

Wedded Bride 761

Chapter 761 Come Back

Sheryl smiled and told Shirley, "Alright then, how about this? You be a good girl and have your breakfast. Once you finish it, I'll take you to meet a very pretty older sister. Be nice to her and answer all her questions. After that, I'll take you to play with Charlie. Okay?"

Her eyes lighting up, Shirley nodded in agreement.

Sheryl was deeply moved to see that Shirley was willing to listen to her with an open mind.

After breakfast, Sheryl took Shirley to a psychologist. She was fairly young yet Sheryl trusted her as she was recommended by Arthur.

Sheryl waited by the door after leading Shirley to the treatment room.

She was quite curious about what was happening inside, but she had no choice but to wait quietly outside.

The entire session lasted for one and a half hour. When the psychologist came out with Shirley, she squatted down to talk to Shirley, "Shirley, we made a deal, right?"

She reached out her little finger for Shirley to hold. After some hesitation, Shirley eventually reached out tentatively to hold her finger. A trace of smile appeared on her face, but quickly faded away.

Sheryl was stunned to see this.

The doctor then stood up and talked to Sheryl, "Don't be anxious. Her condition is not that critical. Take an appointment for the same time next week. Bring Shirley to me. We will treat her for one month first and see if there is any improvement."

"Doctor Lin, thank you and I am sorry for troubling you so much," Sheryl said with a sad smile.

"Please don't say that. It is my duty as a doctor to help my patients," Doctor Lin looked at Sheryl and said. "You have come on Doctor Zhao's reference. I owe my career to Doctor Zhao. If it were not for him, I would not be a doctor today. Now, it is my turn to repay his generosity."

She smiled kindly and continued, "After you go back, talk to her often and encourage her to tell you what she is thinking about. The more she talks, the better she will be able to express her emotions and to vent her negative feelings. That will help her mental well-being and help her swift recovery."

She paused and then advised further, "You need to set a good example yourself. Control your temper.

No matter how bitter or distressed you feel, do not reveal it to her. You are the most important person in

her life and you must influence her positively. She subconsciously will follow all the cues you give her."

"Sure, I will keep that in mind. Thanks for making me understand," Sheryl agreed with a nod.

Shirley firmly grasped Sheryl's hand when they came out of the hospital. She tugged at it but remained silent. Sheryl knew that Shirley was reminding her about Charlie.

Sheryl squatted down, looked into Shirley's eyes, and said patiently, "Shirley, I know that you want to go to Charlie, but before that you have to promise me one more thing."

Shirley inclined her head slightly and looked at her mom with confusion.

"From now on you have to tell me what you want in words. No sign language or pointing and nodding,"

Sheryl said. "You have to talk to me or I will not respond to you, okay?"

As Shirley was trying to grasp her words, Sheryl made it even clearer. "Now... tell me, do you want to meet Charlie?"

Shirley hesitated and then she slowly nodded. Noticing her mom starting to raise her eyebrows, Shirley eventually opened her mouth and murmured a extremely soft "yes".

Sheryl was relieved to hear Shirley speak. The one word from her daughter expelled her hopelessness away. She hugged Shirley tightly and immediately came to Dream Garden, where Charlie was.

Only Gary and Charlie were at home. They were playing chess. Seeing Shirley, Charlie dropped his chess piece right away and ran towards her. He held her hand and gently pulled her forward into the room.

The two kids soon went to the courtyard to play. Gary also put his piece down and asked Sheryl to sit.

"Sheryl, about Shirley, I have heard about it. I am so sorry, my dear." Gary sighed. Then he continued,

"It was all our fault. We caused you so much suffering. Even now you are taking care of her all by yourself. I don't know how all this happened and why. I will never forgive my..."

"Grandpa, don't say that..." Forcing a smile on her face, Sheryl said, "In fact, I am responsible for this. If

I had not taken the drug, all the things afterwards would not have happened. Luckily, things are settled now and are starting to turn better. Don't blame yourself."

"How can I not blame myself!" Gary smiled wryly and said, "See now it is... difficult for you to look after Shirley by yourself. Why not come back to live here with Shirley, in your own house? After you left, your room has remained untouched. Just a couple of days back, Charles got Shirley's room ready. You can settle in easily when you choose to come back."

"No Grandpa, please do not make this request again," Sheryl refused with a smile on her face. Though

she had recovered most of her memories, she was unwilling to become Autumn again. She had a life as Sheryl now and could not accept to live in Dream Garden.

"Shirley and I are perfectly fine where we are. We have become accustomed to living on our own. We are very comfortable and face no inconvenience," Sheryl said flatly and in an emotionless voice.

Gary refrained from saying anything more. He knew that he was not in the best position to get involved in matters of the younger generation. Also, he was very confident that Charles knew best and would handle all that.

"Well then. If you don't wish to move back, I won't force you." Gary stood up and said, "Anyway, remember that whenever you want to come back, the doors of this house are always open for you."

"Thank you, Grandpa." Sheryl nodded with a warm smile.

After Gary went to his room to rest, Sheryl wandered into the courtyard. Nancy had planted vegetables in a small space that she had cleared out. Shirley was interested to see the tiny sprouts and insisted on helping Nancy water the vegetable patch. Charlie ran inside and brought out a small kettle to water the plants. The kids were having great fun playing together and enjoying themselves. Sheryl finally saw a

rare smile on Shirley's face after many days.

Nacy followed them around as she was worried that they might slip and get injured. "Oh my dear! Be careful. Don't slip and fall. You will break your bones."

"Nacy, calm down. Don't worry so much. Let them play for a while. It doesn't matter," Sheryl said as she walked up to Nacy.

Sheryl knew that Nacy was worried about the children. She smiled and offered, "I'll take care of them here. You can go and attend to your other work."

"Okay then. If it is fine with you, I can go in and prepare some food. My work is not yet complete." Nacy nodded and briskly walked into the house.

Shortly after Nacy left, Chris and Sam came. They were surprised to see her there as they didn't know that Sheryl had recovered.

"Autu..." Chris almost said but fortunately she caught herself in time and swallowed back her words.

She walked to Sheryl and asked, "Miss Xia, how come you are here? Where is my brother?"

"He is at work, I think. Shirley wanted to play with Charlie, so I brought her here," Sheryl spoke in a flat tone and did not display any emotion.

Chris then noticed the two kids who were laughing away as they sprayed water on themselves and the plants. Their clothes were fully wet and muddy. She hurried to call out, "Charlie, take care of your little sister."

"I will Auntie. Don't worry," Charlie replied in his clear voice.

Chapter 762 Confession

Chris glanced at Sheryl and said, "I have to discuss an important matter with Grandpa. I will just go in and talk to him. Give me a few minutes and I will be back soon."

Chris then went inside looking for Gary. Sam and Sheryl were left standing in the courtyard. "Sheryl, I heard about Shirley's condition. I am happy to see her better now," Sam said politely.

Bad news travelled fast. A bitter expression descended on her face.

Sam noticed her expression and explained, "I did not mean to offend you. I just wanted to tell you that you can ask for my help if needed."

"Thank you, Sam. That is kind of you," Sheryl said in a mild tone.

Sam was amazed. He could tell that Sheryl's attitude was different towards him. He looked at her face and stammered, "You... You have..."

"Yes, my memory has come back." Sheryl delivered this news to him with a smile. "How time flies!

Sam, you are also a father now. Many congratulations!"

"Your memory has really come back, right? Oh, that is the best news I have heard in a long time." Sam

hugged her immediately in rapture. "Sheryl, I have been praying for this miracle for a long time. Oh

God! I am so happy," he said.

Sam embraced her so tightly, like he was afraid that she would go missing once again if he released

her. He asked Sheryl nervously, "Why didn't you tell me earlier? Do you know I was so worried about

you?"

Sheryl said with a laugh, "I know Sam, I know."

Then she patted Sam's back and teased, "Release me now or Chris will be very jealous if she sees

this."

Sam's sad look vanished. He released Sheryl immediately and glanced at her laughing loudly. He said,

"Haha! You still remember that Chris was always jealous when she saw you with me back then."

"Of course. That is one of my clearest memories," Sheryl teased with a smile.

She felt relaxed in Sam's company and was comforted by the warmth he displayed to her.

Soon, Chris came running out. Gary had told her that Sheryl had recovered her memory. She saw them talking and laughing and she ran and hugged Sheryl immediately.

With tears in her eyes, she dramatically asked Sheryl, "Why didn't you tell me all this? I missed you so much. Oh, I am the happiest person alive today!"

Sheryl looked at Chris with soft eyes and consoled, "Chris, stop crying for heaven's sake. Shirley and Charlie will mock you if they see you crying like this. I knew Gary would tell you and I just wanted to see this reaction of yours. I missed you too."

Chris stopped crying finally. Her mood lifted and she instantly began planning to set right and rebuild the relationship between Sheryl and Charles. "Sheryl, now that your memory has recovered, will you and Shirley move back in with Charles?" she pleaded.

She gripped Sheryl's hand and added, "He is so lonely without you. The past three years have been a torture for my poor brother. You have to come back, so you..."

"Chris!" Sam interrupted Chris when he saw Sheryl's embarrassed expression. "Just let Sheryl make the decision for herself. We should not concern ourselves about it."

"But..." Chris was confused. Sheryl and Charles were a couple. Chris thought it was very natural to expect Sheryl to live with her husband.

"Chris." Sheryl heaved a deep sigh and said to Chris, "Just let me deal with this matter in the way your brother and I see fit. No offence but so much has happened and I cannot become Autumn again. "

Chris was rendered speechless as she heard Sheryl's words. "Fine," she said unhappily.

Chris invited Sheryl for lunch. Sheryl had no appetite as she was still tense about Shirley. She politely refused and begged them to excuse her.

Andy went to Anthony's house and kept a lookout for him. His appointment with Abby was soon. He waited and kept an eye out for Anthony at the gate. He finally caught him as soon as he came there.

Anthony was surprised when he saw Andy. "Andy! Hello! What are you doing here?"

"I have been looking out for you for several days. Luckily, I have finally found you." Andy was exasperated and his tone was annoyed. "I want to let you know that I can't keep your secret any more.

Things have changed now. I hope you will forgive me for that."

He glanced at Anthony and said, "I had agreed to keep your secret safe because I knew you really

loved Autumn. I thought that it was good for all concerned, particularly the two of you. I hoped you both

would find happiness together. Things have changed now. So much has happened that nothing is in my control now."

He shrugged and added, "I never expected you to try to rape her. Her whole family is shocked, especially Abby. So..."

"I understand. I know things have changed now Andy." Anthony smiled bitterly and said, "I am truly sorry for my misconduct that night. I was drunk and not in my senses then."

He said earnestly, "I threatened you three years ago to keep my secret safe. Yet, you are concerned about me and have come to warn me that my secret is going to be revealed to all soon. I really appreciate you for this."

He sighed deeply and added, "I understand your predicament. Your wife is Sheryl's aunt after all. If push comes to shove, you are free to reveal that secret. Anyway, its time has come and it will be known to everyone soon."

Anthony was resigned to his fate now. He knew his game was up and his true face was about to be revealed sooner or later.

In a heavy and weary voice, Andy said, "Okay Anthony. I have to leave now. I have finished saying what I came to say. Take care of yourself. I wish you all the best and may God protect you."

Andy directly went home from Anthony's house. Abby had been anxiously waiting for him and she gripped his hand tightly as soon as she saw him. She was a nervous wreck and asked, "When will you tell me all that you know? I have lost my peace of mind and am unable to sleep properly because of your secret. Andy, please be honest with me and tell me everything frankly. I think I will have a nervous breakdown soon as I am going mad with worry and tension."

Andy patted her hand and said awkwardly, "Abby, take it easy. I have promised to tell you everything and I will do as I said."

He gripped Abby's hand lovingly and said, "Let's go find Mom and Dad now. I want to reveal the whole story in their presence. They have a right to know."

Abby felt somewhat reassured when she heard Andy's words. When they reached her parents' house they found Amy cooking and Arthur talking to a doctor on the phone. He was discussing various treatment options for Shirley.

Abby was embarrassed as she called them to the living room. "Mom and Dad, please come and sit

here. Andy and I want to tell you something."

"Abby, what has happened dear? Why are you looking so serious? You are looking very anxious too."

Amy frowned as she sensed something deep was going to be discussed. She instantly assumed the worst seeing their upset faces.

"Mom, it is about Sheryl. Andy and I are fine. It is not about us." Abby looked at her parents with shameful eyes and they were both surprised to hear their daughter's words.

Arthur and Amy exchanged a glance. Then Amy took charge. She glanced at Andy and Abby and said,

"Just sit down first. Have you both eaten? We can eat first and then talk."

"No, thanks. We are fine and just want to talk to you both. Andy has something to say," Abby answered for her husband. As Andy's wife she felt obliged to face the aftermath of his confession. Though she herself would be hearing about it for the first time and had no part to play in it, she somehow felt guilty.

She would bear the consequences with Andy no matter what punishment her parents chose to give him.

Chapter 763 Another Child

Amy and Arthur began to realize the change in the atmosphere, so Amy tried to ease the tension. She

gave them a rigid smile and said, "Come on, don't be so serious, and take it easy, okay?"

Andy looked at them. "Dad, Mom, Abby had nothing to do with this. It was all on me. It was all my fault," he explained.

Arthur frowned and interrupted Andy. "Enough! I don't care whose fault it was, I just want to know the truth and what it has to do with Sheryl. Tell me about it."

Andy struggled with himself on whether he should tell them. But after a while, he decided to tell them what had happened three years ago. Amy and Arthur were shocked to hear the story of how Andy had concealed the fact that Sheryl was still alive because of the deal between him and Anthony.

Andy tearfully looked at the two of them. "Dad, Mom, I know that you must be disappointed in me. I dare not to ask for your forgiveness, but please let me explain why I did what I did. I didn't have a choice. I did what I had to do to save my son. Back then, Sheryl insisted on concealing her whereabouts. And Anthony was so nice to her. I thought he could take good care of her. So I..."

Amy couldn't help but interrupt him, "How could he... How could he threaten you with that? I thought that he was a good man, but now I know that I was wrong."

Amy's anger was seemingly directed at Anthony. Andy was unsure, but tentatively asked anyway,

"Mom, so you're not mad at me, are you?"

He looked at Arthur but couldn't tell if he was angry or not, and this made him anxious.

He continued, "Look, I know it was my fault, so whatever you say to me, I'll take it."

Abby agreed. "Look Mom, Dad. We know you're mad. Whatever you're feeling, if you're mad at us or disappointed, we understand."

Amy sighed. "Andy, yes, you did wrong. But it was for Rick. I can't just blame you for doing what you thought was right for Rick. But being Sheryl's grandmother, I'm really..."

Amy stopped talking suddenly, a sudden pain radiating in her chest. She leaned against the back of the couch with one hand in her chest. Abby rushed up to hold her. "Mom, are you okay?" she asked worriedly. "What is it? How do you feel?"

"Go get her pills, hurry!" Arthur shouted at Abby. Abby ran to Amy's room to get her medicine and water. Amy took both with shaking hands, struggling to drink her medicine. After a few silent moments passed, she began breathing normally and felt better.

Andy looked at his mother-in-law, staring helplessly. While he stood by his decision, he felt very guilty,

for what he caused.

Arthur looked at him in understanding. "Andy, no matter what you have done, it's all in the past. Sheryl

has returned and Rick is okay now. This is what's important, isn't it?

So there's no need to dig up everything. But there is one thing I need to know and I hope that you can

tell me the truth," he said.

Andy nodded. "Of course. What is it?" Andy couldn't help but feel relieved. All those years, all he

thought was that his parents-in-law would blame him for everything that had happened.

"Where is Sheryl's other child?" Arthur asked. Amy raised her head and looked at Andy, waiting for his

reply.

Andy struggled with himself. He was unsure whether he should tell them that the other child was

Charlie. He looked at Amy and Arthur with hesitation.

Abby looked up at him and said, "Well, just say it. There's no point in keeping it a secret anymore."

Andy nodded slightly. With a deep breath, he finally told them everything. As he explained that Charlie

was the other child, they were all dumbfounded.

Abby couldn't believe what she heard. "No, no, no. How is that possible? Charlie is Leila's. And doing

the math, Charlie's age wouldn't be right," she said.

Andy looked at them and tried to explain. "Sheryl told me that Leila took the child away. Leila must have changed the date of birth on his record to make Charles believe that Charlie is their child."

They all sat in silence, shocked at the news. Amy started to regret how she treated the child, who was her own great-grandson.

"You... You should have told us earlier," Amy said.

Andy nodded slightly. "I know, Mom. I've been feeling bad about it ever since and I'm sorry." He then turned to Arthur. "Dad, shouldn't we tell Sheryl about this? Her memory about her other child hasn't come back yet. She doesn't really know about Charlie."

Arthur thought long and hard before speaking, "No, at least not now. She has already been going through so much with Shirley. If we tell her about Charlie now, it will be too much for her to handle."

Andy agreed. "This is my fault, Dad. This is my responsibility."

Arthur stood up and placed his hand on Andy's shoulder in comfort. "That's all right. It's no use trying to punish anyone. What you can do is to make it up to Sheryl."

Andy promised that he would try his best to make up for Sheryl. And then he paused a bit and asked,

"Ah, should I tell Charles about it?"

Arthur thought about it for a while and said to Andy, "Let me think about it and we'll see what to do,

okay?"

Arthur was happy indeed when he learned that he had another great-grandson.

Especially when he thought about his cute face.

But his name needed to be changed as soon as possible.

Andy felt extremely relieved, talking about the secret he had been keeping all those years. He knew

Abby felt free, too. The only problem now was how to explain it to Sheryl.

Amy smiled bitterly and said, "It's fortunate that Charlie is close to Sheryl. It will be hard but at least

there will be some way for her to make it up to him. How could I not have recognized that he is Sheryl's

child?"

Arthur held Amy by her shoulders, trying to comfort her. "That's okay. He looks only like Charles but not

Sheryl at all, so no one can make a guess who his mother is."

The secret that Andy unraveled shook the entire Zhao family. They didn't know how to react, much

more, they didn't know how they would talk to Sheryl about it.

Later that evening, Sheryl came back with Shirley. When she saw Anthony waiting for her by the door, she turned around and started to walk away.

Anthony rushed up to her and said, "Sher, let's talk, okay?"

"I don't want to talk to you. Leave me alone." Sheryl continued on her way, walking past him.

Chapter 764 An Unsuccessful Talk

Sheryl hastily carried Shirley in her arms and said to Anthony, "Please, leave us now. I don't want to see you anymore."

She was again afraid that Shirley would be stimulated by Anthony's presence. So she hugged Shirley tightly. Her whole body trembled.

"Sher..." Anthony said with a bitter smile. Then he continued, "I can bear your hatred or dissatisfaction towards me. But straightaway avoiding me just wouldn't solve the problem at all. I just want to have a talk with you and clarify things. Even if you want to... you want to end our relationship, we should have closure before the breakup, shouldn't we?"

Sheryl hesitated for a while and then finally nodded her head slightly. "Okay, I can give you only half an

hour. Is that enough?"

"That's long enough." Anthony kept on nodding after hearing her positive answer. As long as she was willing to discuss with him, he would not mind whether the time was long or short.

Then Anthony and Sheryl headed toward a small park next to the apartment. Sheryl let her daughter play on the nearby swing. They just sat on one of the adjacent stone benches and watched Shirley play. Sheryl fixed her eyes on Shirley. Actually, she didn't want to have a chat with Anthony at all.

Eventually, Anthony opened his mouth and broke the silence, "Shirley... Has she felt better now?"

"I think, you have seen her conditions," Sheryl replied with an ironic grin. "She doesn't talk or smile now. The doctor said she has had slight autism."

"I'm so sorry. I..." Anthony smiled sadly and sincerely expressed his regret. He had never thought that his behaviors after getting drunk could bring such big harm to Shirley mentally.

"Anthony, please don't say sorry to me again. It's too late. That word can't make up for anything at all now," Sheryl said impatiently. She had been tired of listening to his apology. To be honest, she agreed to talk to Anthony because she merely wanted to clearly end their relationship.

Anthony's face turned red out of embarrassment after he heard her words. He glanced at Sheryl and

exclaimed, "I know you really hate me now. But Sheryl, whatever I have done, I did so because I love you so much. I didn't know what I should do just to keep you at that time. So I have to..."

"Love me? So much?" Sheryl interrupted with an ironic smile. "If your behaviors were the reflection of your love, then Anthony, your love is so selfish and really scary. I just can't afford your love," Sheryl frankly continued.

Although Anthony turned gloomy upon hearing her words, he maintained his temper and explained, "Sher, I didn't mean to do what happened that night. The drunkenness and your aloof attitude had made me do the wrong thing. I really... I really don't know what to do and how to make it up to you now."

"Anthony, I'm not talking about what happened that night," she tilted her face and coldly replied. She glimpsed at Anthony and suddenly surmised that the man standing in front of her was so strange.

"So, what are you talking about then?" Anthony furrowed his brows and inquired in bewilderment. "I know that you have regained your memory. And you must also have known your real identity now. But you should always remember who kept on accompanying you all these years? Who took care of you

and Shirley all the way? Sheryl, where's your conscience?" Anthony lengthily added.

"That's precisely right, Anthony. But I have never denied, even in a single instance, what you have done for me and Shirley before. However, you should know that we became together because of your lie. Since the very first day when I opened my eyes after I had taken the pill, you told me that you were my boyfriend. For the past three years, I have lived in that lie. Could you know how pressured I felt earlier?" she interrogated bitterly.

"I lied to you because I love you. Why couldn't you understand that?" Anthony forced one corner of his mouth into a half-smile. "Even though I'd cheated you, you should realize how much I have done for you in the past three years. Why couldn't my efforts replace the outcome that was brought by that lie? Or, you are dissatisfied with me because of Charles?"

he asked with a sardonic smile.

"Anthony, what do you mean by that?" Sheryl hardened her expression when she heard his unreasonable accusation. Anthony obviously pushed her red button. She originally didn't want to mention Charles. But she never expected that Anthony would firstly speak about him.

"You should know what I mean," Anthony smirked as he replied. "We got along with each other very

well while abroad. But you insisted on coming back. You have been with Charles these past few days. I was happy that you came back. But then you tried every little thing just to break up with me. Sheryl, what I have done were all forced by your behaviors. It was you who indirectly caused all the shitty things that recently took place," he lamented in a calm voice.

"Enough with all the bullshit, Anthony!" Sheryl angrily interrupted his sharp words. She grinned in dissatisfaction. She never thought that Anthony would hold her accountable for everything. She said with a smug smile, "Anthony, you are irritatingly ridiculous."

"I'm irritating? I'm ridiculous? Alright, maybe I was always a ridiculous clown in your heart." Anthony laughed at himself pathetically. "When you needed me earlier, all you had to do was call me. I'd always be by your side to comfort you. But when you don't need me anymore, just like now, you just want to dump me. Have you ever considered my feelings?" The more questions that Anthony asked, the more bitter he felt inside.

Sheryl stood up and uttered to Anthony, "If these are what you want to say to me, then I have nothing to talk to you anymore."

After finishing her words, she turned around and was about to leave. Anthony immediately grabbed her arm and stated imploringly, "Sher, don't be angry, I know... I know I crossed the lines with what I said just now. But please, I beg you to understand me! I just don't want to break up with you."

He stared at Sheryl pathetically and continued, "Charles is not a good man. I knew it much clearer than anyone else. Sher, please just come back to me. We can continue to be together as if nothing had happened. I will be nice to both Shirley and you just like before. We can take Shirley overseas. We will seek for her treatment there. And we can stay there and never come back just like our old days. What do you think of it?"

He held Sheryl's hand tightly and begged her, "I have gone through so many things in the last few days. And I'm tired of it. I just want to spend my whole life with you. I don't want somebody like Charles to step in between us. Please trust me, you won't be happy if you choose to be with him."

"So you mean that I will be happy if I am with you?" Sheryl rebutted with a sarcastic smile.

Anthony paused for a second upon hearing her words. He gazed at Sheryl and even thought how she became so strange to him.

Sheryl fixed her eyes on Anthony and spoke in a faint voice, "Anthony, I once believed that I knew you

best. But I haven't realized that I actually didn't understand you at all until today. I don't know what kind of a person you are and don't even know how much of terrible things that you have done behind my back."

She looked at him and continued in despair, "Anthony, I can't be with a man like you. I truly don't understand you. That will surely make me feel... feel so terrible."

Anthony's expression turned grim with her refusal. He thought that what she alluded to was that thing Andy and him had done. So he instantly caught Sheryl's arm and hurriedly explained, "Sher, please listen to me, that thing was not what you have thought of."

"So how should I think of it? Sheryl queried directly as she shook Anthony's hand off her arm.

Chapter 765 Not As Good As Charles

Anthony stared into his empty hands as if he were hoping that, there, he could find the words he wanted to say. After a moment he said, "I fell in love with you that first moment that I saw you, but you were married to Charles, and carrying his child. It left me with no other choice but to bury my feelings for you deep in my heart where only I knew the truth."

Then, a rueful sigh escaped his lips, and he continued, "I had even planned to take myself on a long

trip abroad after you gave birth to the babies. Thinking, maybe, if I don't see you, I won't constantly feel this heart wrenching pain I feel every time I see you and know that I can't have you; maybe, my feelings for you will disappear over time, and then I can truly move on and start anew."

Unfortunately, fate had other things in mind, and his plans were interrupted by a disaster. Anthony

looked up at Sheryl, his eyes reflecting his anguish. He had never told anyone before about the

struggles he had been facing back then. But today, he wanted to let her know all of the things he had

endured, and every trial he had to deal with on his own.

"But I didn't expect you to be as determined as you were with taking the medicine. It allowed me to grasp at a glimmer of hope in the back of my mind. How could I leave you alone? So I..."

"So, finding out that I had lost my memory, you manipulated the situation, you lied to me, and told me you were my boyfriend? Does that sound a bit right?" demanded Sheryl with an emotionless nod. She

could understand what Anthony had done, but she could not, by any stretch of the imagination,

comprehend, nor stand the fact that he had framed Charles just so that he could be with her. What kind

of person could do that?

"Yes," Anthony replied in a tone not much louder than a whisper. She could clearly see traces of shame

and embarrassment strewed across his face. "Listen, honestly, I was hit with an insurmountable exhilaration when I learned that you had amnesia. Then, when I told you that I was your boyfriend, I did it almost without hesitation or thinking. I was being impulsive because I knew how I'd always wanted the opportunity with you, but was unable to pursue it because your heart belonged to another. I simply could not see my chance to finally do so, and let it... let you just pass me by."

Then he thought to himself, 'Now that I've told Sheryl this, there is no need for me to hide anything else.' He slowly took in a long, deep, centering breath and decided to come clean about the other bad things he had done privately. "I went above and beyond, doing everything in my power, to make sure that no one was able to find your whereabouts. Despite my best efforts, Andy started asking questions. He was suspicious and was sure I was hiding you. I knew Andy's son had a heart problem, so I used all my connections to help him find a replacement heart. My only request was that he should not reveal your whereabouts, and he agreed."

Sheryl was shocked and appalled to learn that Anthony and Andy had partaken in such collusion in secret.

With a tone so contemptuous, she could feel the chill as the words flowed from her lips, "You've really impressed me, Anthony." With a hint of disgust written all over her face, she stared intently right at him, silent for a moment.

Anthony stared right back at Sheryl looking mystified about what she had just said. It suddenly dawned on him that each of them was talking about two completely different things. And the fact that he had confessed the vile things he had done made him more confused. With an ashamed tone, Anthony asked, "Is... isn't that what you were talking about?"

"No, of course not, but... " Sheryl sniffed. "I never would have expected you to do such a thing. I am dumbfounded!"

Then she shot a quick glance at Anthony and added, "Anthony, I don't even know who you are anymore. No, better yet, I don't think I've ever really known you. How many of these selfish, manipulative, deceitful, and malicious things have you done?"

Anthony was silent. He had been willing to do anything he felt he had to do. To him, as long as he got to be with Sheryl, the end justified the means.

"I'm talking about Mr. Jiang of Eagle Group. You've got to be familiar with him as well, right?" Sheryl

asked in a sarcastic tone.

As soon as Sheryl mentioned this man, Anthony understood what she was talking about. He was very quick to jump to his own defense. "Sher, don't listen to Charles. he was talking nonsense. I don't know Mr. Jiang at all..."

"Who said anything about Charles," Sheryl interrupted his excuses. "Since you want to bring it up, then how did you know this is about Charles if you don't know Mr. Jiang? Tell me the truth!"

Anthony froze and silently scolded himself for being too eager to defend himself, which made him look that much more guilty. Looking at Sheryl in embarrassment, he explained, "The news that Charles and Judith were getting engaged was surfacing around Y City some time ago. How could I not have guessed that you're talking about Charles?"

"That's enough, Anthony!," Sheryl stopped him from continuing. She didn't want to go back and forth with Anthony any more. "I'm not a fool. I have my own mind. I know what I see. We all know what was going on, don't we?" she snapped.

After a brief pause, she continued, "Even if there was nothing you did about it, Shirley is autistic now

because of us. Besides, your mother is dead set against our marriage. Do you still think there's a possibility that there could still be a future for us?"

Sheryl gave a bitter smile, and concluded, "Anthony, just stop that now. It will work out better for both of

us."

"No! You can't mean that!" Anthony shook his head as he grabbed Sheryl's hand, afraid that she would leave. He looked at Sheryl with beseeching eyes, and vowed solemnly, "If you don't like what I did, then

I will never do it again, I promise. As for my mother, you don't have to care or worry about her thoughts.

This is a matter for you and me. It has nothing to do with her."

He tightened his grip on Sheryl's hand as he continued, "If you don't want to see her, we'll never live with her. Anyway, I can assure you that there will never be a time when there is anyone more important in my heart than you."

"Anthony, just forget about it." Sheryl glanced at Anthony. "There is no going back," she stated dryly.

"No, that's not true. We can, we can always go back!" Anthony felt a wave of panic spread through every fiber of his being as the reality of the situation was starting to set in. He tried again to give her

another option. "As long as you can let Charles go, we can go back. Sher, I don't care about what happened between you and Charles, I just want a future where you and I are together," he said, unable to hide his anxiety and fear.

Sheryl looked at Anthony wearily. "Now, you still think that we're having problems because of Charles?" she asked.

Completely oblivious to the facts, he gave a confident "Yes". "All of our problems are all about Charles.

I know that Charles means a lot to you. After all, he is Shirley's dad, but believe me, I will do better than him.

Have you forgotten that I have been the one with Shirley since she was born?"

"Anthony, that's enough. Just stop." Sheryl did not feel any anger, sadness, or regret at this point. She calmly looked at Anthony and said, "I agreed to see you today because I thought we needed to be able to formally say goodbye. You know, get some closure. You're right though. You did take care of me and Shirley for three years. I have been grateful for your thoughtfulness to Shirley and me all this time."

Looking into his eyes, she continued earnestly, "However, in the end, gratitude is not love. I tried, for three years, to make myself fall in love with you, but I failed. I never felt any kind of romantic connection

to you. At least now I know the reason."

With a heavy sigh, she added, "It's going to be hard for us to even remain friends, so I think it would be best if we do not keep in touch."

Anthony was stunned and taken aback by what Sheryl had said. After a moment's silence, he forced a smile and asked, "So... tell me please... even though I've been with you for three years, I'm still not as good as Charles?"

"Anthony, you don't have to compare yourself with Charles. You two are totally different people." Sheryl grimaced at his words. She could not understand why, for the life of her, Anthony had to drag Charles into everything between them. "I'm sure you'll meet the right person for you. I'm just not it. I wish you well."

With that, Sheryl broke free from Anthony's grip. Still, Anthony was reluctant to give up, but Sheryl had had enough of this. When Anthony grabbed her hand again, Sheryl immediately pulled away from him.

She looked at him indifferently and questioned, "Anthony, there are several things that I didn't mention, but that doesn't mean that I don't know. One last thing... By the way, have you ever thought of Sue

when you are wrapped up with me?"

Chapter 766 Embarrassing Moment In Elevator

Sheryl's words dumbfounded Anthony. He had never expected to be confronted by her in this manner.

As Sheryl spoke to him, he realized that he had lost the last hope to be with Sheryl after he had slept with Sue.

"You... you know it?" he stammered. He withdrew his hand and lowered his eyes to avoid looking straight into Sheryl's eyes.

"I'm not stupid Anthony." Sheryl said in a mockingly tone, "The last two times you stayed in her home overnight could be regarded as accidents. But this time you have stayed for so many days. It's impossible that you have done nothing. Anthony, I don't blame you for betraying me. I have no regrets. Now that you have chosen to be with Sue, you should treat her with all your heart. Sue is different from other girls. She went through many hardships and I hope you will be good to her."

"So you don't care even a bit about me, right?" Anthony's lips curved into a bitter smile. He felt so heartbroken as he saw Sheryl had no regrets and she could give him up to Sue without hesitation.

Sheryl gave out a sarcastic laugh and said, "Anthony, it doesn't make sense anymore... to care about that. Did you even care about it before sleeping with Sue?" Sheryl looked straight into his eyes.

Anthony lowered his eyes once again to avoid eye contact with her. There was silence between them for a while and then she spoke, "I will take my leave now. Take care of yourself."

Sue used to be her best friend and had been single for a long time. As Sue had been a strong support for Sheryl in the past three years, even Sheryl had seen Sue through all her hardships. And she was also aware that Sue had a soft corner for Anthony. She really wished that Sue had a good life.

Now that Sue and Anthony were together, Sheryl thought she should be happy for her.

But then, she suddenly realized she didn't really know Anthony at all. 'So would Sue be happy with him? Will Anthony give her the kind of love she deserves?' she wondered.

Then she quickly tried to shrug off the thoughts of Anthony and Sue. That was none of her business and besides, she had to focus on Shirley at the moment till the time she became her normal self once again.

She walked up to Shirley, took her in her arms and proceeded towards home. Nancy had been waiting for her for a long time. The moment, she saw Sheryl carrying Shirley, she walked up to her hastily and said with concern, "Sher, where have you been? You gave me a call one hour back stating that you

were on your way. What took you so long?"

Nancy took Shirley from Sheryl's embrace to relieve Sheryl who was feeling exhausted after carrying her for a long time.

Sheryl felt relaxed and flexed her sore shoulder. "Anthony met me downstairs and I had a brief talk with him," she said to Nancy patting her shoulder.

"How dare he still come here?" Nancy looked at Sheryl with concern. "Did he make trouble for you?"

"No. Don't worry," Sheryl answered calmly. Although she felt so tired after talking with Anthony, she was

relieved that matters were finally settled.

"If he dares to come back again, just call me and I'll teach him a lesson," Nancy said.

"It's okay, Nancy. Don't worry," Sheryl spoke with a smile. She then turned towards Shirley. All she wished now was Shirley's complete recovery as soon as possible and that they could live a peaceful life like before.

After dinner, Sheryl received a call from Charles. He told her that Isla had come to know that Sheryl had gotten her memory back and wanted to invite her to have a meal together. Sheryl was only too

happy to accept her invitation.

Charles felt happy to see Sheryl reconnecting with all her near and dear ones. He then paused for a

while and asked Sheryl, "How is Shirley?"

"Just the same as before." Sheryl replied to Charles and spoke again after a moment of hesitation,

"Recently, I... I had that weird dream again."

"What dream?" he asked. Charles leaned back against the chair to get more comfortable as he listened

to Sheryl.

The moment Sheryl spoke about the dream, the sequences started playing in front of her eyes. In the

dream, there was a boy with a birthmark like a smiling face. She tried hard to see his face and as his

features slowly became clear, she could see it turn into Charlie's face.

This weird dream made Sheryl restless these days. She stared at Charlie for a long time during the day

to check whether the dream indicated Charlie was her son.

'But how could it be possible?' she thought.

Sheryl wanted to share her confusion with Charles. But every time she thought of speaking about it

with Charles, she felt it was just too exotic for her. Hence, once again, she stopped herself from sharing

it with Charles and just said, "Nothing special. Just the same weird dream."

Maybe it was too hard to believe, but Sheryl's dilemma got increasingly stronger. Now, she wanted to verify it by herself.

Charles could easily sense that she was hesitating. There was still a part of that dream that she was not being able to share with him. However, Charles decided not to push her regarding this and let her open up as per her comfort. He gave a smile and said, "You can tell me more details about your dream when you want to talk about it."

"Okay." Sheryl nodded. "It is already so late. You better go sleep now. Good night."

Speaking with Charles made her feel relaxed and reassured. And soon she fell into a deep slumber.

Shirley woke up before her mother in the morning next day. She was playing with toys all by herself.

When Nancy asked her to have breakfast, she just pretended not to hear it.

Sheryl walked up to Shirley and took her toys away. Then she persuaded Shirley in a soft tone, "What happened Shirley? Why don't you reply to Nancy? She just spoke with you."

Shirley kept mute. She arched a frown and tried to grasp the toy from Sheryl's hand.

Sheryl felt sorry to see the unhappy expression on Shirley's face. So many things changed around her so rapidly that it left a profound mark on her little mind. She tried to explain to Shirley very softly,

"Shirley, I know you don't want to talk, but it is wrong. You should say sorry to Nancy now. Let's go to see Charlie together after the breakfast, okay?"

The very mention of Charlie vanished her frown, and a wide smile spread across her face like a magic.

She stood up promptly and walked up to Nancy. Then she said sorry in a stammer. Nancy squatted and said, "Good girl. Just have your breakfast now."

Sheryl heaved a sigh of relief as Shirley finally began eating food. Then she went to the kitchen.

"Don't worry. She will be fine soon," Nancy consoled Sheryl.

Nancy gave a bowl of porridge to Sheryl and said, "It's so weird that Shirley and Charlie are so strikingly identical in their features."

Nancy gave a smile and added, "People who don't know them might consider them to be twin brother and sister."

Hearing this Sheryl became unmindful for a while and carelessly dropped her chopsticks on the ground. She felt her instincts trying to tell her something but she couldn't get it clearly.

"What happened? Is it too hot?" Nancy asked with concern. Nancy glanced at Sheryl as she watched her pick up the chopsticks from the ground.

"I'm fine." Sheryl gave a reluctant smile and pretended to be comfortable. But deep inside, she was growing more and more restless.

After the breakfast, Shirley pulled Sheryl's sleeve to urge her to leave home with her.

Sheryl was scheduled to meet Isla for dinner. She planned to pick a gift for her daughter Amanda as she took a stroll around the neighborhood with Shirley. She was excited to meet Isla.

She hadn't seen Isla for three years. So many things had changed in these three years. Isla had become a mother. When they had met for the last time, Isla was a newly wed bride. She would be meeting her with her daughter.

The elevator door was about closed as she arrived. She yelled out for it to be stopped. The elevator stopped. As the door opened and Sheryl just took a step inside, she saw Sue standing inside the elevator.

Sheryl stood still. She was outside the elevator while Sue was inside. Both of them, once such close

friends, did not know what to say. Both of them felt so embarrassed.

Finally Sheryl spoke first, "Are you going out?"

"Yes." Sue nodded slightly and said to Sheryl, "My foot has completely recovered now. It's time to go back to work."

Chapter 767 I Promise You

Sheryl realized she had not been to the company for a long while. She didn't try to make small talk with Sue, and the elevator ride felt endless.

Sue stood behind her in the lift, and stayed noticeably quiet. Sheryl could tell she had something to say. Before she could step out of the lift with her daughter, Sue's voice stopped them. "Sheryl!" It came out a bit louder than Sue wanted. "Are you... Are you free right now?" Her voice was uncertain. "I want to talk to you... if that's okay."

Sheryl sighed. She was tired, having just dealt with Anthony the day before. Now, she had to deal with another one who brought her trouble. She looked back at Sue for a moment, not very willing to speak to her, but she knew that she would have to do so, sooner or later.

She crouched down until she and Shirley were eye level. "I need to have a chat with Sue. Would you mind wait a little while?"

Shirley didn't seem happy about having to wait, but she listened to her mother anyway.

They headed towards a cafe in silence. It was still morning, so not many people were around, and they easily found themselves a table. After their orders arrived, Shirley busied herself with her cake, not paying any mind to the other two. Sue noticed how different she behaved from before, and voiced it out, "Sheryl, how is Shirley? She seems..." Sue didn't quite know how to word it.

"She has autism," Sheryl explained with a wry smile. "She's getting treatment now."

The news had Sue stunned. "What? What happened? How did she end up like this?"

Sheryl just looked at her daughter, and didn't respond. She didn't want to bring up the reason why. The words describing that night might trigger something bad in the young girl.

Understanding Sheryl's lack of response, Sue didn't prod any further. She knew that it was a troubling time for the woman, and she didn't want to add to her burdens. At that time, though, she had no choice but to face Sheryl directly.

Sue wanted to be sure that Sheryl had already broken up with Anthony or not.

"Mimi, just ask what you need to ask. I'll answer whatever I can." Sheryl wanted to get it over and done

with, so she had to get rid of Sue's hesitation. It did nothing to make Sue speak faster, though, so

Sheryl sighed in frustration. "Look, I have other things to do, so please be quick about it," she urged her on.

Sue's face dimmed, and her embarrassment surfaced. At that moment, she wondered when their friendship had taken such a bad turn.

After taking a deep breath, she finally spoke. "I asked you here because..." She paused for a moment.

"I want to talk about Anthony."

All the while, Sheryl was watching her daughter as she played with her food, and she didn't quite catch

Sue's words. Anthony's name, though, made her head perk up. Her eyebrows furrowed. "I have

nothing to do with him anymore. I have nothing to say if you want to talk about him."

She fought the urge to roll her eyes when she saw that Sue wasn't satisfied with her answer. "Don't you

think it's a bit ridiculous to talk about your current boyfriend with his ex-girlfriend?" Sheryl leaned back

and sighed. "This isn't necessary, you know."

"Sheryl, I..." An embarrassed flush crept up Sue's face. Anthony had still been with Sheryl when Sue

had an affair with him. All she cared about was her chance with Anthony, and she did it without any

hesitation. Now that she was sitting in front of Sheryl, she couldn't help but feel terribly awkward.

It was frustrating how easily emotions could fluctuate, she thought, now that she had to own up to her actions.

"Look, my relationship with Anthony..." She didn't quite know how to continue. "I'm just so sorry, Sheryl." She lowered her head in shame. "I know that I hurt you... I knew that it would hurt you at the time and I did it anyway. I'm so..."

"You don't need to say sorry to me," Sheryl stopped her. She shrugged, like it was nothing, and added,

"When it comes to love I guess there's no real right or wrong. To be honest, after everything, I'm glad that you found some happiness with him." Sheryl leaned forward and looked Sue in the eyes. "Sue, I sincerely hope that you live a happy life with Anthony."

Sue felt an ache in her throat, and before she knew it she was holding back tears. "R-really? You want that for me?" She was taken aback by how genuine Sheryl sounded. She didn't expect such kindness.

Sheryl simply nodded her head. Sue didn't know what to say. It was a terrible thing, what she had done, because she knew there would be consequences. She could only smile in gratitude.

Suddenly, Sue remembered what Anthony had told her when he was drunk. After a moment, she said,

"Sheryl, Anthony's been getting drunk often lately. He would ramble on about old stories... and I think...

I think I might know where Shirley's biological father is, if you want to find out who he is."

Sue wasn't sure why she said it, but she found some desire within to help Sheryl as much as she could.

It was a surprise, though, to see Sheryl shake her head. "I haven't told you. I've regained my memory."

Sue was dumbfounded, but Sheryl had no intention of elaborating further. "If there's nothing else you need, I'll be off."

"Please wait a moment." Sue hastily stood up and stopped her. She hesitated, but continued, "Sheryl, I know what I did was awful, but I still hope that..." Her eyes turned determined. "You can promise me one thing."

"Just say it." Sheryl's voice was faint when she urged her on, tired from all that had happened. Since they were once good friends, Sheryl decided she could give Sue what she wanted, as long as the promise didn't cross any lines.

"I've already been with Anthony. You know how long I've been in love with him." She smiled wryly

before continuing, "But I know that Anthony only really gets eyes for you."

Sheryl shook her head. "You shouldn't say that. It is some kind of blind infatuation, you must know this by now. Since you're the one who's been with him, you two can grow together. Have more confidence in yourself."

"Let me say this..." Sue forced half a smile. "I know more than anyone, how much Anthony loves you.

But I'm sure that if I stay beside him he'll grow more fond of me."

Sheryl smiled at that. "I'm glad to hear you won't give him up." She looked at Sue curiously as the other smiled dryly.

"So... I ask that you not to see him from now on. Whenever you appear in front of him he just... he'll do anything to have you, I know it. I can only win his affections if he's able to move on from you. You get what I mean, right?"

The request made Sheryl raise a brow. She never would've expected Sue to go through all this just to have her promise such a thing. "You really asked me here just to make sure I stay away from Anthony?"

It was true, but it left Sue embarrassed. She nodded anyway. "I know it sounds unreasonable, ridiculous, even." She looked up at Sheryl in earnest. "But this is all I can do, Sheryl. Could you grant me this request, as an old friend?"

Sheryl's expression hardened as she stared at Sue. "If this is really what you ask of me, then I'll promise you."

Sue began to smile, but Sheryl abruptly stood up and took Shirley's hand.

"If that's all you have to say, I'm leaving." As she walked away from the table, she heard Sue murmuring soft apologies, but Sheryl did not let herself look back at the woman.

After all that had happened, she knew that she could not move on from all the drama without letting go of Sue and Anthony. She was sure that her life would be peaceful if they both left her alone.

Sue, on the other hand, felt terrible. Watching Sheryl walk away made the tears finally stream down her cheeks. She could not quite accept that their friendship was ruined over a man. She got what she wanted, but let go of so much more. She smiled wryly as she sobbed.

Chapter 768 Flattering

Sue's mood improved as soon as she pictured her future with Anthony.

She knew very well that Laura didn't like her. She realized that if her vision of a future with Anthony

were to become a reality, she had to get Laura out of her way first.

She didn't want a repeat of Sheryl's sorry story, who had to break apart from Anthony due to Laura's vicious and unnecessary interference.

With these thoughts playing in her mind, Sue went into action. She went to the mall and bought many gifts of perfume, wine and tonics for Laura. Loaded with multiple gift bags and packets, she went to Anthony's house.

She rang the bell and waited on the doorstep. Soon Laura opened the door. Her face turned dark the moment she saw Sue. She asked nastily, "Why are you here? Anthony is not at home. Go away."

"Aunt Laura, nice to meet you. I have come to visit you, not Anthony," Sue replied with a big grin. "Last time I did not get the chance to introduce myself properly to you. My name is Sue Wang and I am a good friend of Anthony."

Laura was in a really bad mood. She was in no mood to be cordial with Sue. Raising her eyebrows, she replied impatiently, "Okay, I see. You are Sue. Is there anything else? Excuse me, I am busy."

Noticing that Laura was about to shut the door on her face, Sue stopped her in a rush. "Aunt Laura, I

am here to meet you only. Can I have a small talk with you?"

"To meet me?" Laura replied with a sneer, "I know exactly why you are here.

You like Anthony, right? As I am his mother, you are here to convince me to give my way!"

Laura pointed out her true agenda right to her face. Sue was highly embarrassed at this blunt and rude

manner of talking. However, she steered herself and said sweetly to Laura, "Aunt Laura, it is because

of your upbringing that Anthony has become such a great person. It is not surprising that all we girls fall

for him."

"Of course, I know that I have brought up my handsome son extremely well," Laura preened in delight.

"Aunt Laura, I have bought you some presents. There are some nice shops on my way here and I

could not resist shopping for you. Please accept them and let me know if you like them or not. You see,

I don't know your tastes still. If you continue to live in Y City in the future, I can take you shopping at all

the good stores. I know all the shops where they sell the latest products at bargain prices," Sue

continued in a flattering manner.

Laura glanced at her. Even though she really liked that Sue had the manners to bring many gifts, her

feelings for Sue remained unchanged.

She put down the things she was holding and said, "Okay, thank you. You can leave now. I will look at your gifts when I have time and then let you know."

As she again attempted to shut Sue out and close the door, Sue said, "Aunt Laura, wait a second.

There is a new restaurant which has opened just recently. I have heard that it is really nice. Will you join me for lunch? We can try the new restaurant. It will be so much fun. Please come with me. Please say yes."

"Hmm..." Laura knitted her eyebrows and thought about it. Unable to resist Sue's repetitive invitations, she agreed finally.

'My husband and my son are busy with their own lives everyday. For once, I am also entitled to enjoy myself instead of staying alone at home. Going out for lunch with Sue seems like a good idea.

Though Sue is definitely not of Anthony's caliber, there is no harm to just get to know her. When compared to Sheryl who has been so cold and condescending, Sue is way better in this sense.

Plus, Anthony likes her and if her family background is decent, I would have no reason to disagree, '

Laura thought to herself.

Sue was excited that Laura had agreed to spend some time with her. She immediately called the restaurant and booked a table for them. On reaching there, they walked in directly and were soon seated comfortably. Looking at all the people who had to wait for a table, Laura felt a sense of superiority. Suddenly, Sue also started to seem much more likable.

Sue handed the menu to Laura and then explained to her the dishes and all the new names on the menu. With some help from Sue, Laura managed to order the dishes of her choice.

Sue was smart enough to know that Laura held the controlling power in the family. She knew that Laura's approval was necessary if she wanted to marry Anthony.

She was determined to get into Laura's good books no matter how much of an effort it took for that.

She beamed at Laura and said, "Aunt Laura, this restaurant has got excellent reviews for its different cuisines. You must sample as many dishes as you can. Please enjoy yourself and freely order as much as you want."

"Thank you, I will do that." Laura nodded in a condescending manner. To her, this was her due and exactly what Sue should be doing. After she was done with her order, Sue added several more popular dishes. Laura was becoming fonder of Sue with every passing minute.

Taking a sip of water, she finally asked, "Your name is Sue Wang, right?"

"Yes, Aunt Laura." Sue continued with a big smile, "You can call me Sue."

"Sue." Laura pronounced the name, as if testing its feel on her lips, and commented, "It is a very nice name."

Sue had kept a low profile throughout. She took care of Laura even after the waitress finished serving reasonable portions on their plates. She kept forcing second and third helpings on Laura's plate.

Seeing that Laura had eaten a lot, she then proceeded to ask, "Aunt Laura, how is the food here? Is the food to your taste?"

"Not bad," Laura grudgingly said. Noticing that Sue hadn't even moved her chopsticks, she said, "Stop taking so much care of me and eat your own meal. You haven't even started eating."

"Oh, I will. I just wanted to ensure that you enjoy yourself." Having heard the warmth and care in

Laura's words, Sue was content that she had managed to impress Laura a little at least.

After sometime, Laura finished her meal and elegantly wiped her mouth. She burped delicately and

looked well satiated. Sue put down her chopsticks as well and asked, "Aunt Laura, are you done?"

"Yes, I am. I am so full that I cannot eat another bite." Laura glanced at Sue and asked, "I did not get a chance to ask you about your hometown. Which place are you from?"

"I am..." A trace of embarrassment flashed on Sue's face. She came from a very small place and was from an extremely humble background. Scared that this would put her in a disadvantageous situation, Sue decided to lie.

"I am from Y City." Sue forced a smile and continued, "My parents died in a car accident when I was very young. I am alone with no family. I have worked overseas in the past few years. I have earned enough to sustain myself and have even saved some money though I did not make a fortune."

Sue wanted to hint to Laura that she was not chasing Anthony for his money.

"Really?" Laura looked at Sue skeptically and replied, "You must have suffered a lot. Surviving on your own and earning a living to become who you are today, things must have been really hard for you."

Sue put a big grin on her face. "It is all in the past. I don't dwell on it but have moved on."

Laura glanced at Sue once again. With no family to support her, Sue was in no way comparable to Sheryl in terms of family background. However, she was not an unwed mother like Sheryl and did not have a child to look after at least.

Nevertheless, she was still not keen that a girl like this become part of her family.

"Sue, I understand why you wanted to see me today." Laura said, "But you know, I am very strict and particular about my future daughter-in-law. My standards are very high and I will not accept just any girl on the street for my son."

"I fully understand, Aunt Laura." Sue smiled. She was well prepared for Laura's resistance. Therefore, she was in no hurry and continued to butter Laura up, "Anthony is the most fantastic and outstanding person I have ever seen. If I were his mother, I would also take my time to take a decision about his future bride. I know that as his mother, you only want the best for him."

Chapter 769 It Is Worth A Try

Sue smiled politely and replied, "I may not come from an influential family, but at least I truly love him. I think you know well that I love Anthony very much."

"I know. I can see that." Laura nodded slightly and added, "Although the family background is an important criterion for me in choosing my son's future wife, I find being kindhearted as the most essential character that the girl should have to listen to my son wholeheartedly."

"I promise to do it, Aunt Laura." Sue continued persuading Laura with a smile, "Aunt Laura, I admit I

have less edge as a candidate for Anthony's future wife. But I know him for a longer time compared with the other girls so I can understand him more. And..."

She paused for a while and then continued, "I am the only woman who can help him ease the pain he got from his relationship with Sheryl."

"What do you mean?" Laura frowned upon hearing Sheryl's name.

"I think you are aware that I have a special relationship with Anthony." The only purpose Sue came to Laura was to make her approve her date with Anthony so she could reveal their special relationship.

"Yes." Laura nodded in agreement. She already knew that Sue and Anthony had lived together. "Of course I know that. I'm not young and dumb after all."

"Aunt Laura, I think I should tell you something more honestly." Sue heaved a deep sigh and added,

"You know about Anthony's deep feelings towards Sheryl, right? He must have argued with you a lot for Sheryl's sake."

"What do you mean?" Laura asked her in a serious tone.

"Don't get me wrong. I don't mean anything." With a smile on her face, Sue continued, "Anthony was displeased with you as you were too harsh with Sheryl before. If you continue to intervene in his

personal life, I'm afraid your relationship with him will get worse."

Having some thought of what to say next, she continued, "If you allow Anthony to be with me, I will help you resolve your conflict. You know Anthony's temper, right? He would be swayed."

Hearing what Sue mentioned, Laura felt the need to consider and think of it.

Honestly, she thought of Sue's words as reasonable.

Laura had destroyed Anthony and Sheryl's relationship, so he would hate her if she also interfered in his relationship with Sue.

Sue was not as good as Sheryl, but she had an acceptable character so she was not a bad candidate either. What mattered most for Laura was that Sue was always on her side, which made her more satisfied with Sue than Sheryl.

"Are you sure you can?" Laura asked Sue with a frown on her face.

"At least it is worth a try. Why not give it one, right?" Sue answered with a decent smile.

With a hesitating look on her face, Laura finally said, "To be honest, you are not good enough for Anthony."

She inspected Sue carefully and continued, "Yes you have a pretty face, but what else can I add to that?"

Sue showed no irritation with her words, instead, she kept quiet and listened to her words carefully.

Laura added, "But I prefer you to Sheryl. Okay, I'll do what you said. I won't involve myself in your relationship with Anthony."

"Thank you, Aunt Laura!" Sue said cheerfully as she had solved one big problem. Now, the only task left of her was to earn Anthony's heart.

"It's not time to get happy yet." Laura glimpsed at Sue and said, "Yes, Anthony has slept with you but I can tell he doesn't love you. If you want to get his heart, you have to work harder as there is still a long journey for you to go."

"I understand." Sue nodded slightly. Then she said to Laura, "I will spare time and effort to get him and make that journey short."

Sue felt extremely pleased because she had gained Laura's support. She then went shopping with Laura and bought her many gifts to flatter her. She made Laura happy but in exchange, she made herself miserable for spending so much money.

Sue was going to invite Laura for a dinner together but she refused. "It's late now. I should go home,"

Laura responded.

"I'll accompany you home." When they arrived at Laura's house, Laura came cross Carlson as she got off the car.

These days, Carlson had been busy on Shirley's disease so he had no time to notice what Laura did recently. When he saw Laura had returned, he asked her with a frown, "Where did you go?"

Laura impatiently answered, "I just went shopping today. Should I get your permission in advance?"

As Carlson didn't want to argue with her, he just said, "Fine. Just do whatever you want. I won't bother you."

Carlson was quite indifferent with Laura because of the matter with Shirley.

Isla had invited Sheryl for dinner in a restaurant.

Isla, Aron and Amanda had waited for a long while. Amanda stood at the gate of the restaurant, expecting to see Charlie and Shirley arrive early.

She felt that she had been waiting for a century so she couldn't help but turn to Isla and asked, "Mom,

when will Charlie and Shirley arrive?"

"They will be here soon." Isla was also very excited to see Sheryl. She felt nervous because it would be her first time to meet Sheryl after her recovery.

Shortly, she heard a sound of footsteps. She stood up immediately and opened the door of the private room. Then she spotted Sheryl and Shirley.

Isla ran to give her a huge hug. She didn't say anything but began crying.

"Don't cry, sweetie." Sheryl refrained her emotion and patted Isla's back to console her.

Isla pacified her mood and told Sheryl, "You are finally back."

She actually returned with all her memories.

Wiping her tears, Isla said, "I have managed your company for a long time, so when will I receive my salary?"

Sheryl stared into Isla and burst into laughter as she heard her joking words. With that, the atmosphere in the room got lighter and more pleasant.

Sheryl chided her lovingly, "I just came back and the first thing you do is asking for my money. Is that the right thing to do? You really hurt my feelings."

Isla replied in a teasing tone, "That's your punishment for leaving us for so long."

"Fine. I'll try my best to make amends to you," Sheryl answered Isla. She suddenly gripped Isla's hands tightly and said, "Isla, I miss you so much."

"Oh, that sounds so disgusting." Isla couldn't hold her emotion any longer so she abruptly burst into tears upon hearing Sheryl's words.

At this moment, Aron came up and persuaded them, "Stop crying. Your weird behaviors have freaked the two kids out."

Chapter 770 A Strange Dream

Sheryl and Isla burst into joyous laughter even as tears streamed down their faces. They lovingly blamed each other for their happy tears.

Recovering, they immediately began to catch up on all the news with each other. Looking at Shirley, who had been very silent throughout, Isla asked worriedly, "Sheryl, I have heard all that happened with

Anthony and how Shirley has been affected by that. Are you okay?"

Sheryl answered her with a bitter smile, "I do not have the luxury of analyzing my emotions. I do not care about how I feel now. Shirley is way more important and life goes on."

Glancing at Shirley, she continued, "Moreover, I believe the situation is going to get better soon. Shirley is undergoing treatment under a good doctor."

"Sure, things will definitely improve," Isla agreed. "If you need any help, do not hesitate to ask me. I am always here for you."

"I know you love me and will always help me." Sheryl smiled back and said, "How can I hide anything from you? You will be the first to know if anything comes up."

She then brought the topic back to Isla. "How are you? How have you been doing all these years? Is everything fine with Aron?"

"I am fine and doing well," Isla replied with a feigned smile. Sheryl immediately sensed bitterness behind the smile as she had known Isla for many years. She persisted, "You don't look like you are fine. What is the matter, Isla? Is it Aron? Is there some tension with him?"

Staring at Aron who was playing with the children, she continued, "If he ever dares bully you, you must let me know. I will handle him."

"Sheryl, what are you talking about?" Isla replied. It was then that she truly felt that her reckless friend was back.

"If that is not the case, then what is the matter with you? What has happened?" Sheryl was insistent.

"Why don't you come clean with whatever is troubling you. I can't bear your unhappiness."

"I am upset on account of Colin," Isla replied helplessly. Sheryl remembered that Colin was a family member of Aron's uncle. She had met him in the past. Frowning in bewilderment, she proceeded to ask, "What about Colin? What has he done? Is he bullying you again?"

"He... He is flirting with Becky." Sheryl was stunned at Isla's words. "How... how can that be? Isn't Becky..."

"Exactly," Isla sighed. "How can I not feel disgusted?"

Isla gave a wry smile and replied, "I am not sure if Colin is behaving intentionally like this or not. He appears together with Becky in front of me every day. Seeing them like that saddens me a lot."

Isla turned angrier as she dwelt on Colin's misconduct. "I have talked to Aron and we have decided to move out. Then, Colin will have no excuse to come to my place, right?"

Sheryl cautioned her, "It may not work. I do not want to discourage you, but I think a person like Colin will not give up so easily. He has no morals nor limits."

"Then let the future take care of this matter." Isla sighed and continued, "That is the only solution we could think of. Move out and then if trouble still follows us, we will worry about it then."

As they chatted on, Charles came with Charlie. The two girls saw Charlie and quickly ran to welcome him. Aron felt abandoned. Seeing his daughter rush to greet Charlie with so much of enthusiasm, Aron felt so jealous.

Unhappily he complained to Charles in a sarcastic tone, "Thank you so much for gracing us with your presence finally."

"I am so sorry," Charles replied with a smile. "There was a heavy traffic jam on the main road so we got delayed. Why didn't you all start eating?"

"How could we start without you, the big man, joining us at the table." Isla also joined Aron in mocking Charles.

Then, they all went in for dinner. As they ate, Charles and Aron discussed business, while Sheryl and Isla were just shooting the breeze as they had been doing several years ago.

They had three years worth of news to catch up on. It seemed they had so much to talk about.

Isla invited Sheryl to come to the company the next day. At first Sheryl wanted to say "no". It had been

three years and she almost forgot that she had been involved with project planning. Now she felt scared to return to her earlier work.

But Isla insisted. Looking at Sheryl, she said, "Sher, it is your company. You're not planning to make me run the company for you for the rest of my life, are you?"

"Is there anything wrong if I plan to do that?" Sheryl replied with a smile, "You're doing a great job. I feel very reassured that the company is in your hands."

"She cannot. I will not allow it!" Aron entered their conversation. "We are still planning for a second child."

"Go away." Isla pushed Aron away and turned to Sheryl. "Sher, I know it will be hard for you to return to your old life so quickly. Don't worry. There is no rush. It is just that it has been three years. All the old employees miss you a lot. You can just drop in to say hello to them. As to when exactly you want to rejoin work, I won't force you. I'll always be there for you and support you."

Sheryl felt Isla was right. It had been three years. Indeed, she had to go back to the company to take a look. She couldn't just leave Isla to manage everything alone.

She remembered she had promised Charles that she would take good care of the company when he had entrusted the company to her. She had never anticipated then that she would be away for three years.

Looking into Isla's eyes, Sheryl said, "Fine, I will drop in tomorrow just to have a look and spend only a few hours there. I'm still not ready for work."

"Okay." Isla nodded. She understood that Sheryl was just getting adjusted and would need more time to come to terms with everything that was transpiring.

Sheryl was also worried for she had just signed a contract with George's company. They might not let her go so easily.

After dinner, Isla handed Sheryl over to Charles and said, "I'll leave her to you. You must make sure that she gets home safe and sound. Alright?"

"Rest assured." Charles replied with a smile, "Take care of yourself and reach home safe."

As they looked down, they saw Amanda holding Charlie's hand, reluctant to let go. She spoke to Charlie in a tearful voice, "Charlie, I will miss you. I don't want to leave you and go."

This scene upset Aron deeply. He wondered if he would be able to accept it when his daughter fell in

love when she became older. He would definitely break down, wouldn't he?

After seeing their friends off, Charles and Sheryl didn't return home but took a walk in a nearby park.

The two kids were walking hand in hand in the middle, while Charles and Sheryl were on either side of

them. It was a pleasant summer evening and many people were walking around or sitting on the

benches.

Sheryl thought of her strange dream just then, so she asked Charles, "Charles, how old is Charlie

now? When is his birthday?"