

Wedded Bride 671

Chapter 671 A Conversation With Nancy

Nancy finished cooking the meal and went to Sheryl's bedroom to call her. She found Sheryl lost in her own world. Sheryl got a little startled to see Nancy. "Hi Nancy, is the meal ready?" Sheryl inquired on coming out of her thoughts.

"Yes, it is. Please wash your hands and come to eat." Nancy could tell from Sheryl's expression that something was wrong. As Shirley was with them, she didn't have the chance to question Sheryl about it. After their meal was done, Sheryl took Shirley to her room and put her to bed. She tucked her in her bed, adjusted the blanket around her and kissed her on the forehead. As she shut the door and came out, Nancy handed her a glass of honey water.

"Thank you, Nancy!" Sheryl thanked her politely. She really felt a lot more relaxed after hiring Nancy.

Nancy took good care of them.

Sheryl looked at Nancy and said in a soft tone, "Nancy, I'll go to work tomorrow. Please take good care of Shirley for me."

"Don't worry, Miss Xia," Nancy assured her. "By the way, you look a little under the weather. What happened? Is everything all right with you?"

I don't mean to pry, but it is just that I care about you. Maybe you'll feel more comfortable after pouring out your troubles. I'm older than you, and have experience in many things. I may be able to give you some advice on the matter," Nancy added earnestly.

After a long hesitation, Sheryl decided to tell Nancy the truth. "Nancy, I really don't know what I should do. I know I should keep away from him, but he keeps trying to get close to me. I don't know how to refuse him. Maybe deep inside, I'm unwilling to leave him..." Sheryl stammered.

"Are you talking about the man I saw this morning?" Nancy asked with a frown. It seemed that Sheryl really liked Anthony.

"No!" Sheryl shook her head and added, "I mean Charles. Actually, I really feel guilty about Anthony. If it weren't for Charles, I think I would have married Anthony without hesitation. But now, I don't know what to do. I am caught in a dilemma."

"Charles? You mean Charles Lu?" Nancy cried, her eyes wide with shock.

"Uh... Yes..." Sheryl was a little shocked at Nancy's reaction and asked, "Nancy, you... Do you know him? How?"

"No, no... Nothing of that sort." Nancy immediately shook her head. Her heart was wild with joy. She had been considering how to get Charles to meet Sheryl. But it turned out that he had already met Sheryl.

Nancy was finally relieved.

Sheryl was really confused by the joy on Nancy's face and was about to ask her something. Nancy coughed loudly to distract her and to conceal her true feelings. She gave Sheryl a silly reason, "Charles Lu is a well-known celebrity in Y City. I believe most people have heard and known of him."

"Is it so? So that is how you know his name." Sheryl heaved a sigh of relief and smiled at Nancy.

Although Nancy hadn't given her any advice, Sheryl felt much more comfortable after sharing her thoughts. She felt as if Nancy was sharing the burden with her now and was a huge moral support to her.

Sheryl stood up and turned to Nancy. "Nancy, you may sleep now. I want to be alone and think about it."

"Sure." Nancy stood and walked towards her room. But after a short hesitation, she stopped and turned

around. "Miss Xia..."

"Yes Nancy. Is there anything else?" Sheryl asked in confusion.

"I cannot give you advice on love. But I do have a piece of general advice for you. I think it applies to

any situation in life." Nancy stared at Sheryl right in the eye and continued,"If you really want to do

something, you should pursue it no matter what others say. Even if the result is hurtful, you won't regret

not having done it in the future."

What she was trying to tell Sheryl was,"If you love Charles, you should follow your heart. Don't be

overcautious and indecisive. Don't be afraid that you may get hurt or hurt others. Life is too short for

regrets."

The thing Nancy regretted the most was that she had failed to teach her son Brent to be an upright

person, otherwise he wouldn't have brought Sheryl so much miseries.

Luckily, she still had the chance to make up for Brent's mistakes. Though those mistakes had cost

Brent's life.

"I get what you are saying Nancy. Thanks for your good advice." Sheryl smiled. She could tell Nancy

was upset after having said this. She assumed that Nancy had a miserable past, but she wouldn't pry.

In Y City Hospital

George left the hospital to bring lunch for Holley. Holley lay on the bed, awaiting his return. Before long, she heard the door open. "Why are you back so soon? Did you forget something?"

Holley asked without turning her head. However, when nobody answered, Holley felt something was amiss. She turned around, only to find Donna standing at the door. She was closely trailed by a young and pretty girl, Sula. Holley remembered the girl.

They had once met in Korea, and Sula had shown some kind of animosity against her. Holley hadn't understood the reason at the beginning, but then George had explained to her the story between him and Sula. George had been forced by his mother to get engaged to Sula, for Sula was from a rich family. But George had broken off the engagement later.

Sula had treated Holley as her opponent.

This time, Donna had come to Y City with Sula. Holley realized that Donna was here to break up their relationship and bring together George and Sula.

"Aunt Donna, here you are," Holley greeted Donna in a respectful manner. She would not be stupid

enough to give Donna an excuse to drive a wedge between George and her.

She quietly took out her phone in an attempt to send a message to George. She didn't want to face

Donna alone. It was obvious that Donna wasn't there to show her kindness.

"Ha! You want to call George, huh?" Donna sneered and snatched the phone from Holley. "You did not come to meet me, so I have to come here to meet you instead," she said in a cold voice.

"I just saw George leave the hospital, so we have plenty of time to talk with each other," she added.

Holley realized that Donna was here to cause trouble, so she decided to be polite to Donna and spin things out for as long as possible. She hoped that George would come back soon and rescue her.

Putting on a pitiful expression, she said in an apologetic tone, "Aunt Donna, I'm so sorry for not having picked you up at the airport yesterday. I should have left earlier than I did. I didn't expect to find such heavy traffic. I told George, I would apologize to you as soon as I am well and out of the hospital. I didn't expect you to come..."

Chapter 672 Holley Played It Well

Donna stared at her with piercing eyes and said, "Holley, my son isn't here right now. So there is no need to pretend that you are innocent. You tried very hard to look like a meek sheep, but I found it harder to believe!" Donna curved her lips in a sarcastic smile as she stared at Holley and

continued,"But I am impressed. After this splendid performance of yours, I can't think poorly of you from

now on. It is unbelievable that you conceived of such a way to impress me. Were you not afraid that you could even be killed in that accident?"

"Mrs. Han, I can't understand what you just said." Holley maintained her innocence for fear that Donna might use some other ways to deal with her.

"Trust me, the car accident was not intentional on my part. It was also unexpected. How could I do that on purpose?" Holley stood in front of Donna with a petrified face. Her voice dripped with grievance. It seemed that she was on the verge of crying. But her gesture failed to win Donna's sympathy. Rather it made her feel so resentful that she rushed to grab Holley's hair while loudly cursing at the same time.

"You, bitch! You have no shame. I can't believe my son is in love with you, good for nothing whore. I must teach you a lesson so that you know what kind of a person I am."

Then, Donna grabbed Holley by her hair and shook her head with all her might. Sula who accompanied her in the hospital just stood there silently. She witnessed the entire episode between Holley and Donna. She did not make a single attempt to stop the matriarch, like she was just waiting to see Holley

in that predicament. Hence, there was no way that she would do a thing to help her out.

"How dare you seduced my son?" Donna blurted, her eyes ready to pop out of her face. Donna hit her and cursed her without any remorse or hesitation to the extent that Holley started feeling sick and her head buzzed.

But Holley took all the strikes silently and didn't dodge even a single blow. Donna's ferocious attacks left her absolutely black and blue. And, that was all she wanted. The marks on her body would speak for themselves in front of George. He would come to know how his mother, whom he had asked her to be respectful with, had treated his girlfriend.

Donna sweltered while beating Holley. She was so enraged and no longer aware of how long it was since she first laid her hands on Holley. Holley didn't exert even a little effort to push her away. She bore Donna's brunt with open arms. Eventually, the squabble attracted a lot of attention. In the crowded

hospital, a lot of onlookers soon gathered and jam-packed at the doorway of the ward. Sula was forced to close the door. A moment later, a doctor knocked and entered the room.

The doctor stared at Donna. The latter was relentless even after being abruptly pulled away from

Holley. He sternly exclaimed, "Madam, what do you think you're doing? This is a hospital and definitely not a jungle where you can act wildly."

"You! Go away!" Looking at Holley who was behind the doctor, Donna spluttered, "Hey Doc, I am trying to teach her a lesson. This is absolutely none of your business!"

"This is a hospital and she is my patient. It is my duty, isn't it?" The doctor faced and stared at Donna and in a controlled tone said, "I don't know what's going on between you two, but I must insist clearly that you can't do that again as long as she is in this hospital. Otherwise, I will call the police."

"Are you sure about that, Doc?" Donna sneered and proudly proclaimed, "I am a foreigner."

"What's the big deal? Who do you think you are?" Hearing Donna's insulting words, the people gathered around in the doorway criticized here one after another. "What you did to the young lady is too much."

"Yes... yes. What kind of hatred was that? How could you beat her like that?" echoed the others.

Staring at Donna, who remained arrogant and unapologetic, the doctor said seriously, "Listen, lady! You better get the hell out of here. Or, I'll call the police."

"Forget it, Aunt Donna." Sula, the bystander standing aside, discovered that they had triggered public furor, so she slightly tugged at Donna's sleeve to get her attention, and whispered, "Let's go. George would be back soon."

In fact, moments before Donna visited Holley, she had secretly prepared and pressed the recording button on her cellphone. She intended to use the recording as evidence to expose how arrogant Holley was. Once George was back, she would show the recorder's content to George. That way, her son would discover Holley's real attitude. But she had no idea that Holley had no intention of showing them her true self.

Well, it meant that Donna got really tired in beating her, for nothing. That feeling stung her.

Casting a cold eye on Holley, Donna said with a threat, "I am warning you, bitch. Stay away from my son, or I will make your life a living hell!"

After her threatening announcement, Donna stormed out of the ward without looking at anyone. Sula followed her closely.

Seeing Donna and Sula disappeared, the nurse began to break up the people at the doorway. "Please leave now. There is nothing here to be curious about anymore." As she said it loudly, the crowd turned

around and left.

By that time the doctor turned to Holley and said, "Are you a chump? Why did you let that woman beat you without a fight?"

"How can I do that?" Holley replied and gave a wry smile to the doctor who stood in front of her. Then she added, "She is my boyfriend's mother. I have to give her my utmost respect no matter what?"

"You must be the very first naive person I've ever met," The doctor said with pity. "You will have a difficult time in the future with such a mother-in-law. I'm pretty sure she is hard to get along with."

"I know, Doc," Holley said lightly with a little nod.

At that time, the nurse brought some medical supplies. She picked up an iodine solution, poured it on a cotton ball and carefully dabbed on Holley's cuts. Glancing at Holley, who was enduring the pain without any words, she couldn't help suggesting, "You could yell out in pain. It's okay."

"I'm fine," Holley said with a smile. Although she was showing that she didn't mind what happened,

Holley knew that the beating she received would have its worth. One day, in her way, Donna would realize that she was not a weakling.

"How cruel that old woman treated you!" the nurse said while applying some medicine on Holley's wound. Then she asked Holley with skepticism, "For her to treat you roughly, what's the problem between you and her?"

"It's really nothing, Miss. Maybe... she simply doesn't want me to be with her son." After speaking, Holley smiled sadly.

"That's a bit odd!" The nurse frowned and said, "That was the during the old time? Does she want her son to have an arranged marriage?"

But Holley didn't answer her questions. She slightly lowered her head to make the nurse feel that she was that pitiful. The nurse tried her best to console Holley, "My dear, being a woman also, I have to advise you about the saying that 'the mother-in-law is a natural enemy of the daughter-in-law'. If that woman would be your mother-in-law, you will suffer the worst after your marriage."

Finally, the nurse concluded, "The marriage decision must not only depend on how good the man is, but also on his family's attitude towards you. That's is the most important. Neglect it and you will not live happily after marriage." After finishing her work, the nurse said again, "Dear, you should consider my suggestions seriously. But remember, what I told you was only a suggestion, not a decision."

"Yes, I understand." Holley replied with a little smile. Before the nurse finished putting the medical supplies away, George was back. As he entered the room, he grumbled, "Holley, why didn't you answer my call? I..."

Suddenly, he stopped complaining. The big bag that he was carrying also stopped making a sound. He was surprised to see the doctor and the nurse inside the room. He asked, "Doctor, what's wrong? Was Holly uncomfortable?"

"You should first ask yourself," the nurse sneered and confronted George. "You know she is a patient, right?. Then, why did you let your mother come here and went berserk on her? Look, how serious injured she is! It was all caused by your freaking mother!"

Chapter 673 A Pretentious Holley

The nurse laughed sarcastically and said to George, "We were so astonished to see that such a beautiful girl nearly got disfigured by your mother. I'll feel pity for her if that happened!"

"It's impossible!" said George in disbelief. "There is no way that my mother would do such a thing."

In George's eyes, Donna was a mother whom he knew to be kind, tolerant and elegant. She would never do such a disgraceful thing. 'How could she be here? She didn't even know which hospital Holley

is in, ' George thought.

"So you want to imply that we're all lying to you?" said the nurse with a sneer on her face. "Come and have a look at your girlfriend's face. How do you explain that scar? Would you say that it was us who left that scar on her face?"

she mockingly said as she turned Holley's face to George. Holley's swollen, red face was clearly shown to him. Some parts of her face still had fresh scratches. She looked miserable.

Her lips were swollen too. The moment she found George was looking at her she suddenly looked away. She said to the nurse, "I'm fine Miss. Please stop talking about it."

"Is this Mr. Han?" The doctor also couldn't contain himself and commented that such a beautiful girl shouldn't be beaten. He grinned with dissatisfaction and told George, "I wanted to stay out of your business because this is about your family."

The doctor stopped for some time and continued to speak, "But Miss Ye is now my patient. I have the right to protect my patient."

He looked at George. "I don't care what conflicts are there between your mother and Miss Ye. Please go and warn your mother that if she ever comes back to this hospital and does such things again, I will

call the police. The police won't treat her differently whether she is a foreigner or not."

After hearing the doctor's words, George finally believed that it was Donna who had beaten Holley in the hospital.

He responded to the doctor with a cold voice, "Don't you worry, Doc. If my mother really did it, I will make it up for Holley."

After the doctor and the nurse went out of the room, Holley laid on the bed and turned her face to conceal it from George.

George walked towards the bedside and said, "Honey, let me take a look at your face."

"No, George. There's no need for that," answered Holley. She turned and tried to hide her face again.

She didn't want George to see her ugly face at that moment. She said with bitterness, "I must be really ugly by now. Don't look at me."

George felt so sad seeing Holley acting that way. He grabbed Holley's hands and said, "Holley, let me have a look. No matter how you look, you are always the most beautiful woman in the world to me."

"George, please don't flatter me with your sweet words," Holley said with a calm voice. "I must look

terrible now."

George frowned. Then he held her head and gently turned it to face him. Looking at the scars on her

face, he asked, "Tell me. Are these scars really left by my mother?"

"No honey. Don't listen to them," answered Holley. Inside her, Holley was unhappy about his question.

'The reality is already glaring in front of him and yet he still doesn't believe it, ' thought Holley.

'So let it be. Let him see how tolerant and considerate I can be. And he'll feel so guilty after that, ' she

thought to herself.

"How could Mrs. Han do such terrible things?" she said tenderly with her head down. "These scars

were inflicted by me when I carelessly scratched myself."

George paused and engagingly spoke, "Holley, I know you are just saying this to make me feel better,

but I want to know the truth. Did my mother do this to you?"

Holley shook her head. "No, it's not her, George. Mrs. Han is nice to me. I felt terrible to make her wait

for so long yesterday. I'm pretty sure she was uncomfortable about it. Could you extend my apologies

to her, please? That might make her feel better."

Holley tightened her grip on George's hands nervously. "She is your mother. And whatever she does is

right. I shouldn't blame her."

Holley pretended to be a tender and considerate girlfriend in front of George, but her words also indirectly told George that Donna did beat her in the hospital.

George didn't respond to Holley's words. He brought out the food he bought and said, "You should eat something."

George said that with a somewhat scary, poker face. Holley tried to spoon the food but was stopped by George. He said, "Honey, you are now a patient. Let me do this for you."

"It's just a few scratches. I'm okay," said Holley. However, George insisted on feeding her on his own.

Holley conceded first, but stopped eating after a few bites and gave the excuse of having no appetite.

George put the bowl aside and helped Holley to lie down. He said, "You should have some rest. I have to go and deal with something."

"Where are you going, honey?" asked Holley.

"I have a couple of issues to take care of in the company. I'll come back immediately after everything's done," answered George in an emotionless voice.

After he tucked Holley in, George left the hospital in a hurry. The first thing he did when he got into his car was to call Donna and inquire about her location.

Donna and Sula went out for dinner after they left the hospital. Donna sneered after she heard her cellphone rang and saw that George was calling. Then she blurted, "That bitch must have told everything and complained to George."

"So what do we do now, Aunt Donna?" asked Sula nervously.

"Why panic, Sula?" Donna sneered again, "It wasn't us who beat her."

Donna picked up the cellphone and talked to George like nothing had happened, "Hello, George?

What's going on, son?"

"Where are you, mother?" George asked with a cold voice. In his point of view, Holley should be very respectful to his mother because she was the woman who had given him birth and raised him.

But he can't bear the thought that Donna had beaten his girlfriend.

And he felt so guilty when Holley tried to cover for Donna after what the latter had done to her. Holley was so considerate that she just wanted to tolerate what his mother did.

"I'm having dinner with Sula. You can come and join us," answered Donna coyly. Without uttering any

other word, George hung up the phone abruptly after he learned the address.

Sula looked at Donna and said, "Aunt Donna, I think we were too compulsive this afternoon. After all that had happened, George must feel very sorry for that bitch. He must be coming here to defend her.

I'm one hundred percent sure that he will ask us to apologize to that whore."

Donna also regretted what they have done. But she hadn't expected that she would have lost control of herself under that circumstance.

Chapter 674 Shut Up, Sula!

"Despite our careful and thorough investigation, Holley's origin and background remain unknown to us, Aunt Donna. And her appearance in Y City is virtually mysterious," Sula said.

"I deeply suspect that Holley has an ulterior motive," she added. Realizing Sula's words, Donna urged her, "Sula, you are supposed to win George's heart and and make your romantic relationship official. I hope you won't let me down."

"Aunt Donna, rest assured that I will do my best." Sula was determined to best Holley first before granting Donna's request to pursue a romantic relationship with George.

Seeing that Sula was confident and determined, Donna felt satisfied.

"Holley, that bitch is said to be a native of Y City. Since we are here, we should try our best to unveil her pretense," Donna sneered. She felt gleeful about their plan.

A moment later, George arrived. Donna motioned him to sit and join them for dinner. His favorite dishes were on the table.

"No, thanks," George refused. Apparently, he was annoyed.

"What is the matter with you?" Donna asked. She glance at George and said nonchalantly, "Are you still worried about Holley's condition?"

"Definitely! Holley's condition is my biggest concern," replied George with a sneer. "You should be fully aware of it, Mom."

"That bitch has sown bitter dissensions between us," Donna seethed with indignation. "George, how could you be so beguiled by her that you ignore our blood relation just like that?"

"Mom, Holley has nothing to do with this. It's your attitude that's ruining our relationship. I think you are

too unseemly to win my respect and regard." George sneered and continued, "As far as I know, Holley treated you with utmost courtesy just to get along with you. But you..."

George could never find any justifications for Donna's maltreatment to Holley.

"My dear son, Holley is just misleading you so you would hate me," Donna countered vehemently. She couldn't let George just put all the blames on her.

"That's enough, Mom," George cut her off. He forced a smile and added, "Don't worry, Holley still thinks highly of you despite all the slurs you've casted on her."

Some people in the hospital reported to George that Donna had mistreated Holley.

Donna was rendered speechless, and marveled at Holley's perfect scheme against her.

"Yes, I went to the hospital," Donna admitted that she had been to the hospital to visit Holley. But it didn't stop her from decrying Holley in front of George. "I have been warning you against Holley's real intentions since the first time you dated her. But you're just turning a deaf ear on me."

George tried his best to convince Donna of Holley's overridden kindness despite her humble origins but

Donna remained unmoved.

"My dear son, you are too innocent not to be beguiled by Holley," Donna sneered. "Can't you see it? She is obviously just coveting your wealth."

Donna was also trying to convince George to see the other side of Holley. "Holley's intention of being

with you is to exploit your wealth and your social status, whereas other women like Sula who are worthy to be my daughter-in-law want to be with you merely because of love."

"I think everything is just based on your own judgment," George replied in a sarcastic voice. "Anyway you are very willing to forsake my happiness in exchange of the alliance that could make BM Corporation better," George added.

"I do not see any harm in doing so," Donna said coldly. "Oh well, how could I blame you for that?" George replied in a satirical tone.

"I was never a son to you. I was nothing but just a slave since birth. Even until now that I am already old enough, I still can't be free from you."

Finally, George was able to say all the things that he had been keeping in his heart for so long. "I think Dad had every reason to divorce you even to the expense of not getting any shares from the properties. Mom, it's high time you reflected on your mistakes. It's not yet too late to make things right."

PAK! Donna slapped George on the face. She couldn't contain her exasperation anymore due to George's contempt.

Donna felt that her thoughtfulness and kindness were just requited with George's disregard and disrespect.

Donna was cut to the heart at the realization that George forsook his filial piety for his obsession toward Holley.

George felt the pain of Donna's slap. But he didn't feel any fear. Instead, he challenged Donna truculently, "It seems that you are being angered by the fact!"

"You!" Donna couldn't calm down and control herself anymore. To comfort herself, she kept on repeating in her mind that everything was Holley's fault because it was her who misled and beguiled George.

For Donna, Holley was an arch-criminal who could easily destroy their mother-son relationship.

"George, how could you talk to your mother just like that?" Sula tried to intervene this time. She intended to become a mediator. "Donna only wants what's best for you," she added.

Sula helped Donna to sit and poured her a glass of water to calm down. She continued to scold

George, "You should still have treated your mother with regard and respect even though you don't

agree to her wishes."

"Shut up, Sula!" When George noticed that Sula intended to mediate between Donna and him, he shifted the blame unto her.

Chapter 675 The Harsh Remarks Of George

He laughed scornfully and said to Sula, "Who do you think you are? It is none of your business. It is a private affair between me and my mom. Don't meddle in things that do not concern you. It is not polite."

Sula's face turned pale at his words. Her impression had been that George was a thorough gentleman.

She had never expected that he would turn into this mean and harsh man because of Holley.

"George, you are going too far and crossing all limits!" Donna scolded as she heard George talk to Sula in such a rude manner. She frowned and then said to him, "Why are you so rude to Sula? It is not her fault! She has done nothing wrong. Don't cross the line, George."

However, George just sneered and responded, "Do you think I don't know why you have brought her here? Are you still trying to fix us up? Don't you think it is ridiculous and it is time to stop this foolish match making?"

He gave a grim laugh and continued, "I didn't expose your tricks earlier because I didn't want to

embarrass you, but now I have no choice but to be frank with you, Mom."

Saying this, he glanced at Sula. "I don't like Sula and I can never fall in love with her. It is better that you give up your false hopes of seeing us as a couple as early as possible. Do you understand me?"

"You..."

Donna was too furious to utter a single word while George just glared at Sula with cold eyes. "Look at you, Sula. You can easily find your Mr. Right someday as you are smart and beautiful. Why did you come here to be humiliated? You really have a thick hide."

"George..." mumbled Sula. She looked at him in great shock as if the man standing in front of her were not George. How could he make such harsh remarks to her?

George looked at Donna and continued, "Mom, I have to share with you my innermost thoughts and wishes. I have decided to marry Holley. If you accept her as your daughter-in-law, we will show filial respect for you, but if you don't..." Saying this, George paused for a while and then finally said, "I will think that I do not have a mother."

As he finished his sentence, George turned to leave. Donna hastily stopped him. She asked in an anxious voice, "What do you mean? Are you going to break all relations with me? Is that what you are

trying to say?"

George didn't even turn around to look at her. Instead he replied in a cold voice,"Mom, if this is the only way to make you understand, then I say yes. Moreover, if you do anything to hurt Holley again, I won't make concessions for you anymore."

He turned to leave and walked out without hesitation after he finished his words.

Donna felt dizzy. She slouched on the chair feeling very weak. She had never expected that George loved Holley so deeply.

"Are you okay, Aunt Donna?" asked Sula. She stepped forward and looked searchingly at Donna and then embraced her.

"I am fine. Don't worry, dear." Donna got a grip on her emotions. She held Sula's hands and said,"Sula, don't be mad at George. He has a short temper. He just lost his mind out of rage. I promise you that he didn't mean his angry words. So please, please ignore all he said and don't take it to heart."

Saying this, Donna patted Sula's hands to console her and went on,"You are a good girl. I am sure you will understand me, right?"

"Aunt Donna, of course I understand you. There is no need for you to comfort me or feel awkward."

Sula, instead of getting angry, acted as if nothing had happened. She then replied, "George is my childhood friend. I would never get mad at his words. I know he said all that in anger and did not really mean anything."

As she finished her sentence, a sly smile spread over her face. After a small pause, Sula continued, "I am feeling very optimistic right now. Just wait and see. I am sure George will come back to me sooner or later."

Donna finally smiled at Sula's cheerful and understanding words. She was relieved and comforted by her words.

Donna hired a detective as she was determined to investigate Holley's background. She was eager to know everything about Holley. She trusted her gut instinct and suspected Holley's true character.

In Dream Garden

As soon as Chris finished her confinement, she went to visit Charles with Sam and her baby. When she got there, she looked around carefully but didn't see Sheryl. Seeing her, Charles asked in confusion, "Chris, what are you looking for?"

"Charles, where is Autumn? I am looking for her. I heard that she is back," Chris said in an anxious yet expectant voice. She stood there, gazing at Charles with a perplexed look and waited for his reply.

"She is not here but lives in her own house," replied Charles without any emotion. "She has lost her memory. She is always trying to avoid me. I can't get close to her at all," he added.

"What? Are you kidding me?" Chris frowned as she heard this. She was startled by his words. 'It is no wonder that Autumn has been missing for such a long time. She has lost her memory. She is hardly at fault, ' Chris thought to herself.

"Chris, why have you come today? You should be resting at home," said Charles with some concern.

Charles was also a little angry with Chris. If she hadn't tried to fix him up with Leila, Sheryl would not be so furious at him.

"I..." Chris also sensed his anger. She felt a little embarrassed as she knew she was at fault. Staring at

Charles she hesitated. She had something to tell Charles, but she had no idea how to express herself.

Sensing the awkwardness between them, Sam laughed and explained, "Chris is here to apologize to

you, Charles. But she is feeling very awkward to say sorry to you."

"Sam, stop talking. That's enough." Chris glared at him and tried to stop him. Hesitant yet worried, she turned to Charles and said, "Charles, I was just worried about you since you were very depressed after Autumn's disappearance. I hoped that you would find purpose if you had a family to love. That's why I promised to help Leila. I thought that since you had a baby with her, you may learn to love her and live a peaceful life with her. I hoped that this would help you forget Autumn and move forward. You could not spend the rest of your life grieving for Autumn."

Chris lowered her eyes as she continued in a shaky voice, "I really didn't expect Autumn to be alive or that your love for her was so deep. I..."

Chris wished she could just hide herself in shame as she recalled her earlier behaviour to Charles. She had unnecessarily interfered in his life. Now she felt like a fool.

"Brother, I am so sorry for what I did. I am a thoughtless idiot. You almost lost her because of me. I have to apologize to you. But please trust me. My intentions were good," said Chris. Tears were glistening in her eyes and threatened to spill out.

"Well, that's enough," said Charles. He stared at Chris with kind eyes and then continued, "Let it go.

Don't mention it anymore. But you have to remember not to do such a thing ever again." Chris was his

younger sister and Charles loved her. Now that she had confessed her fault and regretted, Charles decided to let it go.

"Don't worry. I will never do this again. And I won't poke my nose into your business with Autumn.

Please forgive me this time, brother." As she heard Charles's words, Chris had no doubt that he had forgiven her. She soon became her cheerful self. Forgetting her promise to keep from interfering in her brother's life, she asked in the next second, "Charles, is Autumn still mad at you? I have a brilliant idea to calm her down. Why not let me talk to her? It was me who made such a stupid blunder, so I should be the one to sort it out also."

"Chris, have you already forgotten what you just said?" Sam reminded her kindly. "Remember that you just said you would not poke your nose into Charles' business anymore, but now..."

Chris smiled with embarrassment as she heard this from her husband. "I just..." mumbled Chris. "I just want to help my brother. I know he must be very upset and depressed these days."

Indeed, Chris was worried. She knew that her brother had loved Sheryl and she had also reciprocated that love. But now the couple might as well as have been strangers, the way they were behaving.

"I know Autumn well," said Sam abruptly. "I am sure her memory will come back. She will remember her past and her family in due time," he added.

"I sincerely pray and hope so," Chris replied with a deep sigh.

Glancing at Chris with a warning look, Charles said, "I know what I should do. Chris, you just remember to keep your nose out of this matter, okay? I don't need your help and I will handle this myself without your unwanted interference. I hope I have made myself clear on this matter."

Chapter 676 Let's Have Lunch Together

Chris' face dimmed in anger. Then she said, "Fine! I won't care about anything about you anymore!"

But Chris' anger didn't last that long. After a while, she heaved a deep breath to calm herself down.

Then she apologized, "I'm sorry for what I've said. Anyway, if you need my help just let me know. At least give me a chance to make up for my mistakes."

"Fine," Charles answered. He glimpsed at Sam and urged, "Take her home now. She is already too annoying for me."

Sheryl would go to his company for a rehearsal tomorrow and Charles was looking forward to working with her.

Charles got up early the next morning. He put on a dark suit and drove to the company as soon as he

finished breakfast. He got very delighted and excited at the thought of seeing Sheryl very soon.

David was sorting some documents when Charles came to the office. And he couldn't believe his ears when he heard Charles humming a song. He wondered if he was just seeing and hearing things.

When he couldn't take it anymore, he came to Alice. "What's wrong with Mr. Lu? He looks very happy,"

David asked Alice in puzzlement.

"Are you an idiot?" Alice told David with contempt. "You must have forgotten one thing. Mrs. Lu will come to our company today."

Alice's answer solved David's confusion.

The ten models were sent to Charles' company by the service vehicle of BM Corporation. David was already waiting for them at the lobby. Nine of them entered in excitement while Sheryl was left behind, reluctant to enter.

David noticed her so he decided to personally meet her. He greeted her with a smile, "Hello, Miss Xia.

Do you remember me?"

Sheryl turned around and looked at David. She remembered to have met this man at Charles' home.

She nodded and said, "Yes, I remember you."

"I feel happy to hear that," David said, still smiling. Then he introduced himself, "You can call me David.

I'm Mr. Lu's assistant. I'm so happy to work with you. If you have any concerns, you can just tell me and

I'll handle them for you."

"Thank you but I don't need your help," Sheryl refused as she knew that David was Charles' assistant.

Then she added, "Please tell Charles that I came here only for work. If he harasses me again, I would

rather break the contract than continue working."

David was taken aback upon hearing Sheryl's words.

'Sheryl must be the only person in this world who would dare to say such words to Charles. Even I

would never dare to think about it,' he thought.

"Anyway, please tell me if you need any help during your working here," David said before he left. All

the models were already settled in the venue where they would be working so David decided to return

to his office.

David had just sat down when Charles called him to go to his office. As expected, Charles only asked

questions about Sheryl. David tried to answer Charles' every question timidly. "Pay more attention to

her and tell me if she has any trouble," Charles said to David before he dismissed him.

Charles became more efficient in his work today. Was it because of Sheryl's presence in his company?

He seemed to be inspired. He finished all his work before noon. When lunch break came, he was

thinking twice.

After a moment of consideration, he went to the rehearsal room.

Only Sheryl was left there.

Since all the models that Holley arranged to work for Charles disliked Sheryl, they all left for lunch

together without inviting her.

Only Sue cast a glance at Sheryl and hesitated for a while, but she finally left without saying anything.

Since she was left alone, Sheryl decided to just skip lunch. She went to a corner and was planning to

have some rest while waiting for the others to return.

She had just lain down when Charles came.

"Have you eaten lunch?" Charles' voice startled her. Even with eyes closed, she was very familiar with

his voice.

Sheryl opened her eyes and arched a brow as she saw Charles standing in front of her. "I'm not hungry and I'm not in the mood to eat. I just want to sleep for a while," she answered.

"Get up from there. I'm taking you to lunch," Charles ordered. But Sheryl clearly didn't want to go with him.

"No, thanks," she refused. "As I have said, I'm not hungry."

"You need to eat something even though you're not hungry," Charles insisted. Charles heard some rumors that Sheryl's colleagues were purposely avoiding her and that she was isolated but he didn't expect that it would include her best friend. As far as he could remember, this woman was the one who ordered him to stay away from Sheryl before. How come that she also left Sheryl alone here?

He frowned slightly and pulled her to stand up. "You can't stand the rehearsal in the afternoon if you don't eat anything. You will not have the energy."

"I don't need to eat lunch, really," she insisted. She tried to shake Charles' hand off but failed because Charles had already gripped her wrist tightly.

She looked at him and complained, "You are so annoying! You are the boss of this company, right? You must have so much work to do every day. So why do you waste your time to care about whether I have

eaten lunch or not?"

Instead of getting annoyed, Charles was amused of Sheryl's snooty behavior. So he said with a smile, "Anything about you is more important than work for me."

Then he continued, "I still haven't eaten lunch either. Let's have lunch together. Just accompany me for a little while, okay?"

Charles pleaded to Sheryl in a loving tone and Sheryl couldn't help but burst into a laughter seeing Charles' amusing expression. Then she checked the time. "But it's a little late already," she said with a frown.

"Don't worry," Charles said. "Have you forgotten that I'm the boss here? Your working time is all up to me and nobody can go against my order," Charles boasted.

"You are abusing your power." Sheryl pretended to give Charles a sullen look.

"That's none of your business," Charles jested.

Charles selected a restaurant where the food was light. The restaurant was nearby the company.

Because Sheryl needed to keep her figure as a model, Charles ordered many vegetables and asked

the waiter to put less oil and salt. Then he turned to Sheryl for her approval, "Is it Okay?"

"Yes." she nodded. It was the first time that Sheryl found Charles not to be disgusting at all. What she saw was a gentle and thoughtful Charles.

Charles told Sheryl that he wanted Sheryl to accompany him. But, in reality, it was Charles who wanted to accompany Sheryl since she was rejected by her colleagues.

And since Charles knew how important her figure was for her job, he picked those food appropriate for her.

Sheryl was moved by Charles' thoughtfulness. Her impression of him seemed to change this time.

"This restaurant is quite good. You will know it once you try their food." Charles introduced the restaurant to Sheryl in zest. Meanwhile, Sue and the other models had already finished lunch and was going back to company.

"Sue, you are too kind to bring food to her," one model commented, looking at the bag of food in Sue's hand. "But I don't think she will thank you for that," she added. Sue just smiled and answered, "Well, she is also our colleague. Since she didn't go with us for lunch, I think it's not that unusual to bring some food for her."

"Look! Is that Sheryl?" another model exclaimed, pointing to a restaurant. The restaurant where

Charles and Sheryl chose to eat was just nearby the company and the models must pass by it so it was

not impossible for them to see Sheryl and Charles inside.

Chapter 677 A Dying Friendship

Sue looked into the restaurant through the window. She saw Sheryl and Charles sitting face to face.

Sue felt like an idiot when she saw Sheryl smile to Charles.

She thought it was ridiculous of her to bring lunch for Sheryl because Sheryl didn't need her care at all.

'Sheryl will feel satiated on Charles' love itself. She doesn't need my concern or my food, ' Sue thought.

She gave a bitter laugh and threw the food packed for Sheryl into the dustbin in anger and frustration.

'From now on, I will never worry about her. Otherwise, I will be left feeling foolish!' Sue said to herself.

Sheryl, on her part, didn't have an inkling of Sue's bitterness. When she was seated with Charles, he

didn't try to get close to her like before. Instead, he maintained a proper distance from her and made

her feel relaxed and comfortable. He kept her amused with the things that had transpired in their past.

It was his way to keep Sheryl happy as well as gauge her reaction.

Sheryl couldn't help laughing while making small talk with Charles. When she returned to the company,

she was late by one hour.

Charles offered to escort her back to the rehearsal room to ease things for her. She refused his help. "I

know you want to help me. But it is my own fault that I am late. Whatever punishment I receive, I will

cheerfully accept."

Sheryl smiled and added,"If you go with me, they will only gossip further and I will make more enemies

there."

She looked at Charles and stammered,"I'm... I'm very happy today to see the change in you. I like the

different Charles."

Charles felt very happy on hearing that. He stared at Sheryl and said,"I will have lunch with you every

day that you are working in my company, okay?"

Sheryl was surprised initially. But then she thought it wasn't a big deal if she just had lunch with

Charles. She agreed. "See you tomorrow!" she replied with a happy smile.

Charles felt very pleased as he saw Sheryl's smiling face. His confidence in himself and his tactics

grew.

But he was still worried about Sheryl so he secretly slipped into the rehearsal room. He stood hidden in

a corner so nobody noticed him.

As Sheryl entered the room, a model named Kitty immediately began scolding her loudly. "Why have you come so late, Sheryl? We have been working for an hour now. Did you purposely delay to escape work?" Kitty asked her.

Sheryl didn't bother to answer her. She put on her heels and got ready to practice her catwalk on the stage. But Kitty was in no mood to let go of her. She blocked Sheryl and asked, "Sheryl, was your lunch so delicious that you lingered over every bite? You looked so happy eating with Mr. Lu. Were you seducing him?"

"Get out of my way!" Sheryl commanded her. She was annoyed with Kitty's accusation. She didn't want to have any conflict with the others, but this did not mean that she would quietly bear their unjust accusations.

"Of course. All of us should give way to you." Kitty sneered and said, "You are so good at seducing men. I think you might become Mrs. Lu one day. And we will work for you then."

Another model also looked at Sheryl with contemptuous eyes and said, "I really don't understand why

she is so attractive to these kind of men. She already has a handsome and ideal boyfriend, but she is not satisfied with that. So now she begins to seduce Mr. Lu and flirts openly with him."

Kitty asked in a sarcastic tone, "Sheryl, can you reveal your tricks to us also? You have two men so obsessed with you."

"Shut up!" Sheryl yelled. She frowned angrily and told Kitty, "You are talking nonsense."

"Nonsense?" Kitty inquired in a puzzled and mocking voice. She glanced cattily at Sheryl and said, "Don't pretend to be innocent. We saw you on our way back to the company. You were together with Mr. Lu and laughing happily. We felt pity for Sue for having brought food for you."

Sheryl was surprised. She didn't expect Sue to be still concerned about her.

Kitty laughed loudly when she saw Sheryl's amazed expression. "You can confirm it with Sue if you don't believe my words."

Then she said, "You are a mother of a little girl. If your daughter comes to know her mom often seduces other men, what will she think of you?"

Sheryl tried her best to contain her anger but now she couldn't control herself any more. Kitty had gone too far with her words. She slapped Kitty hard on the cheek.

Covering her stinging cheek with her hand, an enraged Kitty screamed, "How dare you hit me!"

"There is nothing I don't dare!" Sheryl sneered and warned her, "Be quiet and watch your words. If you dare irritate me again, I won't let go of you!"

"Sheryl! Get off the stage. NOW!" Director Gerry rushed up to them and urged Sheryl. Sheryl's quarrel with Kitty had drawn the attention of everybody including Gerry and she found him staring at her in shock. Sheryl came back to her senses and followed Gerry's order.

Gerry was a professional director employed by Charles for this show. He heaped curses on her as she got off the stage. Sheryl stood quietly with her head lowered. She didn't defend herself. Instead, she kept on apologizing to him.

Gerry's anger was pacified by Sheryl's earnest attitude. Charles also got reassured and left.

Gerry glanced coldly at Kitty and said, "I really dislike people like you. Will it do you any good to isolate and insult your colleague?"

He paused for a while and continued, "From now on, if I see you quarrel again with Sheryl, I will ask you to leave immediately. You will be thrown out of the show instantly." Kitty's face flushed as she heard

Gerry rebuking her.

Nobody dared to show their unfriendly attitude to Sheryl in Gerry's presence from then on. Gerry had made himself very clear to all of them.

When it was time to get off work, Sheryl walked up to Sue. She wanted to invite her to leave together because their homes were close to one another. Sheryl had also not forgotten what Kitty had told her about Sue.

She did care about Sue and still thought of her as a friend. She was just reluctant to speak to Sue after all the bitterness had sprung up between them. But Kitty's words changed her mind. She decided to maintain her friendship with Sue.

"How about going home together?" Sheryl offered. Sue was packing up for the day.

Sue was surprised at Sheryl's invitation. Before she could reply to Sheryl, Kitty said abruptly, "Sue, let's go to the bar!"

"Wait a minute! I'll go with you," Sue answered. She felt relieved because this gave her an excuse to avoid Sheryl's company. After this afternoon's event, she had decided to stay away from Sheryl.

She even convinced herself that Sheryl and she would never be good friends again.

Chapter 678 Anthony's Promise

Sue immediately agreed when Kitty asked her to go with her. Then she turned to Sheryl and said, "I'm sorry, I can't go with you. Anyway, I don't want to go home yet."

Sue picked up her handbag and ran after Kitty. "Wait for me!"

Sue left Sheryl alone and gripped Kitty's hand. She then asked, "Where are we going?"

"Let's go to the bar!" Kitty answered excitedly. "Sue, you should stay away from her. She is different from us." Kitty made sure that her words were loud enough for Sheryl to hear.

"I know," Sue answered with a smile. Then they delightedly left, hand in hand.

A bitter smile appeared on Sheryl's face as she watched the two receding figures. Sue obviously didn't want to be friends with her anymore.

Sheryl packed all her stuff and got ready to leave. She decided to just take the subway. But when she was outside, she saw Charles at the gate, leaning on his car. She hesitated for a moment before she walked toward him. "Are you waiting for me?" she asked.

"Yes, I am," he answered. Charles opened the door of his car and urged Sheryl, "Get in now. I'll take you home."

"Charles, we are just..." Sheryl frowned. She thought Charles was doing too much.

"Don't worry, I just want to send you home. I have no other intentions. I promise," Charles said with a smile. "The subway station will take fifteen minutes walk from here. I don't think that's a good idea. You must be tired after wearing those high heels for the whole day so I want to offer you a ride. That's all."

Seeing that Sheryl was still in hesitation, he urged again, "Get in the car. Don't be scared. I won't eat you up."

Eventually, Sheryl agreed. Anyway, she already felt really tired.

With the soft music from the car stereo and the slow drive, Sheryl fell into a slumber. She was dead tired. Charles didn't disturb her and only woke her up when they reached her apartment. With a light pat on her shoulder, he said, "We're here."

"Wow, that was so quick!" Sheryl exclaimed in a hoarse voice.

"Quick?" Charles raised an eyebrow. "You have slept for twenty minutes," he added. "Really?" Sheryl was so shocked. She didn't know she slept that long.

Seeing Sheryl's startled look, he teased her more, "You even snored loudly." Sheryl's face immediately turned red in embarrassment so she covered her face with both hands to hide it from Charles.

Charles let out a soft laugh seeing her behavior. Then he said, "I was just kidding. You should go up now. Have a good night."

"Okay, thanks!" Sheryl bid Charles goodbye and went out of the car. When Sheryl stepped out of the elevator, she saw Anthony standing in front of her door. He raised his hand and was about to knock but seemed to have changed his mind.

Sheryl walked towards him and asked, "Why didn't you knock?"

"Sher?" Anthony was stunned. He didn't expect to see Sheryl there. He felt embarrassed that his actions were exposed to Sheryl. He stammered, "I..."

"Just come in," Sheryl interrupted him while opening the door. "You must not have eaten dinner yet.

Come and join us for dinner," Sheryl invited. Then she turned to Nancy. "Nancy, please prepare another set of utensils for Anthony."

"Okay," Anthony agreed. Nancy didn't like Anthony at all but she couldn't show it in front of Sheryl.

Anthony felt awkward during the dinner. He tried to say something several times but he couldn't find his voice. He felt uneasy because of Nancy's presence.

After dinner, Nancy induced Shirley to go to her room for a bath. She intentionally wanted to leave Sheryl and Anthony alone to give them the privacy to talk.

But before they entered Shirley's room, she said to Sheryl, "Just leave the table and the dishes. I'll clean them up after I tuck Shirley to bed."

"Okay," Sheryl replied with a smile. Sheryl felt that her life got much easier with Nancy by her side.

"When did you hire this nanny?" Anthony asked Sheryl when Nancy left.

"Just a few days ago," Sheryl answered. "I have to work every day and nobody can help me take care of Shirley so I decided to hire a nanny for her," she explained.

"Nancy really does a good job and she cooks very well. Shirley likes her so much."

"I can see it," Anthony said with a slight nod. Then he sat up straight and looked at Sheryl. "Sher, I came here to say something to you."

"I know." Sheryl nodded slightly. Based on Anthony's actions since earlier, Sheryl could already guess that Anthony had something to say. "What do you want to say?" she asked.

After a few days of contemplation, Anthony realized his mistakes. He knew Sheryl would not betray him. He was just overwhelmed with jealousy when he found out that Sheryl got involved with Charles.

He lost his temper and said a lot of harsh words. He was aware that he had hurt Sheryl's feeling and he was very regretful.

In addition to that, Sheryl caught him getting out of Sue's apartment twice. He felt like he had done too much to hurt Sheryl so he must apologize. That was why he decided to come here today.

It was said that the one who gives way first in a relationship loves more than the other does. Anthony thought it was right. He didn't want to lose Sheryl so he would like to be the first to give way.

"Sher, I was terribly wrong that day," he started. "I didn't control my emotion and I was very harsh on you." He paused for a while before he continued, "I was too nervous then after you went missing for one night. A lot of things came into my mind. But now I realize, I was just overthinking. However, I've already said those harsh words to you. I hope you can forgive me."

"I understand how you feel." Sheryl nodded understandingly. The reason why Sheryl understood

Anthony's feeling was because she also felt the same way when she saw him come out of Sue's apartment. Sheryl felt uncomfortable but she tried her best to keep calm, "I won't blame you because I understand your feeling."

"Really?" Anthony asked with rapture. Anthony looked at Sheryl happily but he felt a little disappointed when he couldn't see any expression from her face.

Sheryl nodded. Anthony kept quiet for a while. He was lost in thought. A few moments later, he spoke again, "The second reason why I came here is to... explain to you about Sue."

He swallowed slightly, looking very nervous.

"Actually Sue and I are just friends. There is nothing between us. Those two times that you saw me come out of her apartment were just coincidental. The first time was, she got drunk so I needed to accompany her and the second time was it was me who got drunk and fell asleep. But nothing untoward had happened. Please trust me," Anthony explained with confidence.

Sheryl nodded and replied, "I already know about it. Sue told me."

"Has she explained to you?" Anthony was surprised. He didn't expect Sue to take the initiative to explain to Sheryl. He felt grateful to her.

Sheryl nodded in confirmation. Then she said, "Anthony, this problem between us wouldn't have existed if you've only trusted me enough. Actually, even if you didn't come here today, I will still find some time to have a talk with you."

Sheryl looked Anthony in the eyes and continued,"I believe that there is nothing between you and Sue because I trust you. But what about you? You didn't give me the same trust. I don't understand why you just can't believe me."

'Because he was the man that you used to love. He is Shirley's father. How can I compete with him in your heart?' he thought.

Anthony smiled bitterly and answered,"Maybe I was just too concerned about you."

Anthony also looked into her eyes and said,"Sher, I promise you, I will never make the same mistake again. I will try my best to believe you."

Chapter 679 Undercurrent

Sheryl nodded. In fact she was touched by what Nancy had said that day. Life is short, so we all should take our time to go wherever we want, to do whatever we always want and to say I love you to the people we love, in case we regret it in the future. In short, she said that we should live our lives in the most fulfilling way.

Anthony was like that, so was Charles.

But since she was already with Anthony, she had to sincerely fulfill her duty to him as his girlfriend.

Charles could only be regarded as a friend.

So she looked at Anthony and said, "Anthony, I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Anthony asked in a casual tone.

"You know, BM Corporation is doing business with Shining Company nowadays. I have to be in contact with them and maybe I'll meet Charles often. You have told me to stay away from him, but this is for work. I promise you that he's just a good friend. I had lunch with Charles today. You have got to trust me that we did not say or do anything crossing the line."

"That's okay. I believe you." Anthony smiled. Sheryl had spoken frankly and honestly, so he knew there was nothing to worry about.

He said, "Well, I have been thinking about inviting Charles for lunch tomorrow? He looked after you while I wasn't home, after all. I want to thank him and apologize for the fight."

That lunch would surely be very embarrassing, but Anthony pretended to be very expectant and happy about it.

Sheryl was happy with the suggestion. She would like to see the two of them getting along well with each other. She agreed at once.

"Good. Then I'll book the restaurant and send you a message informing you about it. It's getting late now and you need to rest. I'm leaving," Anthony said.

Sheryl obediently nodded and said, "Okay. Have a safe drive."

The boring training and rehearsals continued the next day. Sheryl received a message from Anthony close to lunch time. He had reserved a table in a French restaurant near her company. Sheryl frowned when she saw the message.

She knew that the restaurant he had selected was very posh and pricey. Having a meal in such a luxurious place seemed to be very ostentatious.

But Sheryl did not figure out Anthony's real intentions. She just thought he was like any other man. He was trying to show off as being rich and strong.

Sheryl came out and found Charles waiting for her at the door. Charles walked up to her and said, "I want to take you to an old and favourite restaurant of mine today, okay?"

But Sheryl said no. Charles frowned and looked at her. "Why not? You have agreed to lunch with me everyday, haven't you?"

"Yes, I have. But it's not up to you to pay for it every time, right? I've already reserved a table at a good restaurant. The lunch is on me today, okay?"

Charles smiled warmly and nodded. He didn't discuss anything further and followed her to the restaurant.

Anthony was already waiting there. He sat beside the window, so Charles instantly saw him and frowned again. No wonder he found it a bit weird when Sheryl had said she had made lunch reservations.

Anthony stood up and greeted them. He pulled Sheryl by his side and glanced at Charles as he did so.

He wanted to give Charles a clear sign that Sheryl was his girlfriend. They had fought over that earlier, but at then they were both there as Sheryl's guests. So no one wanted to ruin the atmosphere.

Anthony was so defiant.

Charles suppressed his anger. He knew that he would lose if he blew up.

That was exactly what Anthony wanted. Also, he realized that was the purpose of the meal. So he must control himself.

Sheryl didn't notice any undercurrent in their expressions. She didn't sense the strong emotions behind

their politeness. Sheryl looked at Charles and said, "Mr. Lu, I'd like you to meet my boyfriend Anthony."

Charles first extended his hand and Anthony politely took it. When they shook hands, it was as if they were actually hand wrestling. The two men were fighting again, but the others couldn't see.

They were fighting like two sullen kids, but both men pretended to be moderate.

Anthony smirked and said, "Hello, glad to meet you again. I heard Sher speak of you many times.

Finally, we meet in person."

"Did you really? I am happy that Sheryl talks of me." Charles smiled but held Anthony's hand tighter.

"But Sheryl does not often mention you in my presence."

Sheryl didn't know what they meant, so she urged, "What are you guys doing? Just sit down, okay?"

Anthony let go of Charles' hand and sat beside Sheryl. She turned to him and asked, "Have you ordered the food?"

"Of course, I have," Anthony replied and informed her that all the dishes ordered were her favorites.

In fact, Anthony had ordered far too many expensive dishes. He was afraid to be looked down on by

Charles, who was a rich man. Thus he was spending far too much money than was needed.

Soon their food was served. Sheryl was satisfied with the dishes Anthony had ordered. Anthony wanted to show how much he cared for Sheryl and he kept putting more food into Sheryl's bowl. He murmured, "You need to eat more, you're too slim."

Charles frowned looking at them and he then ordered a salad for Sheryl.

Anthony sneered, "Mr. Lu, it's my treat today, so just tell me if you need anything. Sheryl is non vegetarian and she may not like the salad you ordered."

"But she is on a diet these days, because she has to be in good shape for the stage show." Charles questioned him, "As her boyfriend you don't even know that, do you? You should pay more attention to her."

Anthony paused. He was so intent on his fight with Charles that he had forgotten Sheryl was on a diet.

That was why she had not touched any of the food in front of her.

Sheryl smiled and cupped the salad bowl with her hands. "I will have the salad. For my work, I need to maintain my slim figure."

Anthony touched her hair lightly and said, "Okay."

When he said that he glanced at Charles. He thought, 'Maybe you know her more than me, so what?'

She's my girl now. I can even kiss her in public, how about you?'

Charles didn't look up, but he clenched his fists. It was as if he could read Anthony's thoughts.

He was so angry that he wished the man would disappear.

Anthony smiled and said,"Look, I have to say thank you for looking after Sher these days. There was a small quarrel between us and she had been upset with me. Now, we have talked it over and there is no misunderstanding between us any more. With all due respect, you helped her a lot during that difficult phase. So allow me to give you my best regards today. I shall join Sher in saying a big thank you to you."

Chapter 680 Sheryl's Humble Abode

Anthony's use of endearing words toward Sheryl left Charles greatly annoyed and jealous.

However, he had to hold it in and address Anthony politely.

Both of them maintained a respectful tone around each other while in the presence of Sheryl.

Sheryl casually ate about a quarter of her veggie salad and then decided to leave.

"Why not have more?" Anthony asked in surprise. He could not understand Sheryl's haste.

"I need to hurry; I wouldn't want to be late again," explained Sheryl. She could not afford another tardy

arrival at work.

So Anthony offered to give her a ride to her workplace.

Seeing an opportunity, Charles intervened, "Anthony, I know you need to go back to work as well.

Sheryl's workplace is actually on my way back. I can drive her for you; it's no problem." As if certain

about it, Charles rose up from his chair and put on his coat, ready to drive Sheryl.

Anthony's eyes narrowed at that gesture. His fists tightened but he decided to keep his composure.

With a smirk, he kindly declined, "Thank you for offering, Mr. Lu, but I can take her myself." Charles was

definitely stepping on his toes, and he wasn't just going to back off.

He straightened up and went over to Sheryl's side, almost as if in an attempt to claim his territory.

Looking at her lovingly, Anthony added, "Sheryl is my girlfriend and I am responsible for her safety. She

would never be a burden for me."

Sheryl, however, thought it would be best if she went with Charles. Smiling at Anthony, she refused his

offer politely, "I think Charles is right. My workplace is on his way. It would take you more than one hour

to get back to work if you drop me off first, not to mention all the traffic you'd run into. Don't worry about

it, really. Charles can take me there this time." Perhaps, unbeknownst to her even, time management was not the only reason she was intent on going with Charles. She was starting to appreciate his company more than she would have cared to admit.

Disappointed, Anthony tried to protest her decision. However, only a simple "But..." came out of his mouth. Charles's joyful look left him quite upset but he didn't want to give him the satisfaction of seeing him argue with Sheryl. So he didn't continue his train of thought.

In an effort to comfort him, Sheryl grabbed his hand and, with a squeeze, assured him that she would be okay. Smiling, she thanked him once more and immediately turned her face to Charles asking him to hurry.

"Okay," replied Charles nodding. He was immensely pleased with her decision. He didn't care to speculate about the real reason for it. He was just happy to be leaving with her.

"Mr. Lu," Anthony added before allowing them to leave, "please take good care of her." His face was serious, almost threatening.

"You can put your mind at rest. Nothing will happen to Sheryl while she's with me," replied Charles confidently. He sensed Anthony's hostility but did not care much for it.

What he really wanted to reply was 'You have no idea what I am willing to do for her!'

Anthony also could sense that there was more in Charles' mind but decided against investigating into it at that time. So he settled for watching his girlfriend walk away with Charles.

In the car, Charles took advantage of the situation and asked Sheryl to allow him to drive her back home once she was off work. Sheryl agreed and Charles followed through with his request.

Once dropped off in front of her apartment, Sheryl thought it courteous to invite Charles in for dinner.

Charles was not sure how to proceed. He didn't want to miss such an opportunity but was also afraid that moving too far too soon would scare her away.

So he hesitantly answered, "I wouldn't want to bother you." Sheryl appreciated his reply.

She smiled and encouraged him in saying, "It's no bother at all! You're welcome to my humble abode, although it may not offer the comforts you are used to."

"I wouldn't think anything of it," Charles stated reassuringly. He wanted to go buy some fruits from a vendor down the street as a first-time visitor gift. However, Sheryl refused. So he promised to instead send her a few toys for Shirley later on.

Once inside, Charles wondered about Shirley's safety during Sheryl's working hours.

"She has a great babysitter," explained Sheryl. She could not stop praising the babysitter, explaining

how she had been working for them for a long time. Sheryl couldn't be happier about the extraordinary

job Nancy did, not only with Shirley but also around the house.

"Really?" Charles commented rhetorically. He was relieved by Sheryl's answer and decided not to

inquire any further. Nancy was keeping herself busy cooking in the kitchen, while Shirley was playing

on the ground. Upon seeing Charles, she jumped into his arms. Charles reciprocated the embrace

tightly, in a fatherly manner.

Noticing a slight disappointment in her eyes, he asked her if she was expecting to see Charlie with him.

"Yes, I did," Shirley replied shyly. Her sadness was obvious from her tone as well.

Charles proceeded to justify himself right away, "Charlie is at home. I wasn't expecting to stay over for

dinner so I didn't bring him with me." He then looked deeply into her eyes and realized his justifications

were not helping much.

So he decided to comfort her by promising to bring Charlie over the next day.

That way he would hit two birds with one stone: make Shirley happy and get to see Sheryl again.

Shirley's disappointment turned into excitement immediately. "You promise?" she asked.

"Of course!" Charles answered firmly. "I give you my word," he added.

Sheryl put away Shirley's toys and then addressed Charles, "Shirley's bond with Charlie is quite unique.

You don't have to bring him over, though, if it's too much trouble."

Sheryl didn't want Charles to feel obligated to listen to Shirley.

"It's no trouble at all! I never make promises I can't keep. Besides, Charlie also enjoys playing with her,"

insisted Charles excitedly. He was also set on having Sheryl grow fonder of Charlie and strengthen

their bond.

So he decided to emphasize, "Charlie really enjoys spending time with you too, by the way. He would

be very happy to see you again, as long as you are okay with it as well." Charles' expression seemed

honest; so Sheryl agreed for him to come over the following day.

She then walked toward the kitchen to see if Nancy needed any help.

"No thanks. I can manage it," she replied bluntly. Sheryl noticed that something was not right about her.

She was right, in fact. Nancy had heard Charles' voice from the kitchen. Even though it had been three

years since the last time she heard it, she could still recognize it. She wasn't really sure what to do about it.

Thus, she decided to retreat herself to the kitchen.

After a few seconds of hesitation, Sheryl finally inquired about the her well-being. Nancy was surprised by how perceptive she was.

In an attempt to dissipate her worries, she smiled and answered, "I am well; don't worry." Given how well Sheryl knew her, Nancy realized she had to do better than that; so she added, "I may have caught a cold last night but it's nothing to worry about."

She then quickly urged Sheryl to leave the kitchen to avoid getting the smell into her clothes. She also mentioned wanting to prepare some extra dishes for her guest.

Even though still skeptical, Sheryl didn't want to pry any longer. So she commented affectionately, "Okay, take your time, Nancy. Just let me know if you need anything." With a smile, she turned around and left the kitchen.

At a loss as to how to handle the situation, Nancy took a few seconds to contemplate. She went ahead and prepared two dishes that she remembered Charles liked. She then waited for the opportune

moment, when Charles wasn't around, to come out of the kitchen and set up the dining table.

"These dishes are delicious!" remarked Charles. From the moment he smelled them, he was pleasantly impressed. So Sheryl encouraged him to eat more.