.

But he also didn't want to upset her so he thought of some reasons to convince Sheryl to stay.

"I remember you told me that you are planning to have a close look at Shirley's school, right?" That idea flashed into his mind so he immediately voiced it out. "You should do it when you still have some time these days because you'll be busy soon," he added trying to sound more convincing. To his relief, Sheryl nodded in agreement, Since Sheryl decided to move in to the new apartment tonight, Anthony helped her to pack some stuff and sent her and Shirley to the new apartment. He then said goodbye to

both of them after he made sure that they were all settled.

Sheryl took Shirley's hand and turned to Anthony. "So when will you come back?" she asked.

Anthony couldn't help but tease her, "Why are you asking?" A playful smile hung on his lips. "You don't want me to leave, do you?" He added. Sheryl knew that he was just teasing her so she also pretended to be annoyed and said, "Enough of your nonsense, Anthony! Who cares if you leave or not!"

Anthony couldn't help laughing. This was exactly the reason why he loved her so much. She was shy but tough, which attracted him most.

Anthony pushed Sheryl and said, "It won't be too long this time. Maybe ten days... or a month at most.

Don't worry, I'll be back as soon as possible." He couldn't contain the happiness he felt inside because of Sheryl's simple yet sweet gesture. He would be traveling with a light heart this time. He bid them goodbye again, "Just take care of yourself. I gotta go. Go up and find your room. Lock the doors once you're in, okay? Bye for now."

Anthony was actually worried leaving Sheryl alone. She was a delicate woman and had a daughter to take care of. Most of all, there was Charles. He felt that the greatest danger came with Charles.

A lot of things could happen in just half a month.

"Come back soon, okay?" she requested. After Anthony was gone, Sheryl and Shirley decided to go and look for their room.

Since her original plan of going to Y City was for business, she didn't have too many things with her.

She only brought her daily necessities. Shirley's stuff also fitted in a small suitcase so it was not really difficult for them to go up.

She checked the keys and she found out that their room was on the 9th floor. She guided Shirley to the elevator and pushed the button for the elevator to move up.

"Sher, where are we heading?" Shirley looked up and asked her mom.

"Honey, we're going to our new home. This is our new home so we'll live in here. Then you can go to a new school and make a lot of new friends. Are you happy with that?" Sheryl tried to make her voice more energetic to sound more convincing. She wanted to cheer her daughter up.

"Wow, that's great! So does it mean, I can get a chance to play with Amanda and Charlie?" Shirley asked excitedly.

Sheryl smiled and nodded. With a ding, the elevator's door opened. Sheryl took Shirley's hand and

guided her out of the elevator. When Sheryl looked up, she saw Sue standing out there looking so beautiful.

Sheryl was stunned. They stared at each other, both surprised.

"Aunt Sue!" Shirley cried. Since she didn't know what happened between Sue and her mom, she ran up to Sue and put her arms around her legs. She innocently asked, "Where have you been? I've missed you."

Sheryl and Sue awkwardly looked at each other, and didn't know what to say. But Sue didn't want to make Shirley unhappy, so she paused for a while and hugged Shirley back. She lightly said, "My little princess, I've been busy with work."

Sheryl immediately said, "Shirley come on, you're a big girl now, aren't you?" Then she added while smiling sweetly to her daughter, "Be good, okay?"

"It's okay." Sue tried to stop Sheryl for saying more. Then she smiled at Sheryl and said, "So you've decided to stay?"

Sheryl lightly nodded and answered, "Yes. And Anthony agreed, too."

Sue gave her a bitter smile and thought, 'No matter what, Anthony would never say no to Sheryl. He

would even be willing to take the moon if she wanted it. It was no wonder he agreed with Sheryl's decision to stay.'

To lessen the tension between them, Sheryl asked, "Are you heading somewhere?" Earlier, she planned of having a good talk with Sue because she cherished their friendship. But now that she was face to face with her, she didn't know how to do it.

Sue smiled and answered, "I'm meeting some friends for a cup of wine." She paused for a while before adding, "Would you like to join us?"

"No, thanks. I'm a little bit tired today so I want to take an early rest. Just enjoy yourself," Sheryl politely refused. Before contemplating for a while, she added, "By the way, since we're neighbors now, so why don't you come to our room and have lunch with us tomorrow?"

Sue let go of Shirley and smiled. Her face showed that she liked Sheryl's idea. "That sounds great!" she happily replied to Sheryl. She then turned to Shirley and said, "My little princess, I'm coming over to see you tomorrow, okay?"

"Okay, see you tomorrow!" Shirley replied. The excitement that she felt could be seen through her

twinkling eyes. She was so happy. She missed Sue so much and she couldn't wait to spend time with her again.

After they have agreed, Sue got in the elevator. Sheryl then led Shirley to their room and opened the door. A fine decorations of the room met them. Needless to say, Shirley liked it.

Since Sheryl didn't want Shirley to live in a mess, she immediately cleaned up the entire room. After cleaning, she checked the refrigerator to see if there was something she could cook for dinner.

Unfortunately, it was empty so she asked Shirley if she wanted to go to the supermarket with her.

This time, she needed to do everything on her own because Anthony was not there to help her. As much as possible she also wanted to learn to do things by herself. So she didn't necessarily need to rely on Anthony's help all the time.

Anyway, she didn't need to buy too much. So, she only got some milk for Shirley and some daily supplies.

In one shelf, she saw a pair of cute slippers that caught her attention. She wanted to ask Shirley if she would like to have it. But when she turned her back to asked Shirley, she found out that Shirley was not with her anymore. She was stunned for a moment and panicked.

"Shirley!" Shirley!" she called out loud. She would go crazy if she'd lost Shirley. She felt very nervous.

Many things came to her mind. She tried her best to look for Shirley in every alley of the supermarket.

After minutes of searching, she finally saw Shirley. But to her surprise, Shirley was not alone. She was

holding Charlie's hands while playing with him.

Sheryl felt relieved to see her daughter.

Chapter 584 An Unexpected Visit To The Dream Garden

"Shirley! Don't you ever, ever do that again! You really scared me to death!" Sheryl held her daughter in

her arms tightly and mumbled, "Where have you been, sweetie? Why didn't you follow me? Never ever

do that again! This is a crowded place, and you could easily be lost here."

Sheryl was very scared, but she blamed Shirley no more.

Shirley was her life now. She couldn't even imagine what she would do if Shirley got lost. She guessed

that she would probably cry to death.

"Because I saw Charlie, Sher! Sorry! I was too excited that I forgot about you!" Shirley explained.

Shirley apparently had no idea what was in her mother's mind at that time. Then, she acknowledged

Sheryl with a big sweet smile.

Sheryl understood that there was nothing more she could do about what happened. Then she saw Charlie. Again, he wasn't alone. He was escorted by Charles.

"We'd better go home now!" she urged Shirley and pretended not to see the father and son. "You must not do that again, okay? You should know that it's very dangerous if no adult is around you!"

"Okay! Sher, I got it!" Shirley replied reluctantly and then walked with Sheryl to the exit. But she looked back at Charlie and was dismayed to part with him. Meanwhile, Charles just watched them and didn't do anything at first. When Sheryl walked away, he stepped forward in a hurry to stop her. But Charlie was faster than him. He grabbed Sheryl's sleeve and blurted, "Sher, are you mad at me?"

That was Charlie's second day at the Dream Garden. He was not able to bring anything with him since he secretly ran away from Leila's house. So, Charles took him to the mall, shopped and bought everything he needed. As Charlie picked up his stuff, Charles also picked some for himself.

Along with the clothes Charlie chose for himself, Charles also bought another set for a girl.

He expected that Shirley would live with him sooner or later and intended to make some preparations for her in advance.

After that, Charles took Charlie to the supermarket to buy some snacks. It was a real surprise that they

ran into Sheryl and Shirley who were also shopping for groceries. Charles thought that even God was helping him.

"No, of course not!" Sheryl replied and gave Charlie an awkward smile. She was fond of Charlie as always, but she had a problem with his father.

It was weird that she wanted to keep a distance from him as if he would bring her bad luck.

"I would never be mad at you, sweetheart!" she explained and smiled at him half-heartedly. How could she avoid and hurt this little boy? She squatted down and looked into his eyes, saying, "Listen, Charlie, I need to work now. Also, I need to take care of Shirley. You know how naughty she is! You're with your father now. I believe that he could take good care of you!"

"Will you play with me later?" Charlie continued. He had made up his mind to help Charles and he liked Sheryl anyway. "I'm living in a big house now. There are all kinds of food and toys. I want to invite Shirley and you to visit me there. Please!" he added.

"Oh, that? Sorry sweetheart, but I got other plans," Sheryl replied with a frown. She raised her head, glanced at Charles and said, "Maybe next time?"

Sheryl didn't want to go to Charles' house because she had been trying to avoid him. She and Anthony had quarreled several times because of him. She thought it was stupid to again arouse an argument with him because of Charles, who just recently showed up out of nowhere.

Charlie lowered his little head upon her words. Apparently, he was unhappy.

At that very moment, Shirley, who kept her silence, pleaded, "Sher, please! I want to play with Charlie."

Then, Sheryl realized that she put herself in an awkward position.

Seeing what was going on, Charles stepped forward and said politely, "If you're worried about me, please don't. I'll go to work after driving you to my house. I promise that I won't show myself to you while you're there."

"No, I didn't mean that!" Sheryl mumbled awkwardly. It was kinda weird because Charles read her mind. She hesitated for a long moment. Seeing the kids looking at her expectantly and the calm face of Charles, she finally nodded her head and said, "Fine, but I need to finish my shopping first."

What she just picked were needed every day. If she didn't buy the items now, she had to go back for them later on that day.

"Go ahead!" Charles said. He finally cracked a smile. Sheryl went on with her shopping, and he

followed her a few steps behind.

The two kids walked ahead of them hand in hand. They whispered in each other's ears and laughed happily. They glanced behind at Charles and Sheryl from time to time.

From the eyes of the passers-by, the four of them were a happy family. Only Sheryl knew how awkward she felt at that moment.

Finally, she got everything she needed. When she was waiting in line to pay, Charles stood ahead of her and to her surprise, paid for the groceries. Then, he pushed the shopping cart to the parking lot without saying any words.

Sheryl ran after him hurriedly and spoke to him for the first time that day, "Please let me know how much you paid for me. I'll give it to you later."

"Okay, wait for a moment please," Charles replied and couldn't help but laugh. She was the same as before. She always insisted they went Dutch as if they could be even in this way and owed each other nothing.

Charles took Shirley and Charlie to the back seat, and then got on the car. Sheryl had to sit at the front

passenger seat. The moment she got on, Charles leaned over to her. It gave her a shock. She

spluttered, "What... what are you doing?"

"Take it easy," Charles replied calmly. Seeing her flushing face, he tried hard to hold back his impulsion

to kiss her. He reached his hands to the seat belt and buckled it for Sheryl, saying, "How careless of

you! I just want to help you with your seat belt."

"Oh, thank you then!" Sheryl smiled at him and felt uneasy again. After they left the parking lot, she put

her hands on her burning face to sooth it.

She sensed how weird she was acting at that time.

She didn't know what invaded her mind.

They were so close that she smelled his breath and thought that he was going to kiss her the next

second.

But he didn't. What she didn't know was that he really intended to kiss her, at least in his mind.

Charles felt that he was exploding at that moment. The woman, whom he had been thinking of in the

past three years, was sitting beside him now, but he had to pretend that they were strangers. It made

him feel like an idiot.

The car pulled over at the entrance of Dream Garden. Nancy rushed out the moment she saw the car.

She almost retreated when she saw Sheryl's face. She asked with her eyes wide opened, "Is that... Oh my God!"

Nancy had never seen Autumn in person before. She came to work in the house after she'd gone.

Although she didn't know Autumn, she saw their wedding photos every time she cleaned their bedroom. The woman in front of her now was just the same as the one in the photos.

"Nancy!" Charles stepped out from the car. Before Nancy could utter something more, he made an introduction, "This is Sheryl Xia, a friend of Charlie. Please take the stuff from my car inside the house for me!"

Then he turned to Charlie with a smile and urged him, "Come on! Show Sheryl and Shirley our home."

"Okay!"

Charlie replied cheerfully. He got off and grabbed Sheryl's and Shirley's hands and headed to the house.

Chapter 585 Dream Garden

After they left, Charles warned Nancy, "Don't say a word in front her later, okay? Just consider her as our

guest and I don't want her to be annoyed. You must know that she has lost all her memories.

Understand?"

Nacy nodded but looked unconvinced. She said, "Alright. But, may I ask something?" Nacy was already

frowning when she continued, "Is she really Mrs. Lu?"

"Of course, she is!" Charles replied firmly. "Please make a fancy dinner for her later," he added.

"May I know what she likes?" Nacy asked in return. Nacy tried to pry and get more information but

Charles was hesitant to answer. Eventually, he replied, "The dishes that you usually make for me will be

fine."

There were two dishes that Nacy was really good at and Charles would always ask her to make them

for him every time he remembered Autumn.

"Mr. Lu, wait a moment!" Nacy exclaimed. She remembered something when she saw Charles heading

inside. "Leila came by today and she just left. She kept coming every day recently and said that she

wouldn't stop until she met little Charlie," she said.

"Okay, I know. I'll settle that later," Charles replied carelessly. It seemed that hiding Charlie from her

wasn't a good idea so he must make a perfect solution.

After all, he knew that he had to talk to Leila about this sooner or later. He couldn't just ignore this situation.

A while later, Sheryl and Shirley arrived at Charles' home. Sheryl felt so familiar with this house but just couldn't explain why. As Charlie was about to show them inside, she felt like she already knew what awaited them inside before he could even open the door.

She wondered what was going on in her mind. She couldn't understand why she had a very strong sense of familiarity to this place despite the fact that she had never been here before.

"You must be Ms. Xia!" Gary greeted her warmly. His voice helped her go back to her senses. Gary had initially planned to dine out with a friend but canceled it the moment he learned that Sheryl was coming.

He was actually really waiting for her at home.

It had been three years. But today, his granddaughter-in-law finally came home, and he couldn't be more excited.

"Yes, it's me. Nice to meet you, Mr. Lu," Sheryl greeted him back nervously. Sheryl couldn't fathom why she felt so nervous right now.

"Don't be nervous," Gary said with a pleasant smile. It seemed that he could sense Sheryl's

nervousness so he added, "Please make yourself at home!"

"Okay," Sheryl timidly replied. "It's so kind of you to say so!" she added smiling shyly. She wondered if

people in this city were always so warm to their guests. But how she could make herself at home in a

stranger's house?

"Nice to meet you, Grandpa!" Shirley said sweetly. Her expression was much different from Sheryl's.

Well, she was never shy in front of strangers. She ran into Gary's arms and held him cheerfully. Gary

had known that she was his own great granddaughter and he already loved her at first sight. The more

he looked at her, the more he loved her.

All of a sudden, the house became noisy and full of excitement.

Gary had asked the servants to build a playing area in one of the corners of the living room when

Charlie came to live with them. There were all kinds of toys, including a slide and oceans of balls.

However, Charlie never liked playing there. On the other hand, it became Shirley's wonderland.

If in the past Charlie didn't like this place, this time he was here playing with Shirley. He wanted to

make sure that she was safe. He didn't know why he was so protective of her and he just wanted to spend more time playing with her. He was happy to watch her laughing and it felt that she was his own sister.

On the other hand, Sheryl was the only one feeling uneasy among them. She felt suffocated with people surrounding her. So she decided to go to the bathroom to catch some air although she didn't really have the urge to pee. She had a feeling that she was an outsider there. After washing her hands, she looked at herself in the mirror. She felt like something had changed on her even though reflection still looked the same as before.

"Uncle Charles!" Shirley shouted. She was actually looking for her mom. She looked around for Sheryl but couldn't find her so she had no other choice but ask Charles for help. She had two braided pigtails this morning and one of them was now falling in front of her face because she had played so madly just now. The rubber band was cut. With hair covering her face, she felt so uncomfortable and inconvenient. She also looked weird with this kind of hairstyle.

Shirley came to Charles for help because she was so eager to join back Charlie to play immediately.

"Look at my hair!" She pointed to her head with a pout. Charles immediately got what she meant. He

turned to Charlie and asked, "Go and fetch a comb for me please, Charlie!"

Charlie remembered that they bought a new one today and it was cute. He ran fast to get it and handed it to Charles.

Charles found a small stool and let Shirley sit down. Then he said to her with a smile, "How about a ponytail, Shirley? Maybe I can do it."

He admitted that he didn't know how to braid a hair so he offered a simple one.

Shirley nodded her head slightly thinking that anything would be fine as long as he could fix her hair and she could go back playing with Charlie again.

When Sheryl came out of the bathroom, she saw Charles fumbling on Shirley's hair. For her, he wasn't a sentimental man. But looking at how careful and patient he was to her daughter, it was as if she were a piece of treasure in his hands.

It took Charles a moment to finish doing Shirley's hair so the child became impatient.

"Uncle Charles, how's my hair now?" she asked hastily.

"Wait!" he replied. "One more minute, please," Charles stumbled nervously. He'd never thought that he

could run into such a situation, feeling awkward doing his own daughter's hair. He had been a tough and a capable man, but now he got sweat on his forehead.

'How could doing hair be so difficult?' he wondered.

Sheryl couldn't help but laugh while watching behind them.

Hearing her laughter, Charles felt even more embarrassed and said, "It's so embarrassing. And I'm afraid that my heavy hand might hurt her."

He didn't realize that the reason he got nervous was that she was his own daughter and he was too eager to be nice to her.

"Let me do it. Do you mind?" Sheryl said and smiled at him. She took the comb from Charles and expertly braided Shirley's hair just in few seconds.

Charles was stunned. 'How did she make it?' he thought. He just couldn't believe his eyes. Why was it just like a piece of small cake for her but a mission impossible for him?

"You must have gone through a lot since you've been raising Shirley by yourself alone, Miss Xia!"

Charles commented casually as he tried to hold back his curiosity.

"No, it's actually a lot of fun!" Sheryl replied disapprovingly. "Don't you remember I've got a fiancé? He

helped me a lot," she added sounding proud.

Charles clenched his fists tightly upon her words, and his bright eyes darkened.

'Anthony! Now, she mentioned Anthony again!

If not because of him, how could the two of us be separated for three long years?' he thought. He

wanted to say it loud to Sheryl but just couldn't.

Sheryl didn't seem to realize Charles' emotion. Or maybe, she just didn't pay much attention to it. After

then, she quietly watched the two kids playing until it was half past four. By that time, she called out to

Shirley, "Honey, time to go home! I believe you've had a good time with Charlie. Come on! Let's go

home now."

"I want to stay more time, Sher! Can I have ten more minutes, please?" Shirley begged her pathetically.

She indeed had a good time with Charlie and she didn't want to leave now even if Sheryl said it was

the time to go home.

Sheryl frowned and urged her, "Listen, I agreed to come here with you but we can't stay very long. We

might already trouble them. We need to go home now."

"Sher!" Shirley complained. She wanted to resist more but just nodded and agreed when she saw her mom's serious face. There was no use complaining anymore.

Sheryl sighed in relief and then said, "Thank you, honey! Come to say goodbye to Uncle Charles and Grandpa Gary now!"

Seeing Sheryl and Shirley intending to leave, Charles and Gary looked at each other. Charles spoke, "The dinner is ready. Please stay and have dinner with us!"

"Right!" Gary agreed. A big smile was plastered on his face. Then he added, "It's getting late. Since you've played with Charlie the whole afternoon, we felt like we owe you such a big favor. So please, stay for dinner!"

Chapter 586 Driving Her Home

By saying those words, it seemed like Gary was hinting that Sheryl did them a really huge favor that they must pay. To her surprise, even Nancy who was busy cooking in the kitchen came out just to urge them to stay for dinner. "Please stay, Miss Xia. Look, I've made your dinner already and if you insist on leaving now, it'll be a great waste of food!"

Feeling defeated, Sheryl felt it was no use to continue turning down their warmhearted offer. Charlie had already used both hard and soft tactics to stop her from leaving. Even the whole members of the

family helped him. Thus, she had to give in and stay for dinner.

After dinner, she wanted to leave Dream Garden right away so she bid goodbye to them. However, it was very dark outside and it was also raining heavily. Raining from time to time was just normal in Y City's summer. No wonder people always say that the weather in summer here is as changeable as a baby's face. Standing in front of the door, Sheryl heaved a deep sigh.

"Listen," Charles suddenly spoke behind her. He cleared his throat before he said again, "Listen..."

But this time he was interrupted by Sheryl. "Mr. Lu. If you'd ask us to stay here tonight, please save your efforts and better not say it. I'd rather go home soaked in the rain than stay overnight in other people's place."

Then she stared at him with an alarmed expression on her face, anxiously waiting for his reply. Charles was quiet for a moment. 'You silly woman! This is your own home!' He wanted to say it to her but he opted to keep it in his mind.

Instead, he said, "You are overreacting, Miss Xia." With a smile on his face, he continued, "What I wanted to say is..." He paused for a while. "Er... I can drive you and Shirley home," he almost stuttered

to finish his words.

Hearing his words, Sheryl felt her face burning so she turned her eyes away in embarrassment.

Charles didn't say anything for a moment before he continued to explain, "It's not easy to get a cab here even if it were not raining. Besides, the stuff you bought from the supermarket are still in my car now, so I think I don't have any reasons not to drive you home."

Sheryl thought it over for a long while. If she turned him down, she had to stay here longer. Thus, she had to agree with his suggestion if she wanted to go home earlier. Sounding hopeless, she turned to look at him again and said, "I really appreciate that. Thank you for the offer of driving us home, Mr. Lu."

Charles was beaming at her words. However, instead of driving himself, he asked his driver to drive for them. This way, he could get a chance to be closer with Sheryl and her daughter. So, the three of them sat on the back seat, with Shirley in the middle.

Sheryl couldn't feel more embarrassed at this situation.

Because it was a rainy night, the car moved slowly. From time to time, Sheryl wanted to ask the driver to drive faster but she couldn't manage to speak it out.

On second thought, she gave up the idea. She'd better not risk their lives.

To her relief, Charles was silent all the way to her home and didn't even bother to talk to her.

When the car pulled over in front of their apartment building, Sheryl carried Shirley in her arms and was about to get off. However, Charles' voice halted her. "Please wait a minute," she heard him say.

He got off first and then opened the door for Sheryl. And all of a sudden, Sheryl found herself under a big umbrella. She was surprised of his actions. She'd never thought that Charles could be this sweet and considerate.

After a while, they walked to the building shoulder to shoulder. Although Sheryl was carrying Shirley, she felt that not a raindrop had fallen on both of them at all. Curiously, she turned to look at Charles.

She was stunned to see that half of his body was now soaking wet. She didn't know that Charles sacrificed himself and leaned the umbrella over them.

Sheryl had the instinct to pull him closer to avoid him from getting more soaked in the rain. But, they had already reached the inside of the building before she could even touch him.

Before she could say anything to him, Charles already ran back to his car to get the stuff she bought from the supermarket.

When he was striding back to her, she seemed to have a tedious familiarity of the situation. It seemed like it already happened a million times to her. Deja vu?

All of a sudden, Sheryl got lost in her thoughts. She tried her best to recall when and where this similar situation happened.

Seeing her standing absentmindedly, Charles interrupted her thoughts, "It's cold outside. Come on in!"

Sheryl followed him mechanically. When she came to her senses again, the elevator had already opened and Charles was already standing inside. She furrowed her eyebrows. Charles noticed her hesitation so he let out a soft laugh. "Don't overreact. I'm just going to carry the shopping bags to your door. I believe you wouldn't be able to carry these with Shirley in your arms. So relax! I won't step in to your place without any invitations."

Sheryl then stepped into the elevator feeling embarrassed once again. 'Why did he always seem to read my mind?' she thought. To be honest, she really felt awkward sharing the same elevator with him even though Charles had tried his best to make her feel at ease. Sheryl was full aware of his efforts and she actually appreciated them.

When they arrived at her unit, Charles put down the bags in front of the door. He then turned to her and

said, "I'm leaving now. Hope little Shirley and you will have a good night." He turned again and walk towards the elevator.

It seemed that he never really intended to go inside to even have a cup of tea.

"Hold on!" Sheryl tried to call his attention. Before he could turn around, she already shouted, "Can you come inside first and take a seat? I need to return the money you lent me in the supermarket earlier."

"No, it's alright. Maybe some other time. It's already late so you and Shirley must really have some rest now," replied Charles with a smile. "By the way, I wanted to apologize for Leila. I knew she came to you indiscriminately the other day, and I really felt sorry for what she did. I felt like I'm very much indebted to

you. I promise it wouldn't happen again," he added.

"Oh, that," she uttered absentmindedly. "To tell you the truth, I barely remember what happened," she added, like as if it never bothered her at all. After Isla told her about the story of Charles and his wife, she had intentionally slipped it from her mind and didn't blame it to him. It had nothing to do with him anyway.

But today's matter was totally different. Since he had paid for her stuff at the supermarket, it was just

reasonable for her to pay him back.

"Listen, I wouldn't be able to sleep well if I owed money from anyone. It's an old habit of mine. So please, wait a minute," Sheryl explained. But Charles had already gone inside the elevator before she could take her wallet out. Before the elevator door closed, he said with a smile, "I'm leaving! Maybe we can have dinner sometime later and then we can talk about it."

If Sheryl had asked him to come in for a cup of tea, he would agree to it without any second thoughts.

But she intended to return his money, and this was the last thing he would want to happen.

As long as she owed him, then he would have the right excuses to see her next time, the time after next time, and so on. He intended to see her from time to time until she'd remember him as her husband.

Sheryl couldn't do anything but watch him wave and the elevator door closed. She just sighed and opened the door to take Shirley inside.

The next morning, she got up early and went to the grocery. She'd invited Sue to have lunch with them so she needed to prepare something special for lunch.

Good thing her place was located downtown. It was not only convenient for her to go to work, but also just a few steps away from the supermarket, the hospital and the wet market. In short, she didn't need to worry about being stuck in a traffic jam. It didn't take her long to finish grocery shopping. With the ingredients of Sue's and Shirley's favorite dishes in her hands, she went back home happily and began cooking.

She spent her entire morning busily cooking in the kitchen. When the lunch was ready, she asked Shirley to knock on Sue's door and bring her over. Sue had been actually drunk again last night so she wasn't up yet until Shirley knocked on her door.

"We're here!" Shirley shouted as she ran into the room holding Sue's hand who was still wearing her nightgown. Sheryl cracked a big smile at them and said to Sue, "Go and wash your face! We'll wait for you so we could have lunch together."

Sue followed her order. After refreshing herself in the bathroom, she went to the dining table and found that Sheryl had already made a cup of honey water for her.

"It can make your stomach feel better. Please drink it before eating lunch," Sheryl urged her.

Holding the cup in her hands, Sue felt overwhelmed by Sheryl's sweetness.

Of course she cherished her friendship with Sheryl. However, she felt awkward to show it in front of her after all those words she had said to her before.

This was also the reason why she deliberately didn't come over to visit them these past few days.

"Here they are! Have a taste and tell me whether my cooking skills had regressed!"

Sheryl said as she was taking all the dishes one by one to the table. These included sweet and sour ribs, stewed beef brisket with tomatoes, sauteed Chinese greens with mushrooms, shredded pork with salted vegetables, and braised fish in brown sauce. It was more than sufficient for the three of them.

They were having a feast! This was actually the first time that Sheryl prepared a formal meal after she got to Y City, thus, she paid much attention to it.

Firstly, she wanted to celebrate her and Shirley's moving in to this city and for having her own place to live. Secondly, she was trying to patch things up between Sue and her.

"How are the dishes?" she asked Sue anxiously. Both Shirley and Sue had already started eating.

Chapter 587 Still Friends

"It's delicious." With a slice of sweet-and-sour pork in her mouth, Shirley said in a garbled voice and waited for an assurance from Sue. Shirley felt assured when Sue nodded her head in agreement.

"Thank you both! Take your time and have some more," Sheryl said in a flattered tone.

It took her more than two hours to prepare dinner; from ingredients shopping to rinsing, chopping, and cooking. But it took them only half an hour to consume it. Sue and Shirley were very satisfied with the food.

As Sue played with Shirley on the couch, Sheryl started to clean up the table. After a while the kid fell asleep, Sue carried Shirley into her room and put her to bed. Sue then approached Sheryl and said, "Come on Sher, you did the cooking so let me clean up."

"I'm good," Sheryl grinned and replied. Then she continued, "Hey, it's not a big deal. I can do it by myself."

Sue forced a wry smile. "Sher, please let me help you clean the dishes otherwise I will feel bad."

Sheryl hesitated for a second. She knew that Sue offered to lend a hand because she wanted to make up for what happened that night. Sheryl then smiled brightly and agreed, "Okay. Would you help me to prepare some fruits?"

Sue was cutting some fruits while Sheryl was washing the dishes. Neither of them spoke until all the chores in the kitchen were done. They went to the living room and sat on the couch. Sue initiated a

conversation.

"Sher, about that night..." Sue wanted to apologize. Actually, she had been considering it for a long time. She thought she owed Sheryl an apology.

She actually dialed Sheryl's number several times before only to hang up immediately. She couldn't comprehend why she just couldn't complete the call.

When she saw Sheryl today, she lost her touch and wondered why Sheryl could talk to her nonchalantly when she couldn't.

"About that day..." Sheryl interrupted her before she could finish the sentence. She gazed at Sue and said, "I have completely forgotten what had happened that day."

Sue's mind went blank for a while when she heard what Sheryl said. She knew that Sheryl wanted her to feel at ease. But Sheryl's kind gesture made her guilty feeling turned to worst.

"Sher, please don't do this to me." Sue slightly pulled her eyebrows together and said to Sheryl, "To be honest, I was trying to make an apology to you. I know I crossed the line that day. I wasn't sure whether you would forgive me because of that incident."

Sheryl smiled and simply said, "Don't be silly. We are friends. You don't have to apologize."

"You're really not mad at me?" Sue asked Sheryl. She couldn't believe what she heard.

"To be honest Mimi, I was angry at first." Sheryl told Sue the truth. "You're my friend but you didn't trust me. You took Anthony's side and supported him. How could I not be angry?"

"I'm so sorry Sher." Sue lowered her head with guilt. "It was only because I thought Anthony and you could be a very good couple. He cared about you that much so I... I only wished you to be happy."

"I know." Sheryl giggled and pulled Sue's hands. "I later figured that out. It was just because you are my friend so you always take a strong stand when it comes to my welfare. You want me to be happy. I know that. I don't blame you."

"Really... Sher?" Sue still couldn't believe her ears so she asked for confirmation.

"Of course it's true." Sheryl confirmed and continued, "Have I lied to you?"

"No, you haven't." When Sue heard Sheryl's reply, she let out a deep sigh and thought, 'Thank goodness! Sheryl eventually forgave me otherwise I wouldn't know what to do next.'

"How... are things going with you and... Anthony?" asked Sue, who finally gathered her courage and brought the topic back to Anthony.

Sheryl knew that Sue had a crush on Anthony. Sue would do anything for her willingly except if it was about Anthony. What Sheryl could do was to pretend that she didn't know about it, at all.

She knew that only that way would Sue continue to be proud and willing to be her usual friend.

"Things between us are... going pretty well." Sheryl continued. "He told me yesterday that he would have to go back to America to settle many things. It will take him... probably ten or fifteen days."

"He agreed for you to stay here?" Sue asked. She couldn't believe it when she heard Sheryl's reply. It was a fact that Anthony was not amenable for her to go on a business trip in Y City and yet he just allowed her to stay without much fanfare?

"Yes." Sheryl was also surprised when Anthony agreed. Anyway, she felt satisfied when he had no objection.

"I didn't know why he suddenly changed his mind, either. But... since he didn't say no, I still felt grateful to him." Sheryl sweetly smiled at Sue and said, "Now that I have my own house here in Y City plus a steady job, I can already plan my future with him."

"Did you mean... that you are now considering to marry him?" Sue knew that she was supposed to feel

happy for Sheryl but a 'bang' was the first thing that hit her when she heard Sheryl's statement. She was devastated.

She thought she had let go of the past and frankly accepted the fact that Anthony wouldn't love her.

She told herself that she had to, but when she heard the news that Sheryl had decided to marry

Anthony, she was visibly petrified.

"Yes." Sheryl kept her smile and said, "It has been postponed for quite some time now. I didn't say yes

to him before because Shirley was still too little. Now, it's been so many years. I'm now fully aware how

deep Anthony loves me. Anyway, I have to put a satisfactory closure to this relationship. Make it go

further and start a new chapter in my life."

Sheryl paused for a while and continued, "After he returns from America, I'm going to meet his parents

and shall start preparing for the marriage.

Mimi... are you alright?" Sheryl felt really sad when she saw the expression on Sue's face. Sue looked

very distracted.

"I..." Sue pretended as if nothing had happened. She replied, "Nothing. I was thinking what kind of gift

I'd give you in your wedding day."

Sue then forced herself to laugh and said, "You have to promise me one thing. You must let me be your bridesmaid. I'll have to be there when you get married."

"Sure, I promise you that." Sheryl smiled. She ardently wished that Sue could let go of her crush on Anthony as soon as possible. She wished Sue could find her Mr. Right in the nearest future.

"Okay then." Feeling satisfied, Sue laughed out and then, "Sher, I almost forgot..."

Chapter 588 Inform Zhao Family That Autumn Has Returned

Sue looked around and asked Sheryl with a doubt, "I remember you asked for a much bigger apartment. But this one seems to be just the same size of mine. Did BM Corporation change their mind?"

"No," Sheryl replied shortly. She told Sue that it was she who had made some changes in the contract with BM Corporation. She shrugged her shoulders and added, "That's why I am living in this apartment."

Sheryl didn't think she deserved much better treatment than other models, and that was why she discussed the contract with BM Corporation and requested some portions to be changed.

"You dim-witted woman! You usually look smart. Why did you become so stupid this time?" Sue furrowed her brows while blaming Sheryl for her foolishness. "Since you were promised a better

treatment, you should have accepted it. Why did you declined their offers? Aren't you fool enough to let go of such a very good assurance?"

Sheryl smiled and explained patiently, "I don't deserve such a special treatment. I am a person with a self-knowledge. And since I know myself well, I can assure you that I am contented with the treatment I am getting right now."

Sue felt it was a pity to refuse such a better treatment. She really couldn't agree with Sheryl's modesty and honesty. However, there was nothing she could do anymore since the contract had already been signed.

Sue sighed deeply before warning her, "Sher, since you will be staying in BM Corporation, please be cautious. In my opinion, the other models are not easy to get along with."

The other models regarded Sheryl as an imaginary enemy. They would do anything to ruin Sheryl's shows. Actually, their biggest dream was to destroy Sheryl's career.

Sheryl didn't care much about the hostility of other models toward her. She preferred to focus her full attention on her shows. If every show that she would be attending succeeded, she had nothing to be ashamed of.

Charles had informed the Zhao family that Autumn had come back as soon as he was able to confirm her real identity. Arthur and Amy had never stopped looking for their granddaughter. However, when Rick Xu was born, he was diagnosed with a congenital heart disease. In order to take good care of him, the Zhao family moved away. Of course that was not the only reason. The other important reason was that living in the house constantly made the whole family miss Autumn. When Charles called and said he had found his wife, Amy fainted because of too much excitement. On the other hand, Abby beamed with happiness. Almost all of them were immersed in ecstasy.

On the contrary, Andy's expression was weird. Good thing no one noticed it. Helping Anthony seemed to be a mistake. Autumn's absence had caused the whole family to suffer. He was suddenly seized by a pang of conscience.

"My dear husband, do you think it's for real? Or am I only dreaming?" Amy asked, holding Arthur's hand tightly. The good news seemed to be so hard to believe.

"It is true. It is true," Arthur comforted Amy. Although he too, was very excited, he tried his best to stay calm. He patted Amy's shoulder and assured her, "It was Charles who called to tell us that our

granddaughter is back so, I believe she is really back."

Amy was so elated that she suddenly ran to her bedroom. Though it was already late, she intended to pack her luggage and drove the entire night to Y City. They had bought an apartment there before so that Autumn could visit them more frequently. And even after she went missing, they didn't sell the house because they believed that she would return soon.

Now, their wish came true. Autumn's return was really a big surprise.

"Mother, it's already too late. Let's just leave tomorrow morning," Abby held Amy's shoulder and persuaded. "I suggest that you have a good rest tonight. You want to look great, don't you? Having a good sleep can assure you that you would get much energy and appear in front of Autumn early tomorrow morning."

"Yeah, I agree. Mother, it is too late now. Besides, Rick is not strong enough to spend the night on the road. If you are really eager to see Autumn, just wait until dawn," Andy standing nearby echoed.

Andy's words succeeded in calming Amy down. If he said anything else, she would probably just ignore it and insist on setting out to meet Autumn. But she must take Rick Xu's health into account.

'My grandson has suffered a great deal since he was born.

When Abby gave birth earlier than the expected date of delivery, we didn't worry too much. Anyway, premature birth is not a rare case. We were even excited and decided to name him Rick Xu. However, we didn't expect that the doctor would tell us that he had a congenital heart disease. If Andy hadn't been able to find a compatible heart for the transplant, he would have died long ago.

Autumn was not yet found by the time we discovered Rick's disease. So it made us more desperate. It has been really a tough time. But all the sufferings have passed and I believe good days are coming.'

She contemplated for a long while.

The three-year-old Rick Xu was thinner than other children of his age. The good thing was that he was healthy. Given the best care and support, he would definitely grow stronger and longer.

"Okay. We will leave tomorrow morning," Amy sighed in defeat and announced.

Hearing Amy change her mind, Abby immediately left and went to her children's bedroom. They were already asleep. Her six-year-old daughter, Cindy, had grown more mature. She was very considerate of her brother and even helped take good care of him.

Rick Xu was also a very good boy. Actually, he was cute and quiet. These made Abby proud of her

children.

She tucked them in and set the air conditioning to the most comfortable temperature. She took one last glance to both of them before closing the door. When she walked out of the door, she saw Andy

smoking in the balcony. She walked close to him and asked in a soft tone, "Why are you smoking?"

"I haven't smoked for a long time. I just felt like smoking right now," Andy explained casually. Abby

didn't buy it. She thought, 'Andy seldom smokes since Rick was diagnosed with a congenital heart

disease. His weird behavior must have a certain reason. If nothing were bothering him, he wouldn't

smoke like this to reduce his stress.'

"What happened? Is there something bothering you? I am your wife. You can share anything to me. I

can take the burden with you," Abby asked while staring at Andy with a concern look.

"There's nothing," came Andy's short reply. He forced a smile and consoled his wife. After taking a

deep puff on his cigarette, he persuaded tenderly, "We are leaving for Y City tomorrow morning, won't

we? Why don't you take a bath and go to bed. I will go back to our bedroom after I finish this cigarette."

"Okay," Abby replied reluctantly. She walked away looking back several times. A look of concern

flashed across her face.

After Abby went to the room, Andy took his cellphone out from his pocket and made a call. He intended to call Anthony. Fortunately, he immediately got through. Anthony asked in surprise, "What's the matter?"

"Charles called just now. He informed us that Sheryl's back. What is going on?" he asked quickly.

When Andy found out that his son had a congenital heart disease, it was Anthony who helped him find a compatible heart for the transplant. His only condition was to keep Sheryl's whereabouts a secret.

Although he intentionally ignored news about Sheryl, Charles still found her. He was wondering how it happened. He wanted to know the whole story.

'Anthony made a great effort to keep Sheryl away from Charles. But, how was Charles able to find her in just few years?' thought Andy.

"Have they already met?" Andy asked calmly. He was really not expecting Charles to find Sheryl this soon.

"Yeah, they have met," Anthony heaved a deep sigh and whispered on his phone.

"Then what's your plan? Is there anything I can do to help?" Andy furrowed his brows and offered. After

all, Anthony had saved his son's life. As long as he could, he wouldn't hesitate to repay Anthony's kindness in any way possible.

Anthony replied in an emotionless tone, "I will ask you for help if necessary."

"So ..." Andy opened his mouth but hesitated. He wanted to ask how they should handle Charles. After a short consideration, he gave up the idea and decided to just let things go as it went.

"Please just pretend nothing has happened. I will deal with these things myself," Anthony said and

hung up. He knew what Andy wanted to say but he didn't want to use him anymore. He thought, 'I did

find a heart for Andy's son and save his life. However, even without me, Rick would still not die

because Andy's father-in-law could also do the same thing I did. I know Andy was too desperate

thinking about it. Besides, he was Sheryl's relative. If Sheryl would know that I used him, she might be

unhappy.'

Chapter 589 A Misunderstanding

"Okay." Andy agreed. Although he felt sorry for Charles and Autumn because of what he did before, he

had no other choice. He only did it all for his child.

Anthony traded the information about how he got the heart to Andy for the benefit of Autumn. However,

when it came to what would happen in the future, Andy really wouldn't be able to predict it.

Morning came. When Cindy and Rick woke up, they found that Abby had already packed their luggage.

They both stood next to her with surprised look on their faces, and Rick asked, "Mommy, are we going to travel?"

"No, dear." Abby smiled at Rick and continued, "Mommy is taking you to see a sister. A very beautiful sister."

"Is it sister Autumn?" Cindy suddenly asked. Abby was taken aback by her question. Clearly, she didn't expect that Cindy would still remember Autumn.

"Yes!" Abby confirmed with a smile. She then asked Cindy, "Do you want to see her?"

"Yes!" Cindy nodded her head firmly. A trace of excitement suddenly appeared on her cute face.

When Andy got up, Abby had already finished packing. Seeing Andy awake, Abby said to him, "Go wash yourself first, and then bring the kids to the dining room for breakfast. I'll join you once I'm done here."

"Okay," Andy agreed. Andy took a glance at Abby's luggage. He saw that she had brought some winter clothes with her. It seemed that she was planning to stay there for a long time. He couldn't help but sigh

in silence.

Besides Abby, Amy had also finished packing her stuff. They then had breakfast altogether. After eating breakfast, she reminded the servants of things that needed to be taken care of while they were away.

After making sure that everything was settled, they set off. The city they were living in wasn't that far from Y City so they arrived in just two hours.

They went straight to Dream Garden where Charles lived. However, it was Charlie who opened the door for them. He asked politely as he saw them, "Who are you looking for?"

"Are you Autumn's kid?" Amy fell in love with Charlie the moment she laid her eyes on him. She suddenly hugged him tightly. Although he was surprised, Charlie didn't try to escape from her arms. Full of curiosity, he just kept looking at the people standing in front of him.

Andy already knew who this kid was but he dared not say anything.

"Great grandma," said Charlie, "are you looking for my dad?"

"Yes. Where is he?" Amy was still holding Charlie's hands. She didn't want to let him go. Charlie replied politely, "My dad isn't home today. Maybe you can come back the next day."

"The next day?" Amy asked ghastly. That was absolutely impossible. She was so desperate to see Autumn now. Instead of leaving, she asked Charlie who was still standing in front of her, "What about your mom? We want to see her too."

"Well..." Charlie furrowed his eyebrows. He was confused. Did they know Leila?

'Who the heck were they?' he thought.

"You guys are back?!" Charlie's thoughts were awakened by Gary's voice. Gary was at home too. He was actually waiting for Charlie to come back so he could ask who their visitors were but it had been a while and Charlie hadn't come back yet. Feeling impatient, Gary went out to see what was happening. When he recognized Arthur and his family, he immediately greeted them and invited them in. "Come on in."

Arthur and his family walked into the house as Gary asked Nancy to prepare tea and some snacks for them. He then turned to them and said, "I apologize, but Charles just went out. Maybe he didn't know that you'd be coming today. Do you want me to call him back?"

"No, no, no. Thank you," refused Amy. Amy didn't want to trouble Charles too much. "Charles is busy with his work. I think we'd better not interrupt him. Where is Autumn? We want to see her."

"Well, Autumn..." Gary paused for a moment. He didn't know where to start. He looked at Amy feeling

embarrassed. "Autumn is not here."

"How is that possible?" Amy thought Gary was just joking with her. She burst into laughter and

said, "Stop joking with me, Gary. Autumn's child is here. How come she is not at home? By the way, I

remembered that Autumn was pregnant with twins at that time. Where is the other kid?" Amy looked

around the house but she couldn't find any other kid aside from Charlie so she asked Gary.

Gary felt more embarrassed with Amy's inquiries. He looked at Charlie and said, "Charlie, go upstairs

first. I have something to talk with them."

"Okay," Charlie nodded and turned to leave. Charlie didn't know who these people were. But he could

understand from their conversation that they mistook him as Autumn's son.

When Charlie was already upstairs, Amy felt worried as she could see that Gary's face gradually

became serious. "Gary, what's going on?" she couldn't help but ask.

"I..." Gary sighed. He didn't know how to tell them the truth. After hesitating for a while, he finally

gathered his courage and managed to say, "The kid you saw just now is not Autumn's child."

"What are you talking about?" Amy was startled. Then she asked, "He looks like Charles. If he is not

Autumn's child... are you trying to tell me that Charles had an affair?"

Gary couldn't say a word. He really felt uncomfortable dealing with things like this.

"Oh my gosh! Am I right?" Amy exclaimed. She could tell from Gary's face that something went wrong after she asked the question so she assumed that her suspicion was correct.

Gary smiled bitterly before he nodded his head.

Amy immediately got furious. She smiled coldly and sneered at Gary. "Wow! Wow! Wow! Have you forgotten Charles' promise? He said that he'd rather be single and die alone if he couldn't marry

Autumn. But when he had an affair, I believe that Autumn was still living with him, am I right? Is that what his promise to Autumn meant? To have an affair and to have an illegitimate child?"

Amy became more furious as she was talking to Gary. Arthur, standing next to Amy, didn't look good either. It made Gary felt more guilty and embarrassed. What Amy said really hit him.

It was true that Charles did something wrong so it was inevitable that the Zhao family would be mad at him. And he was too embarrassed to ask for their forgiveness.

"Uncle Gary." Abby was holding Rick, with Cindy standing next to her. When she visited Gary in the past, she was polite and respectful to him. But today, she couldn't help but give him a cold shoulder.

She added, "Let bygones be bygones. I don't know what really happened but I don't want to know it anymore. I have no interest in knowing the details of what happened between Charles and that woman. We are not here to blame you for that. We've decided to come here today to bring Autumn back. Since Charles has another woman, we know what we should do and we surely wouldn't want Autumn to continue living here, interrupting Charles' 'new sweet' life."

Abby was also furious after hearing everything. What Charles said before still lingered in her mind. She could still clearly remember what he said. He said he would be loyal to Autumn and would treat her well. But look at what happened to Autumn now!

"Calm down, Abby. It isn't like that..." Gary was nervous but he really wanted to explain to the Zhao family. However, the family didn't want to listen to him anymore. Fortunately, just in time that things were about to become really intense and embarrassing between him and the Zhao family, Charles arrived. When he saw the Zhao family, he walked towards them and greeted them immediately.

"Grandpa, grandma, you're back!"

"Don't call me grandma!" Amy sneered at Charles and continued, "I feel disgusted hearing you call me

that. I don't have a grandchild like you! You better call me Mrs. Zhao."

Chapter 590 Jogging With Sue

"What's happening here?" Charles asked. He was a little surprised to see the Zhao family in his house at this moment. Looking at Arthur, Amy, Abby and his grandpa one by one, he asked again, "Is there any problem?"

Noticing that none of the Zhao family was about to answer Charles' question, Gary sighed and explained, "They saw Charlie just now."

Upon hearing what his grandfather said, Charles furrowed his brow. He felt that any explanation would not do in front of them right now. He couldn't make Charlie just disappear. However, Sheryl was still his wife and no one could take her place. Seeing his reaction, Abby sneered, "Tell us about that kid, Charles!" Charles stayed quiet for a moment, so Abby added, "He's your son, isn't he?"

Abby didn't know what really had happened, but she felt awful for Autumn. Her husband had cheated on her when she was pregnant. Now she could understand why Autumn left Charles.

Heaving a deep sigh, Charles answered, "Charlie is my son and I won't deny it." He tried to explain with a bitter smile, "I didn't know his existence until recently. I can assure you that he is just a result of an accident. I didn't intend to hurt Autumn or cheat on her. Charlie's presence won't change anything. I

love Autumn and it'll never change."

"I don't think so!" Arthur sneered and said to Charles coldly, "Autumn is my granddaughter and I respect every decision she made. Since she left you, I believe that she had her own reason. We would like to hear it directly from her so please take us to where she is right now. Also, I think it would be better if we draw a clear line between each other. Please leave her alone and we'll do our best to take care of her from now on."

"Please don't talk like this, Arthur! We're still in-laws, right? Give Charles a chance to explain everything to you. Even just for the sake of Shirley. She's Charles and Autumn's daughter. She's both our great granddaughter!" Gary tried to persuade Arthur. He had been waiting for three long years. And now that Autumn had come back, he wanted to make everything right. This matter must be resolved once and for all.

Unfortunately, no one from Zhao family was willing to listen to his explanation. Autumn had suffered a lot in the past years and for them, Charles and his family should be blamed for all of her miseries. They owned a lot to her, so they would try their best to make it up to her and protect her. Thus, they decided

to take her with them. Meanwhile, they hoped that Charles would keep himself away from her. Anyway, he had hurt her so much and even cheated on her. So, it was only right for her to leave Charles.

Nevertheless, Charles didn't want to give up. He tried every possible way to persuade them to listen to him until he eventually made them sit down.

"I know it's hard for you to accept what happened. I could understand if you're all disappointed at me. I won't try to defend myself because I knew I was at fault. But, Charlie is just an accident," he started to explain. He took a deep breath before he continued, "As I've said earlier, I've never known his existence before. I was only able to confirm it recently. And since I've confirmed that he's my son, it's my obligation to raise him. I just couldn't take him for granted. But I can promise you that I'll talk with Autumn about this. As my wife, she has the right to know. And whatever decision she would make, I would respect it."

He paused for a moment. The next thing he said stunned the Zhao family. "Now, I want to tell you about Autumn. Although she's in Y City, she doesn't remember any of us now. She has lost all her memories."

"What? Can you say that again?" Abby asked. She was very aghast with what she heard and couldn't help but knit her brow. Then she continued, "Why doesn't she remember us? How could that be

possible?"

"Well, she doesn't even remember her own name. Now she's being called Sheryl Xia. She couldn't recognize me anymore and she's currently dating Anthony. You still remember him, right?" Charles added.

"What's this all about? Could you explain to us clearly what really happened? How could she forget all of us just like that? We are her family after all! That's unbelievable!" Amy exclaimed. She felt like she would lose her mind after hearing what Charles said. Everything seemed to be so overwhelming. After so many troubles, she had finally found her granddaughter, but only to find out that Autumn had lost all her memories and wouldn't be able to recognize her anymore. She couldn't accept it.

"I think I know why," Arthur suddenly spoke. With a perplexed look, he mumbled, "She must have taken that pill." Upon hearing Arthur's words, Charles frowned and immediately asked, "Grandpa, you knew about the pill? How did you know about it?"

Everyone in the room turned to Arthur's direction. They all gave him an astonished look. Now, he had to tell them what he knew. "Anthony came to me that time and told me that there were two ways to treat

Autumn's disease. One of them was to take the pill. According to him, she would recover but there might some side effects. I think losing her memories was the side effect he was referring to."

"Two ways?" Charles murmured. "If taking the pill was one way, then what was the other way?" he asked again.

"The other way was..." Arthur hesitated for a moment. "The other way was taking traditional Chinese medicine to condition her body. But it would take a long time and she might not be able to recover in three years. Anthony discussed with me which method was better for her. However, I didn't give him my final decision because I wanted to talk to you first that time. Yet, I didn't expect Autumn would disappear and wouldn't be able to come back until now."

Arthur tried hard not to sob in front of everyone. It was as if everything happened only yesterday. He could still remember every detail clearly.

Charles creased his brow. Now that he had known the reason why Autumn lost her memories, he couldn't help but wonder whether Autumn took the pill by herself or Anthony told her to do so.

"How is she now?" Amy suddenly asked. She couldn't help but feel worried after everything that she'd

learned. "How about the kids? Are they alright?" she added.

Charles nodded to her and replied, "She's fine now, but the kids..."

After a moment of silence, he continued, "She's living with a girl now. But the doctor told us that she was pregnant with twins that time. I have no idea where is the other kid now."

All of them were lost in their thoughts after hearing Charles' words. After a long moment, Amy murmured, "Okay, then. I'm so glad to hear that my Autumn is alright. God still did protect her."

Amy asked a few more questions about Autumn, like where she lived now and what she did for a living.

After they felt satisfied with all the information that Charles gave them, they thought of going back to their own home now. Charles tried to let them stay but they refused.

"I think we'd better go home. Since Autumn isn't here, we don't feel comfortable staying here. It will be awkward for us to stay here with you and your new family," Amy said briskly.

The Zhao family went back to their home that night. However, Amy and Abby decided to go to

Autumn's apartment in the morning to secretly take a look at her. Thus, they got up early and set out.

"Mom," Abby turned to Amy. "Do you think we can say hi to her when we see her later?" she asked.

Abby was trying her best not to show her excitement. At that time, they were already walking, on the

way to Autumn's place.

Amy's face showed a troubled expression. Actually, she also thought of the same question. Eventually, she decided, "No, I think we'd better not. We'll just take a look at her from a distance. I just want to make sure that she's alright now. Anyway, we couldn't expect her to recognize us at one glance."

"Okay, Mom," Abby agreed. She nodded her head but with a bitter smile. She also didn't want to scare Autumn. All she could do was wish that things would get better soon.

The sun had just risen when they got the place that Charles told them. They waited outside the building for quite a while but Autumn didn't show up.

Abby was already worried about her mom. She might get too much exhausted staying under the sun for a long time so she tried to persuade her that they must leave. They could just go back next time.

Good thing Amy didn't resist.

However, when they were about to go, they saw Autumn coming out with Sue.

Sheryl was wearing a jogging suit and her hair was tied in a ponytail. She looked healthy and energetic.

On the other hand, Sue looked like she didn't get enough sleep last night. She was trailing behind

Sheryl with a long face. She complained, "Can I just go back to sleep now, Sheryl? My holiday is almost over and all I want to do right now is just lay on my bed. Let's just go back, okay?"

"No, don't ever think that way!" Sheryl replied amusingly. Glancing at Sue, she said without any hesitations, "After so many days of rest, it's time for you to get some exercise now. Look at your cheeks, they're getting puffy. If you keep on staying at home, for sure your co-workers at BM Corporation will give you a special attention when you get back. You knew more than me what kind of people they are!"

"Stop it! Let's just talk about that later, okay? I want to go back to my bed now!" Sue snapped.

"No way! Keep your motivation going! You must always remember that you are a model. Have you forgotten your dream to become a super model someday? If you don't work hard now, how would you be able to make that dream come true? You might even lose your job as a model!" Sheryl encouraged her while pushing her forward. Finally, Sue gave in. As they were jogging, Autumn unconsciously glanced at Amy and Abby who were standing across the road. She couldn't understand why she felt something strange when their eyes met.