

Wedded Bride 631

Chapter 631 What Was The Situation

A smile appeared on David's face when he received a call from Charles. Just a few days back, he had made a blunder. He didn't know what Charles was going to do with him. So when Charles called him to buy breakfast for him, he was so happy and wanted to take this opportunity to make up for his mistake.

"Mr. Lu, I've brought your breakfast. And here are two more documents for you to sign." David respectfully kept the documents in front of Charles and said, "It's been several days since you have been to office. And since these documents are important, I take the opportunity of getting the documents for your signature."

Charles quickly signed on the documents and handed them to David without even looking at him. After a while when he saw him standing, he frowned and asked, "Why are you still there? Leave at once."

"Mr. Lu..." Charles rose from the sofa at his living room and turned back towards. David took a look at Charles who stood just in front of him and asked, "Emm... How is Mrs. Lu?"

He just wanted to find out what was going on in Charles' mind for the mistake he had committed and what could be its repercussions.

"I haven't settled with you over this, but I didn't expect you to bring it up," Charles retorted angrily. Then

marking the fear on David's face, he sighed and said, "Never mind, you go back to work first."

Yes, David made this farce. But as a result of that, Charles at least got a chance to spend a night alone

with Sheryl. That had mellowed down his anger on David to a large extent. Still he spoke in a stern

voice, "But I warn you, if you fool me again in the future, I will definitely punish you."

"Mr. Lu, please trust me. I dare not... It was my fault. I am extremely sorry. I assure you, it will never

happen again, Mr. Lu," David stammered as he spoke to Charles.

"Oh my god, it's almost nine o'clock. Why didn't my alarm clock go off?" Before going to bed, Sheryl

deliberately set the alarm clock to get up early and prepare breakfast. But the alarm clock did not ring

and even Charles did not wake her up.

As she came out of the room, she didn't notice that there was another man in the living room. At the

very first sight of Charles, she blurted out, "Why didn't you wake me up?"

"I wanted you to sleep longer." Charles had gone into her room and turned off her alarm clock so that

she could have more rest. "Don't worry, breakfast is ready."

"This is..." Sheryl took a glance at the dining table to find the food parcels and then at David. She had a surprised look on her face as she turned to Charles and asked, "This is..."

"Mrs. Lu?" David stood still staring at Sheryl with utter surprise. What on earth was actually going on here? Why was she at Charles' house? Charles had not been going to work these days. Was it because of her?

In a flash, David had many questions in his mind, but asked none.

Sheryl took a look at David who stood in front of her bewildered. After hearing the two words coming out of his mouth, Sheryl knew that this was another person who had mistaken her for Autumn.

She could not help but frown. 'Me and Autumn, do we look really so similar?' she wondered.

"Sorry, you have mistaken me for someone else. I am not Autumn," she replied sharply.

Since she had met Charles, she had to explain this to people countless times. So much so that she had become impatient by now.

She was who she was. She was Sheryl. She was not Autumn.

"This..." David stammered turning towards Charles. He was just trying to recover from the shock when Charles said, "I forgot to introduce you. This is Sheryl Xia. She is my friend," and then turning to Sheryl,

he added, "and this is David. I asked him to buy the breakfast for us."

Sheryl smiled at David. Then she turned her towards Charles and said, "So... I'll get the kids out of bed."

"Okay." Charles smiled and nodded slightly. As soon as she went upstairs, David couldn't help but ask, "Mr. Lu, what's the matter? She is Autumn."

"Yes, she is. But she has amnesia, as I told you before." Charles said coldly, "Recently I won't go to the company. Please keep me updated about everything in the office. Besides, also help me to check Holley Ye in BM Corporation. I have a very strong intuition that something is wrong with her."

"Well, I see." David nodded slightly, taking a look at the direction of the stairs, and said in a low voice, "But Mr. Lu, you are such a fast mover. You have already started living together."

"Go ahead, don't talk nonsense here," Charles said angrily.

David did not wait any further. He almost ran out of the house and headed towards office.

Sheryl woke Shirley and Charlie up. Last night, she was tossing and turning in the bed. The smell of the pillow didn't let her fall asleep all night. It was not until dawn that she fell into a deep sleep.

She thought all night and came to the conclusion that she could not stay here any longer.

She felt she started to get closer to Charles. And this made her feel guilty. After all, she already had a boyfriend. In that case, it was rather immoral to fancy about another man.

She helped Shirley get dressed, and by the time she came downstairs, Charles had unpacked all the boxes on the table, putting breakfast on a plate, pouring a few glasses of milk. He looked up when Sheryl came out with the kids and said to Sheryl, "Come and eat."

Earlier, these used to be Autumn's favorite food from this restaurant. Charles wondered if her taste was the same as three years ago or not. He kept watching her face to see her reaction as she started eating.

"Well? Is it good?" Seeing Sheryl taking the chopsticks, Charles asked nervously.

Sheryl nodded as she put the first morsel into her mouth. The taste of the food was so strikingly familiar that the first few bite she took was to observe why and how the food tasted so familiar. And more than anything else, they were incredibly delicious and exactly the way she wanted her food to be.

Sheryl continued to eat the food silently. Charles smiled as he saw her enjoying the food and remarked, "If you like it, I'd ask David to buy the same breakfast tomorrow as well. So that you don't

have to get up early to cook."

"Charles." Sheryl put down her chopsticks and looked at Charles who was sitting on the other side of the table facing her. "There is something I want to tell you," she said.

Looking at Sheryl's face, Charles could probably guess what she was going to say, but he still pretended that he knew nothing. "What?" he asked.

"I came here to take care of you, right?" Sheryl smiled and continued even before Charles could speak, "But the last two days I've been here, I feel that I haven't helped you in any substantial way except for the trouble I've caused you. It's just like this breakfast today. Even without me, you can take good care of yourself, so I'm thinking it is time for me to leave."

"Sher, you are thinking too much." Charles smiled. "You really helped me a lot here. Did you forget yesterday's lunch? If it weren't for you, Charlie and I wouldn't know what to do. Your being here means a lot to me."

Sheryl shook her head slightly and said, "Don't tell me that. Even the babysitter in your house could have done it for you."

Chapter 632 Just Like That, She Left

Sheryl smiled and continued, "After breakfast, I'll make lunch for you before I leave with Shirley. You haven't recovered completely yet. So please ask your servant back as soon as possible."

"Are you sure you want to leave?" Charles asked on a distressed tone. He couldn't figure out what was going on. 'A few seconds earlier, everything is going smoothly. How come she decides to just leave, out of the blue?' he thought.

Sheryl was determined, however, and needed to set things straight. "Yes, I'm leaving, and I will never come back. Mr. Lu, our lives are totally different. The people we meet, the friends we make, the work we do... we live completely opposite lives. I think it would be best not to have any contact in the future as well. And I hope you won't come looking for me again. I would really appreciate that."

Charles' face contorted into an unrecognizable expression as soon as he heard Sheryl's words. It looked like a mix of confusion and anger, which he tried to suppress. Lowering his voice, he began questioning her, "Are you breaking up with me?"

"Yes, I am," Sheryl confirmed nodding firmly. Her serene attitude quickly transformed into anger, as his stares became more and more inculpatory. She began shouting, "We're grown-ups! We're not kids, like Shirley and Charlie. We can't do whatever we want. We can't pretend that nothing is wrong and that

sleeping together isn't a mistake. I have a boyfriend and you have Charlie's mom. We can't hang out any longer. I'd hate for people to become suspicious and start gossiping about us. So, we'd better not have any more contact, Mr. Lu. It would be best for both of us."

She finished her words and headed over to the kitchen without even the barest hint of remorse. She didn't care for Charles' answer, so he didn't give her one. Instead, he just remained glued to the couch as she cooked lunch.

His indifference made things worse, however. It irked Sheryl that he wasn't saying anything. At that point, all she wanted to do was leave.

She poured all her energy into her meals. Before long, she finished a pork ribs soup, braised fish in brown sauce, beef with golden needle mushrooms and two other plates of vegetables. At ten thirty sharp she walked out of the kitchen, after plugging in the rice cooker, and started getting ready to leave. At first, she seemed to speak to whoever wanted to listen, "I finished cooking lunch. I've got to go." She then paused, forced a smile and addressed Charles, "Shirley and I are leaving... now."

Charles was mad. He didn't feel like stopping her or asking her to stay, as she appeared to have it all

figured out. She wasn't consulting him, after all, so why would he waste his energy? Therefore he acted as if he didn't even hear her. Sheryl walked off towards the door, leaving him behind. Charlie, however, ran after Sheryl as soon as she stepped outside. Prompted in the doorway, he shouted, "Sher, are you really leaving?"

Charlie didn't understand. He could see that Charles and Sheryl loved each other. Why was Sheryl leaving? Nothing made any sense to him. He took a few steps outside in his socks, hoping to get her to come back.

"Yes, I'm leaving," asserted Sheryl. She couldn't help but take another glance at the door, unsure of what she was hoping to find there in the first place. But there was no one. She smiled bitterly. She didn't know what was wrong with her. She was the one breaking up with Charles but found it hard to tear herself apart from him. How ridiculous that was!

Sheryl pinched Charlie's cheek and explained, "Charlie, it's your house, not mine nor Shirley's. We don't live here; therefore, sooner or later, we would have to leave. If you want to see me, you can always call me or just stop by my house, okay? You're always welcome."

"But you can always stay at my house, too... for as long as you want. Why can't you two just stay?"

inquired Charlie, determined to pull out all the stops. He was confused and frankly, a bit annoyed too.

They were happy living together. He couldn't understand why she had to go.

"Well," Sheryl muttered and sighed, "this is what adults do. You'll understand when you grow up."

However, Charlie didn't see it that way, and he couldn't straighten his frown in spite of all her explanations.

Sheryl stepped away, took a final look at the door, and then concluded, "I have to go, Charlie. Take care of your dad."

She had nothing more to say, so she turned around and left. Charlie was quite heartbroken. He went back inside with his head hanging low.

Charles had heard the whole conversation from up close. As he was listening, all he wanted to do was ask her to stay. But when he thought about it, she was being so heartless towards him; his ego couldn't take it, so he just stood there doing nothing but watch her leave.

As soon as Sheryl left though, Charles was filled with regret.

On one side, he had a lot of words stuck in his throat: pleads for her to stay, words of love and longing.

But on the other hand, Sheryl was being so cruel to him, and he wanted her to know how hurt he was.

He wanted to get back at her, to inflict the same kind of pain by not asking her to stay.

"Dad, they're gone," complained Charlie. He had watched Sheryl and Shirley get into the car before he walked back inside, and still couldn't believe it. He continued nagging Charles, "It's too late to feel regretful now. Why didn't you ask her to stay?"

"Who told you I feel regretful?" Charles replied, full of indignation. He put down the magazine he was reading and went on saying, "Let her go. I don't care. She would have to leave sooner or later. It's just a matter of time."

"Really? Is that really how you feel?" Charlie added on a doubtful tone. Looking at Charles staring blankly into his open magazine, Charlie was speechless. He couldn't understand adults. Why couldn't they be honest with themselves and say what they were really thinking?

"It is," contended Charles. It was obvious he was still trying to lie to Charlie.

Charlie took another glance at him and said, "Then... why have you been holding the magazine upside down all this time?"

Charles lowered his head to check. 'Dang!' he thought.

It was obvious that Charles felt lost. Sheryl had left and his heart had left with her. But he knew down deep that asking Sheryl to stay wouldn't have been a long term solution. So he had to come up with something better.

At that moment, however, he had to first fight off the embarrassment Charlie brought him. Looking at his right-side-up magazine, he stated firmly, "Stay out of this. You little kid won't understand."

"Fine! I don't care," revolted Charlie. He was too irritated, though. So he had to have the last word, "Sher is a beautiful, kind woman. Yet, you let her go just like that. You don't know how to keep a treasure. If she marries another man in the future, don't come to me feeling regretful."

He took another glance at Charles and continued, "You know what? I won't accept any other woman as my stepmother. It's either Sher or no one else."

"What did you just say?" Charles asked in surprise. He then rephrased Charlie's words, "You want Sheryl to be your stepmother?"

Charles had been so busy pursuing Sheryl that he hadn't even considered how Charlie would feel about her being part of their lives. So knowing that he was in his corner, supportive of that fact was

such a relief for him.

Charlie blushed and replied, "Yes, I want Sher to be my mom."

Hearing that, Charles pulled Charlie into a tight hug. He had forgotten all about their earlier confrontation. Proud and ecstatic, Charles promised, "I will try my best to make your wishes come true."

Shirley hadn't been happy since she left Dream Garden. Sheryl knew that she had bonded with Charles and Charlie, and it would be hard for her to leave. 'Children don't have to listen to their parents anymore after they've grown up. I just have to wait, ' Shirley mumbled to herself.

Sheryl had brought her some of her favorite food, but Shirley refused to have any. She kept asking her mom to take her to the amusement park, but Sheryl was afraid that she might get the flu. It was the season for it and other children were starting to get it already. So she refused Shirley's request.

Chapter 633 A Friendship Ends (Part One)

Shirley finally got happy again after Sheryl bought some of her favorite toys. When they passed by Sue's room, Sheryl was thinking twice whether to visit her or not. But before she could make a decision, Sue's door was opened. Sue came out with a dim face and said to her, "Sheryl, we need to talk."

Sheryl was stunned for a moment. But when she recovered, she opened the door of their own

apartment and guided Shirley inside. She then crouched and faced her with a smile. "Shirley, you go inside first and watch TV, okay? Mom and Aunt Sue will just talk."

Shirley flashed a concerned look at Sue first before she nodded.

After making sure that Shirley was okay, Sheryl went to Sue's room. She immediately asked, "What do you want to talk about? Just go ahead."

"Come in first." Sue dragged Sheryl into her room. "You didn't come back last night, right?" Sue gave Sheryl an accusing look.

"How did you know?" Sheryl asked in amazement. It was already too late before she realized that her stupid question only confirmed Sue's speculation.

So she frowned slightly and said, "Don't misunderstand it. Charles and I didn't do anything wrong. I just stayed in his house for one night because of some inevitable reasons but I've already told him that it would be the last. From now on, I won't have anything to do with him anymore."

"You are lying," Sue asserted. "You have already told me the same words numerous times." Sue sneered and continued, "I can't even remember the number of times you've lied to me when it comes to

Charles. I really wonder why every time he gets into trouble, you're always the first person to be there for him. Now, how can you make me believe that you are just friends?"

"Sue Wang!" Sheryl got furious. "If this is the only reason why you want to talk to me, then, we better stop this.

I know how to deal with it and I don't need an outsider's judgement and opinion," Sheryl added. There was a short silence before Sheryl spoke again, "Moreover, there is really nothing between Charles and me. So, why should I be affected with words?"

"An outsider?" Sue asked in disbelief. "Is that who I am to you?" Sue was really disappointed to hear those words from Sheryl.

Sheryl realized that her words hurt Sue's feelings. But she didn't mean to do it. She just got stressed out because of Charles as well as Sue's accusations. Everything was really pissing her off.

The only thing she could do was to stay away from Charles and she had already done all possible ways to avoid him.

"I didn't mean it," Sheryl said in a low and apologetic voice. "I was just..." But before she could finish her words, Sue interrupted her.

"Sheryl, I'm so disappointed in you!" Sheryl didn't say a word so Sue continued, "I said that because I was only concerned about your relationship with Anthony. I wanted you to protect your relationship. As your friend, I thought it was my obligation to remind you. But I didn't know that I was just an outsider to you. Maybe I was just causing you trouble."

"Mimi, I didn't mean it that way," Sheryl said with regret. She truly regretted having said those words.

But she was only in a bad mood. She didn't really mean it.

"I've already told you, I have told Charles clearly today that I will have nothing to do with him anymore. I just want to live my life peacefully with Anthony. Why couldn't you just believe me?" Sheryl asked.

"Because you have already said those words to me for too many times and yet so didn't really mean them," Sue sneered. "I feel sorry for Anthony. I think he deserves a better woman."

"Oh, really?" What Sheryl hated the most was to be accused so she got annoyed. She already felt in a mess recently. All she needed right now was a true friend who could help her sort things out and not someone who would just accuse her unjustly.

She couldn't contain her emotions anymore so she got satirical, "And how about you? Is helping us your

only intention?"

Amazed, Sue asked Sheryl, "What do you mean?"

She couldn't understand why Sheryl would ask her such kind of question.

"You have no right to accuse me about morality. You are claiming that you're just doing this for me and

Anthony while in fact, you are really doing this for yourself. I think you clearly know what I mean."

Sheryl stared at Sue with a sneer.

Taken aback, Sue didn't know what to say. She didn't expect Sheryl could say these words to her. Still

puzzled, she asked, "Have I done anything wrong?"

"Anything wrong?" Sheryl repeated with a cold smile. "The only reason that you care so much about my

relationship with Anthony is because you love him.

If you really consider me as a friend, you should have trusted me instead of doubting my relationship

with Anthony over and over again." Sheryl had been keeping these words inside her for a long time.

But she thought, maybe it was time to voice it out now.

"How did you know that?" Sue asked in shock. She believed that she had cleanly hidden her feelings

for Anthony. But Sheryl was still able to find it. She felt like a lousy magician whose tricks had been

revealed.

"Did you really think you weren't that obvious?" Sheryl questioned back. "One night that you were drunk, you confessed your feelings for Anthony to me. Although I once doubted your real intentions on me, I still chose to trust you. You're my best friend and I believed you won't hurt me so I never mentioned that issue to you anymore," Sheryl added.

She paused and continued, "A few days ago, I also found a picture of Anthony in your room when I cleaned it for you. But I didn't mind it and I just pretended nothing happened. I trust you with all my heart, so why can't you trust me back?"

Sheryl's brow arched. This was the first time she argued with Sue since they knew each other. And she instinctively felt that maybe they would never be the same best friends as before.

"Yes, you are right. I have a crush on Anthony," Sue admitted. Her face turned pale when she realized that her secret was already discovered by Sheryl. She had never expected that Sheryl would find it out by herself.

That was too ridiculous.

And since she was already discovered, there was no use hiding so she admitted frankly, "Anthony is handsome and rich. He is very considerate towards you and he cares so much about every detail of your life. Even for Shirley..." Sue paused. She sighed before she continued, "He loves and accepts Shirley like his own daughter. As such a perfect man, how couldn't any single woman fall for him? I think only you don't."

Sue smiled bitterly and added, "Yes, I do love him. But I chose to keep it a secret because I know that he only loves you. No matter how unfairly you treat him, he will still love you."

Chapter 634 A Friendship Ends (Part Two)

Sue stared at Sheryl angrily and said, "If he had been happy, I would have been content. But look at what you have done. You had the best possible man in the world, but you didn't cherish him. Instead, you showed loyalty to another man. You went out of the way to do things for him. You completely forgot your faithful Anthony, you ungrateful woman. I feel really sorry for him. Do you know he called me last night? He said your number was switched off. His sad voice broke my heart. Sheryl, I really hate you! If you don't love Anthony, then just leave him for me."

She continued with a sneer, "After all, you have Charles now. Just leave Anthony for me. I will be more

loyal to him than you and treat him better also."

"I had a talk with Charles. We won't meet again. I have already told you this. From now on, I will give my full attention to Anthony and we will live a harmonious and happy life. I know you love him, but I won't let you have him even though we are friends," Sheryl said looking at Sue with an earnest expression.

Sue didn't reply. She just felt sorry for Anthony and herself. 'How can Sheryl take Anthony's love for granted? I hate her for treating him so badly. If only I could be his girlfriend!' These thoughts kept churning bitterly in her mind.

Sheryl felt embarrassed. It was clear to her that she and Sue couldn't go back to their old friendship.

She forced a smile and said,"Mimi, I cherished our friendship. I know you love Anthony. However, I can't sacrifice my relationship with Anthony for your sake. That was why I turned a blind eye to your obvious affection for him. Now..."

She didn't finish her words. Instead she sighed deeply and said in a resigned voice,"I must leave.

Shirley is alone at home. "

She didn't know how she was going to get along with Sue anymore. Some words just wounded deep

as knives. She felt angry also. Although she regretted her words, she knew that their friendship had surely ended.

She walked towards the door with a heavy heart. She was about to step out when Sue called her name. She didn't look back, but paused to listen to what Sue had to say. Sue's voice was calm but determined. "Sheryl, since you now know that I love Anthony, I won't hide my deep feelings for him anymore. Let's have a fair fight. Let us wait and see who wins his heart."

After some hesitation, she continued, "I am afraid our friendship is over. I do hope you will not blame me for that. I just want to pursue my own happiness. If you can't make Anthony happy, I will take your place in his life. I will love him with my whole heart."

It was an open declaration of war. Sue made it clear that from then on she wouldn't take her friendship with Sheryl into account. All she would do was to win Anthony's love.

Sheryl left Sue's apartment without uttering a word. She knew their friendship had broken and was beyond repair at the moment.

When she reached her apartment she found Shirley watching a cartoon. She told Shirley to continue

what she was doing and called Anthony after giving it some thought. She was soon speaking to

Anthony on the phone. "Sher, what is going on? Why couldn't I reach you on your phone? I called Sue

last night, but she had no idea where you were. You..."

Anthony said anxiously. He had been very worried about Sheryl.

"Anthony," Sheryl interrupted him. She hesitated and then decided to tell him the truth. "Do you

remember the nightmare I have shared with you earlier?" she asked uncertainly.

"What?" Anthony asked in surprise. He was startled and clenched his phone tightly. 'Has she gotten

back her memory? I hope not, ' he thought with fear.

Sheryl added, "The nightmare about my difficult labour."

"Why are you thinking of that? I have told you it was only a nightmare. It doesn't matter and it means

nothing. Don't think further about that," Anthony tried his best to calm down and consoled her.

"My gut says it wasn't a nightmare. Yesterday I noticed Charlie has a birthmark on his wrist. The baby

boy in my dream has the same birthmark," Sheryl said with her forehead creased with worry. Her

memory was messed up, so she didn't suspect Charlie to be her biological son.

"What? How could it be?" Anthony retorted. He wasn't expecting to hear this shocking news. He

thoroughly wished her memory would never come back.

"When I saw the birthmark, I passed out with shock and fear. After that I repeatedly had that dream.

Anthony, can you explain why I had that dream?" Sheryl asked. Her brain seemed to have stopped

working. But her gut told her she was close to the truth.

Anthony thought deeply and debated if he should tell her the truth. The fear of losing her forever if she

knew the truth overwhelmed him. Before Sheryl figured out all that had happened in the past, he said

persuasively, "It was just a dream. Charlie having the same birthmark is just a coincidence. Don't

overthink and overanalyse it, okay?"

Worried about her health, he continued, "What happened after that? You said you passed out. Then

what happened? Are you feeling better now?"

A million thoughts flooded Anthony's mind. 'The nightmare is a hint that her memory is coming back. I

am afraid she will leave me soon.'

"I am fine. It was just a nightmare. When I woke up, I was okay. I have become used to having bad

dreams over the years," Sheryl assured him in a soothing voice.

After discussing the nightmare with Anthony, she felt relieved. As her mood lightened, she attempted to change the topic and asked, "When are you coming back?"

"I am waiting at the airport. I am going to visit my parents. When I get back, I will come to meet you."

Filled with hope he said, "Sher, after I come back, I will be with you just as I used to. We will be together forever."

"No, Anthony. I can't bear our boring life anymore. I am tired," Sheryl shook her head and replied firmly.

Sheryl's words scared Anthony. He forced a smile and gathered his courage to ask, "Sher, what do you mean? Are you breaking up with me?" His stiff and trembling voice made Sheryl laugh. She never knew he was so shaky about their relationship.

"Anthony, did I say I am breaking up with you?" Sheryl sighed at his dumb question and retorted, "I have hated my life in the past few years. Every time I woke up, there was no one except Shirley in my life.

Our house is too big for only Shirley and me. When I feel exhausted and want your comfort, you are not beside me. When I want to cry, you are not beside me to hold me. I want a strong shoulder to lean on. I hate seeing you go away to your own house after supper. I hate hugging a pillow to sleep."

Anthony was holding his breath. He was listening very carefully to her words. He was curious about

what she was going to say. He would be happy to hear anything except her breaking up with him.

Sheryl paused and wondered if she should be the one proposing marriage. After all, it was more common for the man to propose to the woman he loved.

"So, Anthony, will you marry me?" Sheryl said in a rush after taking a deep breath. She was not sure of Anthony's answer. But she was hopeful of a positive answer.

She thought, 'Anthony and I have been in love for quite a long time. We know each other quite well. He has not only been a perfect boyfriend to me, but also a good father to Shirley. Charles' appearance caused some arguments and tension between us. Anthony doesn't like my getting close to Charles. I admit Charles is attractive. I was infatuated. But I know for sure that Anthony is the most appropriate man for me. The only way to save our relationship is to get married. I will show him my sincerity and propose to him.'

Chapter 635 Going Home

Worried that Anthony would refuse, she added immediately, "I know that you have given more than me in our relationship. I will try my best to compensate for this. I will try to be a good wife and cook nice dishes for you every day. I will spare no effort to take care of you and Shirley. Maybe one day we will

have our own child. Let us live happily together in the future."

Sheryl felt a little nervous because Anthony had still not said yes. Still she persisted, "Anthony, let us get married as soon as your parents meet me and approve of me. What do you say?"

"Idiot!" Anthony said lovingly. He teased, "Are you proposing to me? Let me do it! It's a man's privilege to propose to the woman he loves!"

"It does not matter as long as I can be with you," said Sheryl. Then she asked eagerly, "So do you agree or not?"

Anthony was in a rapture. He wanted to fly to Sheryl and tell her he agreed. He knew he had to persuade his parents even more strongly now. He was aware that they were selecting some eligible girls for him to date.

Anthony smiled and said, "Sher, please give me a chance to propose to you. I will go down on my knee and ask you to marry me. Please say yes on that day, okay?"

The final call for boarding was announced as he spoke these words. He told Sheryl, "I have to board now. I'll call you later."

"Okay, wish you a safe and happy flight." Sheryl hung up the phone with a happy smile. She felt her

troubles had just fallen away from her shoulders. But she did not feel a great sense of elation or excitement.

'Maybe it's because we have been together for too long. It does not feel any different to me, '

Sheryl consoled herself.

When she fell asleep that night she dreamed of Charles. In the dream, she was married to Charles and he was running his hands over every part of her body with passionate love. They were in a white house by the seaside.

Sheryl woke up with a start. She patted her cheeks and rubbed her eyes in bewilderment. She wondered, 'What's wrong with you, Sheryl? What strange dreams you have!'

During the three years she had been with Anthony, she had always rejected Anthony's attempts at intimacy. She had assumed that she lacked passion and sex drive. But in her dream, she had passionately and actively responded to Charles' touch and kiss. She felt embarrassed even as she thought about it.

Sheryl slapped her head with annoyance as she tried to drive the unreal scenes of her lovemaking out

of her mind.

Anthony reached his parents' home. He had hardly visited this house since Craig died. Also because he had become involved with Sheryl and had to take care of her. He had already informed his parents of his arrival and they were waiting to have dinner with him.

He didn't really get along well with his parents. More so since Sheryl had entered his life. His mother, Laura Ding, was totally going to oppose his marriage to Sheryl.

Laura was cooking dinner in the kitchen when Anthony arrived. Although there was some unpleasantness between them, she still wanted to make some delicious food for her son. It had been a long time since he had come home. She began dinner preparations from one o'clock in the afternoon. The dishes she made covered the whole dining table. Anthony's father, Carlson Xiao, kept waiting for his son at the gate.

"Has our son come?" Laura anxiously asked the same question every few minutes. She felt disappointed every time she got a negative answer.

"Why are you standing here, Dad?" Anthony asked as he got out of his cab. He scolded, "I told you not to wait for me to join you for dinner. You should have eaten earlier. A late dinner is not good at your

age."

"Never mind, we wanted to have dinner with you." Carlson flashed a broad smile at his son. He had been once very proud of his son as Anthony had been an excellent doctor and respected in his field.

However, both Carlson and Laura could not accept the fact that he should give up his career for a woman with a child. They hated Sheryl for this reason.

"Your mom has been cooking up a storm. She has been preparing all your favourite dishes for you. You go in and rest for sometime. I will call you in for dinner when it is fully ready." Carlson didn't know how to express his love for Anthony. He just awkwardly patted Anthony's shoulder and said, "You look much thinner than before."

"No, I don't." Anthony smiled. He added, "I have been very busy lately. I am sorry I could not come and visit you and mom. Here are some gifts I bought in America for both of you."

He pointed at two boxes filled with gifts.

Laura heard their voices and came out to investigate. She was wearing an apron and carrying a ladle in her hand. As soon as she saw Anthony she said happily, "Welcome home, Son!"

"Mom..." Anthony called out to her with tears in his eyes. He walked up to her and hugged her tightly.

Then he scolded her with concern, "Why didn't you listen to me and order dinner from outside. It is too much work to prepare all this by yourself."

"The food made in restaurants is expensive and tastes terrible. I think you will be happy to have my home cooked food." Laura looked at her son with a smile and continued, "Moreover, you are coming back home after a long time. I had to cook your favorite dishes for you."

"Mom..." Anthony frowned and said, "I have earned enough money now. You don't have to tire yourself out only to save money."

"No, I didn't do that to save money." Laura explained, "You were once a doctor and I think you know that restaurant food is unhealthy."

Eyeing Anthony's suit, Laura heaved a sigh and said, "I know you earn enough money in your present job. But you know that generations of our family are all doctors. I think you will look more handsome in a doctor's white gown."

"Mom..." Anthony arched a brow and said seriously, "Please don't say that any more. Every time I come back you say it and I can't bear it any more. Can you change the topic?"

Being a doctor was better than his present job and he had liked his career.

But as a doctor, he had to work nights and had no time to take care of Sheryl. Therefore, he had given up his career as a doctor.

"Whatever I say is only for your benefit but you never listen to my words," Laura said with sadness. She heaved a sigh and said to Anthony, "You will regret your decision to give up your career as a doctor for a woman. Mark my words!"

Chapter 636 We Won't Accept Her

"Mom, I..." Anthony said reluctantly. He initially wanted to tell his parents about Sheryl. But on second thought, he decided to just mention it after dinner. His mother didn't like Sheryl and he didn't want her to think that his intention of coming today was not to visit them but to talk about Sheryl.

So, instead of continuing his conversation with his mother, he decided to just shut up.

"That's enough!" Carlson approached them to alleviate the situation. "Laura, please take it easy.

Anthony's just arrived. Don't mention those unhappy things and just leave him alone. I bet he's already starving after such a long trip. Is our dinner ready?"

"Right, right! I almost forgot that your favorite chicken is stewing on the stove. I'll go and check it,"

Laura blurted hurriedly with a big smile. "Have a seat, son. Have some fruits first while waiting. Dinner will be ready in one minute," she added before hurrying back to the kitchen.

After Laura rushed to the kitchen, Anthony sat on the sofa with his father. He took a strawberry to his mouth. With his father siding him just a moment ago, Anthony thought that he maybe could accept Sheryl faster than his mother. Suddenly, he remembered something so he reached out for his suitcase and took out a watch that he bought from abroad. It was actually a limited edition watch and he waited for three months before he could get it. "Dad, I remember that you mentioned last time that you wanted this watch. Sheryl bought it for you. You know what? It took her three months! Please try it. I believe it will suit you perfectly!"

Carlson took the watch and examined it with an expressionless face. A moment later, he raised his head and looked at Anthony. "So, you came here again because of that woman, right?"

"Dad!" Anthony couldn't help to raise his voice. He frowned and added, "Please don't talk that way about her. Her name is Sheryl. And I love her." Anthony's voice was firm.

"All right," Carlson said disapprovingly as he shrugged his shoulders. "Son, I don't care what her name

is and I don't want to hear anything about her, especially from you. Don't waste your time on me.

Anyway, your mom won't accept her and neither will I." "Look at this watch. Do you think I'd believe she could afford it? As far as I've known, she's merely a fameless model. Laura and I won't change our attitude towards her even if she would buy expensive gifts for us every time, especially when we're full aware that you are the one paying them for her."

Anthony was a little embarrassed. He had thought that his parents might be pleased if he sent them gifts on behalf of Sheryl. It turned out that they had seen through him and nothing had really changed.

"Dad, please! You were always supportive of me regardless of my decisions since I was a little boy," he reminded Carlson. "Please stand up for me again this time and help me convince mom to accept Sheryl," he pleaded. "She's the one that I have been waiting for," he earnestly said. He was really hoping that his father would take his side this time.

"Listen, son. It's different this time," Carlson retorted. "This time, I'm siding with your mom. We won't accept her as long as we're alive. Don't ever think about it!" There was a note of finality in Carlson's voice.

"Dad, please..." Anthony didn't want to give up. Anthony wanted to convince his father more but they

were interrupted by Laura's cheerful voice from the kitchen, "Come on here now! Dinner's ready! Go wash your hands first."

However, neither Anthony nor Carlson replied to her. They didn't even stand up from the sofa. After getting no response for quite a while, Laura came to them. She felt that the atmosphere between the father and son was weird so she immediately understood that they might have a misunderstanding.

She walked towards Carlson and patted him heavily on the shoulder. "Save your words for now, Carlson. I won't forgive you if you piss Anthony off this time. Have you forgotten how he ran away from us the last time? Come on!"

"I wouldn't be surprised," Carlson replied coldly. "Let's have dinner first," he then stood up and directly went to the dining room. He was too annoyed to explain everything to his wife.

Laura turned to Anthony. She grabbed his hands and said, "Son, you know your father. He's a great man, except for his bad temper and his big mouth. If he said anything unpleasant, please don't bother yourself arguing with him, okay?"

"Mom, we're good here. Let's have dinner first," Anthony consoled Laura as if nothing had happened.

He still held on the hope that his father would take his side later.

Laura made a table full of dishes for Anthony and she urged him to eat more. She kept on putting different food in his plate. Looking at the pile of food in front of him, he complained, "Mom, stop picking up food for me anymore. Look at my plate! I already don't know which one to eat first." "Please help yourself with the dishes. And Dad too!"

"Alright, alright! I'll help myself now. Please have as much as you could, son. You must have missed my cooking when you were abroad," Laura said in watery eyes. She never averted her eyes from her son since he sat down in front of the dining table. She felt extremely delighted as his son had come back after a long time.

"Laura, here, take some fish," Carlson said and put some fish in her plate. He noticed that his wife had barely eaten.

"Okay. Thank you, darling!" She nodded to him with a smile. Then she turned her eyes to her son again. Seeing the soy sauce on the corner of his lips, she shook her head and commented, "Look at you! How old are you this year, son? You still eat as messy as a little boy. Please pay attention to your image. Here, wipe your mouth." She took a piece of tissue and handed it to him.

"You should blame nobody but yourself, Mom. All the dishes you prepared Are so delicious that I couldn't wait to eat them all," Anthony flattered his mom while wiping his mouth. Actually his mind wasn't in the food. He was still wondering how to tell his mom about Sheryl.

"Please take as much as you could, son. You have lost some weight." Laura eyed him. "You look thinner than the last time I saw you," she added as she watched him lovingly. Her son was her pride since he was a little boy. He got high marks at school, treated people well, and did his job outstandingly.

However, things changed the moment he met Sheryl. It seemed that his ascending life suddenly halted and then turned to a different direction. Thus, Laura hated Sheryl. She was thinking that his son's bright future would be ruined by her.

She had always hoped that her son could find a girl that was well matched to their social and economic status to be his wife. Or at least, she had to be a nice girl living a clean life. Not an unmarried woman with a three-year-old daughter.

To her disappointment, her son loved Sheryl and wanted to marry her. She had persuaded him

countless times to leave Sheryl and find another girl but she'd never succeeded. The moment she learned that Anthony was coming back, she was determined to talk to him again about it and make him change his mind. Although his son was a grown up man and had his own mind, she believed that he would change if they would keep pressing him.

The atmosphere in the dining room was great so Anthony tried to say something about Sheryl.

However, his father would keep on interrupting him every time. He already felt frustrated but he couldn't

just offend his father openly in front of the dining table. Thus, he was left with no choice but to wait for the right timing again.

He knew that his mother would ask him to sit down and catch up later after dinner.

Just as he expected, Laura walked out of the kitchen with a plate of fruits after she washed the dishes.

"Come here, son. Let's have some fresh fruits," she said as she walked to the sofa.

"Mom, I'm stuffed. I couldn't take anymore," Anthony refused as he patted his stomach gently. But, seeing the disappointed look from his mom's face, he hurriedly took the plate from her hands and put it on the coffee table. Then he held her hands and sat on the sofa with her. "Mom, please take a seat. It's

been a while since we chatted the last time. I bet there are lots of things we need to catch up on!"

"You're right," Laura agreed with a smile. Patting his hands, she asked, "How long will you stay this time, son? You must stay here longer this time. You just never know how much I've missed you!"

"Maybe... two or three days, mom," Anthony replied absentmindedly. But then he quickly explained, "I need to go to Y City for some important matters. But I promise, I will come back again soon."

She was sort of depressed upon hearing his words. She asked, "What happened? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"I'm sort of busy, mom. You know what a businessman is like, right?" Anthony tried to comfort his mom.

"Mom, listen. I'll come back the moment I get things settled there, okay?" he assured her.

Then he took the set of skin care products from the table and gave it to Laura. "Mom, this is for you. It's a gift from Sher. She personally picked it up for you. They're bestsellers and I believe you'll love them."

"She will buy you another set when you consumed all this," he added with a smile.

Chapter 637 Break With The Family

Laura cast an indifferent glance at the cosmetic box and threw it on the table. She turned to Anthony and said, "I'm going to have a meal with a friend. Can you also come with me? Our family has not gone out for a meal in a very long time."

"Fine, I'll join you mom," Anthony answered. Then he said, "Mom, apart from the cosmetic box, Sher also sent some scarves and handbags for you. Look at them."

Anthony emphasized that they were purchased by Sheryl to soften Laura. He hoped it would change her bad impression about Sheryl. But Laura's indifferent reaction indicated that she still did not want to hear Sheryl's name.

"It's quite late. You have had a long day today. You must be extremely tired. It's better you have a nice hot bath and go to sleep. We are going to see your Aunt Jasmine tomorrow morning." Laura tried to end the conversation without any mention of Sheryl.

Anthony arched his eyebrows. It was obvious his whole evening's effort was wasted. Now Laura was urging him to go to bed. He felt a little disappointed.

He put aside the gifts he was holding and said seriously to Laura, "Mom, I know you don't like Sheryl, but I do. She is the one whom I want to spend the rest of my life with. Sheryl and I respect you. We hoped to get your permission and blessings for our marriage. But what should I do if you keep such a negative attitude towards her?"

"Did that woman tell you to visit us?" Laura looked at Anthony with cold eyes. She didn't even want to utter Sheryl's name. "I suspect that you must have an ulterior motive to visit us. You told us you came home because you missed us. Actually, you just came for that woman. I'm so disappointed in you."

"Mom..." Anthony inquired, "Why you are so unfriendly to Sher? She didn't do anything wrong!"

"I won't agree to your marriage even if she were perfect like a goddess," Laura mocked him. Then she added, "I can't allow a woman who has given birth to a baby out of wedlock to be your wife. You don't have to waste your energy promoting her because I will never agree to this marriage."

Both Laura and Anthony stared stubbornly at each other. Anthony said, "Mom, the only woman I want is Sheryl. She does have a kid, so what? I love her. I even love her daughter. I am happy to be Shirley's stepfather and nobody can change my mind."

Anthony seriously continued, "To be honest, I came back just to announce my marriage with Sheryl. I will bring her to visit you soon. If you accept her, we will be your devoted son and daughter-in-law, and Shirley will be your granddaughter. If not..."

"What will you do if we don't accept her?" Carlson inquired. Carlson had wanted to stay out of this matter. Anthony's inappropriate words forced him to enter the conversation between his wife and son.

"If you don't accept her..." Anthony paused for a while and continued, "I will marry Sheryl regardless.

We will live our life away from you and break all relations with you."

"Anthony!" Laura screamed. She was heartbroken. Her son had uttered such heartless words to her for the sake of a woman. Smiling bitterly she said, "Are you going to break your relationship with us for an unworthy woman? Do you want to destroy the family for the sake of a slut?"

Laura was pained. Looking into Anthony's eyes, she still couldn't believe her son could say such words.

Anthony tried to defend himself with more harsh words but he was rendered speechless as he saw his mother's sad eyes. After a while, he looked away and said to Laura, "I don't have a choice. That's the only way out if you don't agree to our marriage."

He was caught in a dilemma. He must make a choice between family and love.

He had waited so long and made many efforts to get Sheryl agree to marry him. He couldn't wait any longer. He must marry her as soon as possible.

"Good... Well done!" Laura clapped mockingly. She pointed a stern finger at Anthony and said, "We worked hard all our life to bring you up in luxury and now you treat us in this way!"

She suddenly clutched her chest with a hand and seemed to be very uncomfortable. Carlson fetched a bottle of pills from the drawer immediately. He put two pills into her mouth and helped her swallow them

with some water. When she felt better, Carlson slapped Anthony on the cheek and shouted, "Bastard!

Do you want to kill your mom? I made a mistake. I shouldn't have allowed you to come into my house."

Covering his face with his hand, Anthony couldn't believe what had just happened.

Carlson had never beat him even in his childhood. Anthony never expected his father would slap him when he was nearly thirty years old.

What worried Anthony most was Laura's condition. She did not look good. After hesitating for a while, he asked her, "How do you feel now, mom? Is any part of your body in discomfort?"

"I'm fine. It might disappoint you because it means I will not die yet," Laura said on purpose to anger

Anthony and prevent him from worrying about her.

"Mom..." Anthony rolled his eyes and asked, "What's wrong with you? Are you experiencing any discomfort?"

"So now you are worried about your mom? Why didn't you think of her health and welfare a few

minutes ago?" Carlson questioned his son. Then he added, "She got this disease many years ago. Do you really know nothing about it?"

"Dad..." Anthony said with sorrow. "What is the disease? Did you take her for a checkup and treatment in a good hospital?"

"It is called hyper tension," Carlson answered. And he added after flashing an angry glance at Anthony, "She can't stand any irritation. If you dare infuriate her once again, I will beat you up!"

Anthony felt very sad. It was like something heavy was weighing on his heart.

As a son, he knew nothing about his mother's disease until she fell ill because of him. He felt sorry for his mother and felt like he was the worst son on this earth.

Anthony gripped Laura's hands and said with sorrow, "Mom, I'm sorry. It is all my fault."

Chapter 638 Anthony's Hearty Breakfast

Laura tried to respond in a gentle manner and chose good words to remove her son's guilt. "Anthony, you are my son. And we are a family bound with love, not hatred."

Laura forced a smile and continued, "My indisposition was not your fault at all, so stop feeling guilty."

Hypertension, indeed, should be dealt with utmost delicacy. Otherwise, the patient would have to suffer a lot.

"I feel a bit tired. I must go upstairs to rest." Laura glanced at Anthony and was about to leave.

"Let me support you upstairs, mom." Anthony tried to show Laura his love and concern. However,

Laura declined, "No, thanks. I can manage. I am not that old not to support myself. You had better rest early. Good night!"

It indeed pained Anthony to gaze at Laura's staggering figure. He felt displeased to Carlson for not having told him about Laura's condition.

"Dad, why didn't you tell me of mom's condition earlier?" he rebuked him.

"I see no point of telling you about it," Carlson sneered. Then he complained, "You are more devoted to that woman than to your parents!"

Carlson's complaint rendered Anthony especially guilty, who admitted to have disregarded filial piety.

"But..." He paused for a while. He took a deep breath before he continued, "Why didn't you have a heart-to-heart talk with me at home?" Anthony felt more guilty after realizing his absence of devotion to Laura.

"Every time you returned home, you would always argue with us for the sake of Sheryl," Carlson

condemned. "Laura asked me to keep her illness from you including last month's appendectomy because she doesn't want to worry you. But with today's argument, you just didn't know how much you've caused her to suffer."

Upon hearing what Carlson had just said against him, Anthony realized his blunders.

Anthony lavished all his time and efforts upon Sheryl that he already neglected his old parents.

"Dad, I admit my mistake," Anthony rose up and apologized to Carlson. He was still filled with guilt. He wished his father would just slap him in the face.

"I didn't love you enough and I took your love for granted. I broke your hearts." Anthony tried to seek for

Carlson's forgiveness.

But Carlson only sighed and said, "Enough of your flattery. Just don't anger Laura anymore. That would be enough!"

"I..." He couldn't finish his words. He felt nonplussed as to what was the right thing to do.

Carlson glanced at his son and concluded their conversation, "Since it's too late now, go to your room and rest. I have to go upstairs and take care of your mom."

Anthony was left alone. He reflected for a moment before he thought of calling Sheryl, who was about to take a shower when her phone rang. So, instead of going to the bathroom, she sat on the couch and took Anthony's call. "It's too late now. I thought you were already sleeping. Is there anything urgent you need to talk to me?"

"I missed you so much! That is why I call you." There was loneliness in his voice. This was the first time that Anthony lost his sense of direction.

Sheryl smiled and said, "Shirley asked me to send you her best regards and she wished you'd come back sooner."

"Within a couple of days, I will see you both," Anthony replied. "I need to stay with my parents for a little while."

After reflecting for a moment, Sheryl said, "I think it's a good idea that you intend to spend more time with them. Don't worry about us here. I can manage everything."

"Sheryl..." He didn't know how to start. Eventually, Anthony managed to confirm Sheryl's fidelity towards him.

However, after not getting a desirable response, Anthony became anxious and further questioned her.

Sheryl just smiled and complained on his persistence.

"Sheryl, just please tell me that you love me and that you miss me too." Anthony was dying to know

Sheryl's real feelings toward him.

"I miss you so much," Sheryl managed to reassure Anthony. Sheryl sensed that Anthony was acting

strange. There was something amiss about his behavior. She tried to learn of his state of mind.

"No, there's nothing. I just love to hear you say 'I love you, '" Anthony replied gently. Then he calmly

added, "Do not stay up late. Good night!"

Anthony only wanted to confirm that his efforts were reciprocated.

"Anthony..." Sheryl was truly worried. "Are you really okay?" she confirmed.

"Nothing serious. Please don't worry too much about me." Anthony was happy to know that Sheryl's

love for him hadn't changed.

The next morning, Anthony got up early to prepare a nutritive and hearty breakfast for his parents.

He made use of all the ingredients available in the kitchen.

Laura was awakened by the noise from the kitchen. She thought some burglars broke into their house.

When she went and checked, she was surprised to see Anthony busily cooking in the kitchen. He might be making breakfast for her and Carlson. Laura immediately came to him and tried to stop him. She motioned him to leave the cooking to her.

However, Anthony refused and said, "My dear Mom, it's my duty to prepare breakfast for you." He smiled sweetly at her. "Please sit and wait for breakfast to be ready," he added.

"I am afraid you might not be able to manage," Laura countered. She looked at Anthony with uncertainty.

"You can be rest assured, mom," Anthony replied with a smile. "I will give you an unforgettable breakfast," he bragged.

Anthony escorted Laura to the living room. He then went back to the kitchen to continue cooking. Soon, the dishes were ready so he set up the table. Meanwhile, Carlson also came in. He was surprised to see the table full of sumptuous dishes. "Laura, even though Anthony is here, I don't think it's really necessary to prepare a sumptuous breakfast like this. This is too much for the three of us!" Carlson exclaimed.

"Darling, this breakfast was made by our beloved son. We must enjoy it!" Laura was happy and proud to finally see Anthony's devotion to them.

Chapter 639 The Appointment With Jasmine

Carlson was amazed to see the delectable spread at the dinner table. "Are these all prepared by our son?" Carlson asked in amazement. Anthony had never made any food at home before. Carlson couldn't believe his son had become such a wonderful cook.

"Of course he made all of these," Laura said with a smile as she arranged a plate for Carlson. Carlson took his seat at the dining table and looked forward to the breakfast eagerly.

"Good morning, dad," Anthony greeted Carlson. As soon as he saw his father coming to the dining table, he took the plates from Laura and asked her to take a seat. He cooked the food and wanted to serve his parents in his own hands. He put bowls and chopsticks in front of his parents and said, "The breakfast is ready. Let's have it now!"

Carlson felt pleased. He had a large bowl of porridge and many fried dumplings. It was a common breakfast, but he felt it extremely yummy. It had been ages since they had sat together for a meal with their son.

"How does it taste, Dad?" Anthony asked Carlson. Anthony was a little nervous because he cooked for

his parents for the first time. Both his parents were engrossed in their respective bowls.

Carlson nodded his head and said, "Very good."

Then he took some soybean milk and said, "I'm full now. And it's time to go to work. Anthony, come with me."

"Okay." Anthony nodded and rose from his seat. He then turned to his mother and said, "Mom, I'll be back soon."

As they walked towards the gate of their house, Carlson said to Anthony, "Now that you have learnt your mother's disease, I hope you can show her some more concern. Don't irritate her again, okay?"

"Don't worry, dad. I won't do that," Anthony spoke in an apologetic manner. Then he promised, "What happened yesterday was just an accident because I didn't know mom's condition at that time. I promise I won't annoy her any more. You can go to work without any worries. I am here to take care of her."

"Your mom is going to have lunch with Jasmine today. You'd better go with her to make sure she does not fall ill." Carlson shared some words of advice with Anthony. Anthony had been away from them for the last three years. And now that he was back, his parents left no stone unturned to bond with him.

Anthony nodded dutifully and said, "Okay dad, I will." Carlson gave a smile to Anthony and patted his back before getting on to the car.

After seeing Carlson off, Anthony went back to the house. Laura was still at the dining table relishing her breakfast. She smiled as she saw Anthony coming back and said to Anthony, "You have grown up to be a real man. I am really happy to have you back with us."

Anthony smiled at Laura lovingly and said, "Mom, I will make breakfast for you every day as long as I'm home."

"Good boy," Laura said with a contented smile on her face. Having Anthony back after so many years was perhaps the most blissful thing that had happened to them lately. As Anthony started to pour a glass of milk to her, she asked, "Did your father ask you not to annoy me just now?"

Anthony looked up at Laura in a completely astonished look as he was not expecting her to bring up the topic at this moment. Immediately, Anthony apologized to Laura, "I'm sorry mom. It was all my fault. I shouldn't have made you angry."

Anthony lowered his eyes feeling guilty to have agitated Laura. He felt extremely regretful once he thought about what happened yesterday.

"Don't worry. I'm fine. It was just because of my hypertension." Laura smiled lovingly at her son and added, "You don't have to blame yourself for that."

Laura could see the guilty look on her son's face. She didn't want him to worry about her. She tried to relieve him as she said, "It's just a common disease and will be controlled easily. As a doctor, I think you should know it isn't a big deal."

Anthony had the same worry-mixed-with-guilt look on his face. His face remained tensed even after Laura tried to assure him about her medical condition. Then he spoke with a frown on his face, "I was a doctor and I know hypertension seems to be safe usually. But it could be fatal when the patient falls ill. Anyway, you should get regular check up done in the hospital."

"I know it. Your father can take care of me. Don't worry," Laura said with a smile.

Then she cast a glance at Anthony and said, "All I wish is that I could see you happy. I would have been happier if you didn't quit the job as a doctor."

Her words made Anthony uncomfortable. Anthony arched his brow as he looked down at his bowl.

"Why do you repeat that?" he asked.

Three years back Anthony left everything behind and went abroad including his flourishing career as a doctor. It was like a heavy block in Laura's heart. But Anthony didn't want to hear or discuss about that.

She heaved a sigh and said to Anthony, "Fine. I won't talk about it if you don't want to hear. Have you finished eating? I'm going to clean the table if you have finished." She rose from her chair and started to arrange the plates and bowls.

"Let me help you," Anthony offered. Anthony stood up promptly and was going to pick up the bowls and chopsticks from the table. But Laura stopped him and took the bowls from his hands. "We are going to have lunch outside with Jasmine, so you should go, take a bath and change your clothes now. Don't let your clothes be spoilt with oil and dirt."

"Don't worry. I will take bath after cleaning the table," Anthony insisted. But Laura didn't agree, she ordered, "Go away. I can handle this by myself."

Anthony had to obey her. He went to take a bath. When it was about noon, Laura knocked the door of Anthony's bedroom and said, "Are you ready, Anthony? It's time for us to go out."

"I'm ready, mom," Anthony answered promptly. As he opened the door, Laura was taken aback by the way he was dressed. He wore a casual T-shirt and a jeans. He looked very informal. Laura glanced at

him from head to toe and a frown settled on her face. She asked, "Why have you worn such clothes?"

"What's wrong with them?" Anthony looked back at himself and exclaimed feeling bewildered. Anthony asked, "Is there anything wrong with my clothes?"

"They are too casual," Laura answered with an irked look on her face. Then she urged, "Change to some formal clothes."

"Why?" Anthony looked at his mom looking puzzled and asked, "It is just an usual lunch, right? Why should I wear formal clothes?"

He wanted to wear clothes that made him feel comfortable. After all, why did he need to wear formal clothes when he was going out for lunch with his own mother?

"You won't understand." Laura took a deep sigh and insisted, "You don't need to know why. Just change your clothes as I said."

Anthony felt weird but got changed according to Laura's wish as he did not want to get into an argument or create any kind of stress for his mother. The next moment he showed up in a suit. Laura nodded her head and exclaimed, "Ah! That's like my son. See how dapper you look in a suit!"

Anthony arched his brow to see his mother's face glow in excitement. He instinctively felt something was wrong. "Is it just an usual meal?" he asked his mom as they walked out of their house and approached the car.

"Of course," Laura said with a cheerful smile. "Jasmine and her family have stayed abroad for the last two years ago. They have just come back recently because their daughter will work in this city. I haven't seen them for so long. And they have been very eager about this appointment with us. So I think you'd better dress up formally to show your respect."

Then she tidied Anthony's tie and said, "Let's go now. They must have been waiting for us."

Even after living in France for several years, Jasmine still found her heart's content in Chinese food. So they booked a private room in a Chinese restaurant for the lunch.

Jasmine and Vince Sun had already been waiting for them as Anthony and Laura opened the door of the room. As soon as the two ladies met, Laura embraced her friend with joy and said, "Long time no see, Jasmine! You still look so beautiful!"

"Thank you, Laura. I'm flattered." Jasmine returned with a smile, "You look the same as before. Time left no sign on your face!"

"How could it be possible." Laura smiled and said, "I have spent so much energy on my son. I feel that I'm really getting old."

Chapter 640 An Acceptable Daughter-in-law

"It's nonsense..." Jasmine and Laura were so busy exchanging cordiality that they had almost forgotten Anthony's and Vince's presence.

It was only later that Jasmine realized the need to introduce Vince to Laura.

Jasmine drew Vince closer to Laura and introduced him, "This is my husband, Vince Sun. I think you are old acquaintances."

"Definitely," Laura replied with a smile. "We haven't seen each other for more than a decade but you seem not to change at all, Vince. You still look the same," Laura added.

"This young lad is..." Jasmine stared at Anthony with growing fondness. Anthony was a tall and handsome man. In addition to his good looks, he was also able to manage his own company. Any mothers would immediately accept him for a son-in-law and Jasmine was not an exception.

"Let me introduce him to you." Laura promptly drew Anthony closer to Jasmine and Vince. "This is my son, Anthony Xiao," she introduced and urged Anthony to greet them.

"Aunt Jasmine and Uncle Vince, I consider it a blessing to have finally met you. I've been looking forward to this meeting." Being in the business world for quite a long time, Anthony already knew how to sweet-talk.

"Anthony, you are indeed a sweet-talker." Jasmine was already considering taking Anthony as a son-in-law.

Jasmine grasped Laura's arm and whispered, "Laura, I want to take Anthony as my son-in-law to secure our old ties."

"That's not a problem with me. I take pride in my son," Laura said in a beaming smile. "Just like you, I also want Junia to be my daughter-in-law," she added.

"I definitely believe in you," Jasmine said with a smile. She continued, "Even before, I have never doubted your personality and your promises." "But... I am afraid..." Jasmine hesitated to complete her words.

"Why? What's wrong?" Laura could sense that something was bothering Jasmine.

"My only misgiving is that Junia might fall short of Anthony's expectations," Jasmine replied with a sigh.

Indeed, finding a suitable husband for Junia Sun was quite troublesome for Jasmine and Vince.

"Let's introduce them to each other first," Laura suggested. "Then they can start dating and get to know each other." For Laura, Junia Sun was a beautiful, sensible and well-educated woman from an eminent family. Thus, she would be an acceptable daughter-in-law that could dwarf the single mother, Sheryl.

"By the way, where is Junia?" Laura became anxious from her protracted waiting.

"She went to the ladies room. Don't worry, she'll be back real soon," Jasmine reassured her. A little while later, someone appeared at the entrance of the lounge — a woman wearing an emerald dress, with a very pleasant aura.

Anthony looked up and met the woman's gaze. She was a beautiful girl, but he seemed uninterested and immediately looked away.

Junia Sun approached the two old women and casually greeted them. Now, Laura became more determined to have Junia Sun as her daughter-in-law.

"Aunt Laura, how have you been doing since the last time we've met?" Junia Sun treated Laura with utmost courtesy.

Laura was also quite responsive to Junia Sun.

She held Junia Sun's hands affectionately and said, "Junia, you've gotten more and more beautiful. I bet a lot of men are mobbing at you." "Are you still available now?" Laura inquired.

"Aunt Laura, stop kidding me! I'm not into a relationship yet. You know, I prioritize career over romance," Junia Sun talked in a humorous manner.

"You should be ashamed of being single until now," Jasmine complained. "Many women of your age have already gotten married. Some even have their children now. Unlike you, you're still single. Who could be your Mr. Right be?"

"My dear mom, you promised not to bring this matter up again, right?" Junia Sun said begrudgingly.

On the other hand, Laura was very happy at the thought of Anthony and Junia Sun getting married.

Laura motioned Anthony to come over and greet Junia Sun.

Anthony tried his best to hide his reluctance.

"Junia is Jasmine's daughter and your childhood friend. Still remember her?" Laura introduced them.

"You used to ask me to lock Junia up at our home before so you could marry her when you both grow up," Laura joked.

"That's true! I can also attest to that," Jasmine incited. Anthony had a vague memory of his childhood.

And as much as possible, he didn't want to talk about some of the naughty things he'd done in the past.

"Mom..." Anthony frowned. He expressed his displeasure to Laura, "Please forget such sportive act of mine."

Anthony was afraid that Junia Sun would get embarrassed as well.

"Son, we are already like families here. What's there to be ashamed of?" Laura replied with a calm smile.

From the beginning, Junia Sun had been casting stealthy flirtatious glances at Anthony.

Jasmine assumed that Junia Sun was picky when it came to love. But now Junia believed she had met her Mr. Right. "Junia Sun."

Junia Sun extended her hand to shake Anthony's after introducing herself.

"Anthony Xiao," Anthony introduced himself back. He reached out his hand to meet hers.

"Anthony Xiao..." Junia murmured. She seemed to memorize Anthony's name by heart.

"Well, let's have dinner," Vince motioned everyone to sit down and start eating. Anthony was about to sit beside Laura but she urged him to sit beside Junia Sun. She was obviously starting the

matchmaking thing.

Thus, Anthony had to regard Laura's wish that he sit beside Junia Sun. Junia Sun was fully aware of the purpose of this dinner — that was to matchmake her and Anthony.

But for Anthony's impression, Junia Sun was a kind of woman who would reject such a blind date like this.