

Wedded Bride 801

Chapter 801 Moving To The Zhao Family House

Ever since Nancy heard Sheryl speak to Arthur about moving into the Zhao family house, she was upset. She was really enjoying her stay with Sheryl and Shirley. But now that they were moving with the Zhao family, there were already so many maids in their household that they might not need Nancy to be around. Also she felt guilty about all those horrible things she had done to Sheryl in the past which meant she was not in the good books of Amy and Arthur. Thus she did not have a chance of moving to Zhao family house with Sheryl and Shirley.

All these days that she spent with Sheryl and her daughter was so nice that she felt just like a family with them. Now getting used to living without the little Shirley and the ever so kindhearted Sheryl would be difficult for Nancy.

Nancy struggled to push all the hesitations in her mind as she slowly walked close to Sheryl and asked in a very subdued voice, "Are you planning to move out of here?"

Sheryl gave a nod and explained, "Yes Nancy. I have had enough of Anthony's and Laura's madness.

Plus, Sue just lives across the hall. It's so awkward every time I see her. And most importantly, I want to keep Shiley away from all these people. You have seen how she had suffered the repercussions of the

conflicts amongst us elders. So we have to leave this place as soon as possible."

"Indeed." Nancy let out a sigh and continued, "It would be the best option for Shirley. Moreover she will also get the love and protection of her great-grandparents in the Zhao family."

Sheryl marked the pensiveness in Nancy's voice. "Nancy, are you okay? You don't seem to be alright,"

Sheryl asked with concern and looked at her.

"Nothing. I'm okay," Nancy replied but kept fidgeting with her fingers for a while. Then after a momentary hesitation, she continued "It's just... I still feel guilty about those horrible things I've done to you. In these few days that I have been able to be with you, I've tried my best to make up for my sins. And I'm really happy we've bonded a lot. It just makes me feel bad for being separated from you so soon."

"Why would we be separated?" Sheryl looked completely taken aback by what Nancy said. For once, she could not remotely think of what was going on in Nancy's mind. She thought that Nancy would leave them. She asked in a shock, "Have you got another job? Or did I do something wrong to make you leave?"

"No. No. You are getting me wrong." Nancy hastened to stop Sheryl. "Why would I want to leave you?"

It's just..."

She paused, hesitating to speak about her inhibitions.

"What is it? Please tell me, Nancy. You are making me worried." Sheryl looked at Nancy with concern.

Nancy finally overcame her hesitation and said, "Well, I just heard you talk to Arthur. Since you're going to live with them, Amy and all the maids there could offer you help. Probably, you won't need me anymore."

Nancy gave her an understandable smile and continued, "Since they will take good care of you, I might as well go pack my stuff and leave now. It would save the trouble for you to ask me to leave."

"Who said we wouldn't need you?" Hearing what Nancy said, Sheryl finally knew what was going on in her mind. She gave a reassuring smile to Nancy and said, "Well, Nancy. You are mistaking what I meant. Living in Zhao family house won't be a long plan. We will move out as soon as we find a new place. And I would really appreciate it if you could be there to help me."

"Sheryl, wait..." Nancy interrupted her.

"What?" Sheryl gave her a glance and inquired. Sheryl could see that Nancy was still in some kind of a

dilemma. Nancy had a frown on her face even after Sheryl confirmed that she wanted her to be with

her in the Zhao family house. "Nancy, you do want to live with us, don't you?" Sheryl confirmed.

"Yes. Of course I do," she replied with a spring in her voice. The frown on her face changed into a smile

as she asked, "But were you saying... you really want me to go with you?"

Nancy couldn't bring herself to believe this. For she thought Sheryl was going to ask her to leave.

However, Sheryl nodded and assured, "Yes, I was. Do you want to go with us?"

"Yes, of course I do. It's just that I'm afraid I might get you some trouble." Nancy looked at her with thrill.

She never knew Sheryl cared about her enough to ask her to come with them to her grandparent's

house. Her happiness knew no limit.

However, she sighed and revealed her final worries, "But you know, it was me that made you lose your

memories and brought all these sufferings to you. You are very kind. And I really appreciate that you

could forgive me. But I haven't got forgiveness from Arthur and Amy yet. They probably would not want

me to stay there. I don't want to be a burden on you."

"Oh, Nancy. Don't worry," Sheryl reassured her with a soft smile. "Grandma and grandpa are both

generous and kind. I'm sure you will get along with them. There is nothing to worry about. Just come with me."

It was such a relief for Nancy to get all her doubts clear. "I see," she said. Then a wide smile appeared on her face as she promised, "I will do my best to take care of Shirley."

They packed things that night and next morning. Arthur sent a car to drive them home. However, Shirley was all confused. She didn't have a clue of what they were doing. "Sheryl, where are we going?" she asked.

"We're going to live with Arthur and Amy for a few days. Is Shirley okay with that?" Sheryl asked her gently as she broke the news of them shifting from their apartment.

Shirley didn't know why, but still nodded and said, "Yes". However, after a while, she suddenly seemed to have fallen into a deep thought. A frown set on her face as she asked her mother, "But what about

Uncle Charles and Charlie? Do they know where we are going?"

Shirley paused and looked at Shirley who was staring at her. Suddenly, Sheryl didn't know how to answer that.

She made this decision so hastily, that it didn't even occur to her to inform Charles about it.

'But it was okay. I can always tell Charles later in the work place, ' she thought. And by the way, she would also let him know that Shirley had finally come to know that he was her father. Thinking about all this, she flashed a smile.

Sheryl turned to Shirley and patted her chubby cheeks as she assured her, "Don't worry. I will tell them later. I will also invite Charlie to come to play with you, is that okay?"

"Great!" Shirley jumped with joy and clapped her hands.

They arrived at Zhao family house and found that new rooms were already prepared for them. Amy must had spent the whole night to get them done. Sheryl and Shirley got their new rooms on the third floor of the house. Arthur and Amy lived on the first floor and Andy and Abby on the second. They also got a room for Nancy.

Amy was really excited and thrilled to have Sheryl come back to stay with them. Her heart bled to think about the hardships Sheryl had faced all these years. Now having Sheryl to come an stay with her came as a much awaited opportunity for her to shower her with all her love.

"Sher, what would you like for lunch? I'm going to make it for you," Amy asked as she helped them

unpack.

Sheryl looked at Amy, feeling a little guilty. "Sorry, grandma. I have to take off to work now."

"Oh, ok." Amy sounded a little upset. But thinking that they could have dinner together, she was

cheered up. "Then what would you want for dinner? I could make you dinner," she asked kindly.

"Anything is okay. Anything you make, I will eat them all," Sheryl replied with a sweet and indulgent

smile. Amy smiled too.

Then she left for work. Once she walked into the office, all the models were surprised to see her

appear after so many days.

However after Kitty and Tammy got fired, they knew it well that Sheryl was special for Charles. Hence,

nobody dared to have problem with her continual absence.

Sue was there too. She looked tired, which indicated a sleep deficiency. When she saw Sheryl come in,

her lips moved as if some words were about to come out. But she finally gave up and looked down

without saying anything.

Chapter 802 Why Do You Wait Till Now

For the entire morning, Sheryl focused on practicing. The performance was just around the corner, and

she had taken a lot of breaks over the past few days. If she allowed herself to slack off for much longer, she would more than likely make a fool of herself during the actual performance.

Charles was made aware the moment that Sheryl returned to work. He had secretly come to watch her practice once, but because she was so focused on what she was doing, she was completely oblivious of his presence.

Everyone went out for lunch around noon. Sue was a little hesitant for a moment, but then she approached Sheryl and said, "Sher, let's go and have lunch together."

Showing very little interest, Sheryl said, "No, thank you." Sheryl shook her head slightly. She grabbed a towel nearby, wiped off her sweat and said to Sue, "I'm already so far behind, I'll just pass on lunch. You should go with everyone else."

Sheryl did not really want to have lunch with Sue. If it were not for the fact that they worked in the same place, she would not even want to have anything to do with her.

It was not because she disliked her, or because of any other negative personal opinions. It was just after all that had happened recently, Sheryl felt that the friendship between the two of them was no longer as it had been, and since they were no longer friends, there was no need to feign the

pleasantries.

Not to mention that Sue was now Anthony's girlfriend, and his family's social status was quite a bit higher than her own. Sheryl did not want to get herself into any more trouble.

"Sher..." Sue looked at Sheryl, who was standing in front of her. There was something that she wanted to say, but not knowing exactly what to say made her stop for a moment.

She briefly flashed a regretful smile at her former friend. Finally, she said, "Sheryl, I saw you move out this morning, I'm so sorry Sher. I didn't expect things to turn into such a mess like this. Actually, I..."

Sue hesitated for a while, as she contemplated on if she should continue. "I know what I did was wrong, but I just couldn't help myself. I'm sure you can understand that, right."

"It's okay," Sheryl said with pure disdain. Sheryl looked at Sue with a look that could break the highest fever, and said, "There's nothing right or wrong, as long as you can live with yourself and are happy with your choice. It shouldn't matter what I feel or anyone else feels."

She stared straight into Sue's eyes and said, "Sue, since you're already with Anthony, I only have one request: do not disrupt my and Shirley's lives ever again. If you can just do that one thing for me, I

would really appreciate it."

With that, Sheryl turned and walked away, not giving Sue a chance to respond. As Sue watched her leave, she felt a sudden, sharp pain piercing her chest. It just felt so final.

'As long as you can live with yourself and are happy with your choice.' Sheryl's words echoed through her head once again.

But the question was, was she really happy now?

Not long after Sue left, Charles came down to look for Sheryl. Because she was still practicing on the stage, he wasn't getting any response as he called out for her.

"Let's go, it's time for lunch." Charles called out to Sheryl as she was still on stage.

There was a special allure about her. Whenever she was focused on something with a determination he very rarely saw in others, he could not take his eyes off of her. He was completely captivated by her tenacity to succeed.

"I'm not going to lunch. You can just go without me," Sheryl replied absently, not missing a moment of her practice. Without asking for her permission, Charles went up on the stage and physically removed her from it, while lecturing her fervently, "Food is the essential pillar of life. Hurry up. Sustenance needs

to come before everything else."

Sheryl resisted a little bit, but knowing he was right, she agreed. She could use this mealtime to have a discussion with him.

Charles picked one of Sheryl's favorite restaurants. The last time he visited here, it was with Leila. After they had ordered, he finally began to ask Sheryl, "Do you still remember this place?"

"I do." Sheryl nodded gently. "Never thought that it'd still be open after so many years. I wonder if the food still tastes the same."

"The taste is still the same." Charles said softly, "In the years after you left, I would often come here alone."

"Did you really?" Sheryl asked in an unsteady tone. Upon hearing what he had just said, Sheryl felt a little uneasy. She wasn't quite sure how she should respond to that.

For she knew that Charles had suffered a lot after she left. However, there was still the matter of the three years of separation between them, and this relationship still needed time to heal from all the pain that was felt.

She had been too busy recently. After all these things were over, she would actually like to sit down and have a good conversation with Charles, and see how they could continue this relationship.

"Oh, there's something I forgot to tell you," Sheryl said, changing the subject. She poured a cup of water, helped him clean his utensils, poured out the used water and arranged them neatly for him, just as she had always done before.

Charles gazed at her. Even though she had been keeping her distance from him, she still retained the habits of three years ago, which meant she never completely let go of the times they shared.

People's emotions and mentalities might change with time, but not habits.

"What? What are you thinking about?" Sheryl realized that Charles had been watching her intently as she completed her routine, so she asked hastily.

"Nothing." Charles quickly regained his focus, and asked, "Isn't there something you wanted to tell me?"

"Right, so..." Sheryl stared at Charles, not sure how to put it into words. Charles had always wanted her to move to Dream Garden, yet she had refused to do it then. Now that she had moved, Charles was still unaware.

Sheryl swallowed hard and said, "This morning I... I packed my things and brought them to the Zhao

family house. From this point forward, I'll be staying there."

"What?" Once Sheryl said that, Charles stood up from his seat abruptly. He frowned, glaring at her and demanded, "Why do you wait until now to tell me something so important?"

"I'll tell you. But please, just sit down first." Charles' reaction was so excessive, that everyone in the restaurant stopped what they were doing and looked towards the two of them in an instant. Sheryl looked at Charles, a little embarrassed, and said in a slightly hushed voice, "Calm down. I am telling you now, okay?"

Charles sat down, but did not look very pleased. He looked at her and said, "Sheryl, you better explain this to me clearly. I have no objection as far as you moving out from that apartment, but why the Zhao family? Without saying a word to me about it? You..."

Charles was too angry to even speak smoothly.

"Please, don't be mad." Sheryl hastened to add, "I didn't keep it from you on purpose. It's just, things happened too quickly, and it was a last-minute decision."

"What exactly happened?" he asked, still visibly angry. Looking at how Sheryl was behaving now,

Charles finally realized that things were not as easy as he had first thought.

Sheryl pondered for a while, but eventually told him everything that had happened the night before.

Then she sighed and said, "I don't really want much right now. I just wish for me and Shirley to have some peaceful days. I don't want to go on and on with them anymore."

Charles frowned and said, "Even if that's the case, you can still move to the Dream Garden. There's still a room for you there. Why do you need to..."

"Charles, you know me." Sheryl smiled wryly and said to him, "If it didn't happen so last-minute, I wouldn't even have moved to the Zhao family house."

Chapter 803 Meet Anthony Again

Sheryl decided to hold her words after eyeing Charles wearing a sulky expression on his face. She knew she would have to wait. When she noticed that his countenance was a little calmer, she then continued, "Initially, I planned to stay in the hotel for several days. As soon as I find a good place to settle, then I will move out. But unfortunately, Grandpa disagreed. So I was left with no choice but to move to the Zhao family house for a while."

"But Sher..." Charles quickly cut in. He let out a deep sigh as he carefully studied her. He looked impatient, as a small frown could be easily seen appearing on his forehead. But his voice sounded

warm and worrying at the same time when he questioned her, "Dream Garden is also your home. Why didn't you call me after such a thing happened?"

Sheryl could only respond by staring openly at him. And she started to feel that his intense gaze burned with conflicting emotions. Though she was mentally groping for words in her head, she still couldn't find her voice to say something.

The truth was, she had no idea why she did it. Maybe she didn't want Charles to get involved and be over worried about her. Besides, she was the one who provoked Anthony.

"Alright." She conceded after a brief moment. She held his gaze and begged, "Charles, I do understand your feelings. But I would appreciate it should you consider mine as well. Until now... I'm still not able to visualize what is going to happen in our future; and what will lay ahead of us. So please, give me some time and personal space to think it through."

After Charles heard what she said, a sudden pang of sadness engulfed him and made him silent.

Lowering his gaze briefly to conceal his disappointment, he began to start mulling over something.

Then in a low mutter, he complained, "You have been saying this for countless times. But Sheryl, I

really don't know how long I need to wait for that day to come."

"Soon. I'm almost there." Sheryl leaned forward while eyeing him and gave him a flat response.

No sooner had she finished her sentence, than the waiter came over to serve their orders. Sheryl

feasted her eyes on the spread of food on their table. Then she helped herself to the delectable dish

near her, gave it a bite and savored its taste. A small smile crept on her lips and she commented, "Well,

the taste is exactly the same as it was three years ago."

"I'm so glad to hear that. You can eat as much as you want," Charles quickly replied as he smiled at her

appreciatively. To his heart's content, Charles helped Sheryl in refilling her plate while she ate silently.

Since Sheryl was too engrossed in nibbling at her food, she didn't notice Charles' kind gesture at all.

And whether or not she undeniably enjoyed the food or the place, she didn't care in the slightest

anymore.

Charles appeared to be happier seeing Sheryl's hearty appetite back. It was quite a satisfying feast for

him that finally, Sheryl could eat a lot.

After their sumptuous meal ended, they readied themselves to head back to the company. While on

their way out, Sheryl forced a small smile and mentioned about Shirley. "Charles, Shirley asked me last

night if you were her father, and I told her the truth."

"Excuse me?" exclaimed Charles when he heard the matter-of-fact tone of voice used by Sheryl. His

heart was skipping a bit. And he halted his steps. Charles whirled around to glance at Sheryl. He was

getting a little bit nervous as he confirmed that he heard it right. Zoning out, he remained motionless.

He then took a moment to gather himself and asked her, "You... Do you really mean what you said?"

When Charles learned that Shirley was his daughter, he always found himself contemplating. And the

mere thought of 'how to make Shirley accept his presence' incessantly haunted him. And now, a sigh of

relief escaped his mouth; there seemed nothing to be worried about as Shirley had known about it all.

But strangely, why was he still so nervous?

"Of course I do. I mean it." Sheryl slightly nodded her head to reaffirm him about it.

Since the restaurant was within walking distance near the company, Sheryl had previously expressed

that she preferred to take a walk after the meal. That was why they were trailing their way back on foot.

As they were walking, she found Charles quite amusing with the way he was acting. She realized that

they had known each other for years, but this was the first time she saw him in his unguarded

moments, revealing her his predicament.

"Hey, what's going on in your mind? Are you all right? Why do you suddenly blank out?" Sheryl made a series of questions to snap him out of his musings. Charles was startled, but he did not show any sign of a desire to move at that precise moment. So in the interests of time, Sheryl intended to give him a fun prompt. "Let's move faster, shall we? Otherwise, I'm afraid I will be late for the rehearsal this afternoon."

"Err... Wait," Charles stammered. Panic-stricken, he immediately held on to Sheryl's hand and asked, "Hmm, tell me, how did Shirley respond? I just want to know whether... whether she likes me or not? Or was it that she found it hard to accept me as her father? So what was her attitude towards me in the end? What did she say? Quick, tell me! I want to hear the truth. I'm just wondering."

By the end of his words, Sheryl was completely amused by this man standing in front of her. She tried suppressing herself hard but she let out a giggle. Then she could not help bursting out laughing as she couldn't contain it any longer. This scenario really intrigued her, to the extent that she utterly could not stop laughing at him.

While Sheryl was laughing hard at him, Charles, who was looking helpless, became even more

nervous. He was puzzled by her laughter. He then tried to guide her back to the focus of their conversation. "Can you not laugh like that? Can you just quit laughing? You haven't answered my question yet. How was her attitude? I just want to figure it out, okay?"

"Oh, are you so much bothered by what she thought about you?" Sheryl retorted back. Sheryl was obviously having fun teasing him. She had never had a good laugh like this. So instead of giving him the answer he longed to hear, she answered him back with a question.

"Of course I do. I do care about how I am in her opinion," Charles explained almost pleadingly. He was oblivious of the deliberate playful act of Sheryl. Charles nodded giving Sheryl a positive confirmation. Then he said, "After all, she is my daughter. She is also an extremely important girl in my life, just like you."

At this point, Charles was already hell-bent in trying his best to urge Sheryl for the answer. "Just tell me her real response. I have been waiting for so long now. And we have wasted much time already. You still have your rehearsal."

Sheryl found the whole scene hilariously comical. She couldn't bear seeing him on the verge of

breaking his calm demeanor and composure. He was looking impatient and at the same time feeling dejected. Sheryl shook with laughter until she gasped for air. She then steeled herself to quit chuckling at his antics. Glancing at Charles, she squeaked, "Oh my! Just give me a minute! I need to catch my breath. I could have died laughing and my tummy hurts."

"Alright..." Charles said as he dubiously stared at her flushed face. Charles lifted his hand motioning her to go on and calm herself down. He let out a deep sigh. His face showed both patience and indulgence. Inside his heart, he thought, 'What could I do about it? Nothing at all. I have no choice but to wait, wait, and wait some more.' He was mentally preparing himself when finally she was more than ready to resume the conversation. However, he felt that he was already at his limit, so he urged her, "Oh my goodness, have you had enough fun of this? Couldn't you just let me know what happened? Tell me how she reacted."

"Huh, easy, man, take it easy. You know, Shirley is a quite understanding girl at her age." Sheryl finally conceded and decided to satisfy his curiosity. She said, "Okay, let's get back to your burning question. Kidding aside, I did ask her how she thought about it last night right after I shared her the whole story. It might sound surprising but she did not show any sign of rejection against you. And she seemed to be

quite glad about the fact that Charlie is her brother. Well, I guess you are accepted by her mainly because of this. Ha! Ha! Ha! So, you are supposed to thank Charlie for he has left a good impression in Shirley's mind."

"That's indeed a piece of good news. It sounds great. So glad to hear that! And of course, I will surely consider Charlie's help." Charles felt a surge of overwhelming happiness engulfed him when he heard that Shirley didn't reject him at all. And like a fool, he couldn't stop grinning from ear to ear.

But Charles did not stop there. He enthusiastically began concocting plans to win her daughter's heart and to heal the gap between them. Then he suggested, "Sher, why not we bring Shirley out for dinner tonight? I just realized that we -- four of us -- have not had a meal before as a family."

"Well, tonight is not good timing as we won't be available," Sheryl replied amiably. Lifting her eyes at Charles, she explained, "I promised Amy that I would have dinner with her this evening. Then why don't we plan this way? The conference of Shining Company will be launched the day after tomorrow. Since both of us will be there anyway, we can bring them along. After that, our four family members can officially have a meal together. What do you think? Is it a good idea?"

"Alright, alright. Sure, I agree with that," Charles happily chimed in. The phrase "our four family members" sounded very pleasing to his ears; for these sweet words were said by his dearest Sheryl.

It was already very late when the rehearsal in the company wrapped up. Sheryl grabbed all her things and quickly made her way out to get home. She was longing to have a quick shower as her entire body was full of sweat. She could no longer stand the uncomfortable feeling in her own body.

As soon as she came out of the company, she caught a glimpse of the silhouette of a man standing right at the main entrance. He looked vaguely familiar from afar. She felt hopeless when it turned out to be Anthony, the last person that she would want to see in this lifetime.

She purposely moved to live in another place to stay away from this man. But why did she have to see his face again?

"Sher!" Anthony shouted. Sheryl wanted to hide herself the moment she saw Anthony, but it was too late. Anthony hastily rushed towards her after recognizing her presence.

Having no choice but to talk to him, she impatiently turned her head to face him and coldly asked,

"Anthony, why are you here? Didn't I make everything crystal clear to you? What brings you here?"

What on earth have I done wrong? Did I make you suffer that much? That you have to treat me in this

way?" Her voice was filled with miseries and pain.

He was deeply hurt by Sheryl's indifference. She was no longer the same Sheryl he used to know. He watched her silently as he tried to gauge her expression.

He knew she was annoyed and angry at him, but he was left with no other choice. He had to do it for his parents -- for Carlson and Laura.

Feeling somewhat embarrassed he promptly said, "Sher, I know that you may not want to see me right now. But... I have come for you. I... I really have to get your help on something."

"Help?" Sheryl scoffed. Then she raised her eyes to look at Anthony with growing impatience and asked, "Anthony, have I not made myself clear enough? Listen, I want you to get out of my way. You will have your own life as I will have my own. And I also want you to remember that we don't owe each other a single thing. Your family must stay away from my daughter and me. Such a simple wish, isn't it?

Is that too hard for your family to grant? Is that too much to ask?"

Sheryl stood her ground as she glared at Anthony. And in total exasperation, she sarcastically said,

"You consider yourself a man of power, don't you? And I thought you could handle everything? What is

it that you cannot fix which you think I can?"

Chapter 804 I Need Some Time

Sheryl felt really angry at this moment. Anthony had crossed all the limits now. How could he just come

to Charles' office following her. She stared at Anthony's face with anger. "Calm down, Sher," Anthony

said with a frown. "I know you are mad at me. And I have given you enough reasons for that. But I

promise that if you help me this time, you will never see me again."

"Sorry. I don't think I can be helpful to you in anyway. You'd better find someone else," Sheryl refused

immediately, wanting nothing but to end the talk as soon as possible. The very look of Anthony irked

her out of her wits. This was one nagging dispute that she had had enough of and desperately wanted

to end now.

Moreover, Anthony choosing to confront her at her workplace was something that annoyed her the

most. People here knew Sheryl, especially Sue, who was just about to come out. 'If Sue sees Anthony

talking with me, ' Sheryl thought nervously, 'I can never explain myself, no matter how hard I try.'

Therefore, Sheryl wanted to end the talk immediately, trying to avoid making things more complicated.

She was just about to leave when Anthony just held her hand and said, "Listen, Sher." He knew that it

was improper to be here today, but he had no choice. Sheryl was the only person who could help him

and he had no one else to turn to.

He could earn enough money to support Carlson financially, but what Carlson wanted was not just his job, but his dignity to be returned. Moreover, as a consequence of this, his parents' marriage was also at risk. Anthony was really helpless. Hence he decided to reach out to Sheryl by hook or by crook.

Unaware of the real reason behind Anthony approaching her, Sheryl got really worked up with Anthony's behavior. "Let me go, Anthony!" Sheryl said and tried to free herself. And when she failed, she landed a slap right on Anthony's face. The loud smash attracted passengers' attention. They all looked at the two, wondering what was going on. Sheryl lowered her face feeling all the more embarrassed after slapping Anthony.

Anthony stroked his face with a shocked expression. He had never expected such a blow from Sheryl.

Even Sheryl was shocked. She had never imagined that she could even hit someone. It might be the grievance and resentment in her heart that caused this situation. And moreover Anthony was the wrong person to have arrived at the wrong time.

Anthony stared at Sheryl and spoke in a choked voice, "I deserved this. And I really hope that this

makes you feel better." Anthony looked back at Sheryl with rueful eyes.

"Shut up!" Sheryl screamed at Anthony. She was still amazed to see that Anthony was not ready to move even after being slapped by her. And this literally made her lose her mind. "Anthony, whatever you want from me, you can never get it," Sheryl continued furiously. "Just leave me alone. I don't want to see your face again. We have some good memories of the past three years. Don't let those memories turn into my nightmare. Don't make me hate you. That's all I want to say. Just leave me alone... Get out of my sight. Please leave."

'I should have given him this slap that night, ' Sheryl said to herself. 'At least that way, my Shirley wouldn't have suffered autism.'

Anthony forced himself to smile. "You really hate me. Maybe you think that I deserve to go to hell, right?" Anthony's face was marked with pain. He looked repentant for his deed. At the same time, he looked desperately helpless which did not evade the eyes of Sheryl.

Sheryl looked at him and said in a cold voice, "I don't hate you, but our relationship is over. Neither do I want to give you a hand, nor do I want your hand. Please! Don't come to see me again, otherwise I will..." Sheryl didn't have to say further and Anthony knew it already. After all, their past relationship

allowed him to know Sheryl very well.

He also realized that Sheryl misunderstood his purpose of coming to her at this time. So he said with a bitter smile, "At least, allow me to finish my sentence. Can you give me this privilege?"

Anthony looked at Sheryl and continued, "I came here today, not for myself, neither for our relationship, but for my father."

Sheryl's face changed as she heard him speak. This was certainly out of the blue for her. She took a few deep breathes and calmed down. Anthony could tell from her expression that she would listen to him now. So he took the opportunity and said, "I know what I have done earlier hurt you deeply, but my father did nothing wrong. I'm the one who should be blamed and punished. Please don't hurt my father, Sher."

"What do you mean?" A frown settled on Sheryl's face as she heard him speak. She was completely startled as she had no clue about his father.

"Stop being innocent," Anthony blurted out rather impatiently. "I know you hate me. You want a revenge. Fine. I am right here in front of you. But don't hurt my father!"

"I really don't understand your words." Repeated blames from Anthony about something that she was so oblivious to made her puzzled and she started to lose her patience once again. Sheryl looked at Anthony with an expression of indifference. "We have been together for so many years and this is how you know me? You consider me to be a person who will seek revenge for the smallest grievance. Huh. Funny."

She stared at Anthony with cold eyes and continued, "Even if I wanted to take revenge, I would go after your mother. Like you said, your father has done nothing wrong. So, why should I hurt him? Stop hitting around the bush and come to the point."

Anthony sneered at her out of utter disbelief, "Huh! Sounds like you really did nothing. But the truth is you had your grandfather kick my father out of his office. Now he has lost his job and wants to divorce my mother. My family is torn to pieces. And it is all because of you. Now, what can I do to make you to spare my family?"

Sheryl looked at Anthony with jaw dropping silence and wondered what made her to date with this man for so many years.

She faced Anthony and said, "Believe it or not, I have nothing to do with this."

"Stop fooling me." Anthony sneered, "If it were not you, my father would not lose his job. If you didn't mention the disputes between us to your grandfather, he wouldn't have dismissed my father.

The problem between us should remain between us. If you want to punish someone, I am right here to suffer the pain. Please tell this to your grandfather. I'll be really grateful if you can let my parents off.

My father is too old to suffer your revenge. He will retire from the office in just two years. Please, just let him complete his tenure in the hospital till his retirement. This is my last request to you."

Sheryl looked into his eyes and spoke with slight bitterness in her voice, "We have been together for so many years, Anthony. I thought that you knew what kind of person I was. But to my surprise, you think of me no better than a bitch."

She looked at Anthony and promised, "Don't worry. If what you said is true, I will ask my grandfather to give back your father's job. Nevertheless, I also need you to do one small thing for me."

Sheryl suddenly realized that being nice to Anthony was taking a toll on her and Shirley. Hence, she decided to take this opportunity to get rid of the trouble all together.

Anthony curved his lips into a bitter smile. "I had expected this. Say it. What do you want? Today, I am

ready to accept any deal you put forth just to save my father's dignity."

"I need you and your family to leave Y City. I don't want to see you ever again," Sheryl narrowed her eyes and raised her chin as she demanded in a cold voice. "I have had enough of your family. So, your father can only get his job back if all the three of you just disappear forever."

Anthony frowned as he heard Sheryl's terms and conditions that he needed to fulfil if he wanted his father to get back to his position in the hospital. Then, he tried to bargain, "I will leave this city. Sheryl, but as you know, since I came back, this country, especially Y City, has been the key to my career. I need some time to sort things out."

"How long do you need?" Sheryl asked. Her voice was as stern as before.

"Six months," Anthony replied without giving it much of a thought.

"Three!" A familiar male voice cut through their conversation before Sheryl could have replied to him. It was none other than Charles, who was walking toward them.

Standing in front of Sheryl, Charles asked softly, "Are you okay, honey?" Sheryl turned towards him and smiled as she heaved a sigh of relief. In fact, his voice as well as his presence already gave her a sense of security and peace of mind.

Chapter 805 Are You Reluctant To See Me

"I'm fine," Sheryl said in a low voice. She shook her head slightly. She and Charles looked into each other's eyes. Although they didn't exhibit any intimate gestures, their affinity for each other was very apparent by the look in their eyes.

Upon seeing this, Anthony felt very jealous.

He interrupted the peaceful mood and said to Charles, "You have no rights to decide when I should leave. Who do you think you are?"

"Anthony, Sher is my woman. Maybe she doesn't know much about business but I do." Charles smirked coldly and continued, "Anthony, your business must not have been completely settled in Y City even though you have transferred your main business here. So three months is more than enough time for you to deal with all the matters in your company, and your own relationship before you leave. You should be grateful for my merciful decision rather than stare at me with angry eyes. It only proves you are an ungrateful man."

Charles looked towards the gate as he said this. Sheryl and Anthony followed his gaze and saw Sue standing at the gate, dumbfounded.

Anthony's face went pale at the shock of seeing Sue. He turned to Charles and said, "It's my own business. You don't have to mind it."

"Sure, I guess I don't." Charles said with a smile, "I wouldn't mind your business even if you asked me to do so. I just want to protect Sher from being harassed by you any longer. You have caused so much trouble in her life already and I will not be in a very forgiving mood if you continue to try to meet her again. I don't know what terrible things I will do if I feel like you didn't heed my warning.

Maybe I will release all the anger and rage I feel about you all at one time. I don't think you can handle it." His voice was cold. Anthony could feel the seriousness of Charles' threat from the tone in his voice.

Anthony had started his business later than Charles, so he knew that if it had to come down to a competition on the business level, he couldn't win. However, he wasn't willing to give up so easily.

"What? Do you have any problem with that?" Charles asked with a victorious tone.

"Fine, if that is what you require, I guess I must be inclined to agree." Anthony sneered and turned to Sheryl. "Don't forget what you promised me," he said.

"Don't worry. I always keep my word, unlike you," Sheryl said in a cold voice.

"Okay, let's consider it a deal." Anthony smiled coldly and was about to leave. "Hold on! One more

thing before you go," Charles called out to him abruptly.

"What else do you want to say?" Anthony asked impatiently, turning his head back to face Charles.

Charles glimpsed at Anthony and said, "You also cannot make any attempt to be in Sheryl's presence in those three months, otherwise..."

"Charles Lu, now you're going too far!" Anthony was annoyed as he heard Charles' new requirement.

"Who do you think you are? You have no rights to get involved in the matters between Sheryl and me," he screamed at Charles.

"Charles is right." Sheryl said in a cold tone, "I also feel the same way. I know you need some time before leaving this city, but I don't want to see you or... anyone of your family members. Otherwise, I will break my promise without hesitation."

She looked at Anthony and continued, "The day you leave will be the time your father can get his job back. I promise."

"Sher, are you insane?" Anthony looked at Sheryl with pain and heartbreak in his eyes. "Why can't you see how devious the man beside you is? How can you really be on his side? No good can come to you

as long as you stand by him. He will be your undoing."

Sheryl felt discontented with Anthony's words so she argued, "I know him better than you. But I feel so unfortunate to have seen your true colors so late. You don't have to worry about me because I'm not stupid. Charles is my children's father and I believe he will never hurt me."

She glanced at Anthony and said impatiently, "Just leave. If there is nothing more to be done here, I should go now."

"I'll take you home." Charles gripped Sheryl's hand and left with her immediately. Seeing them walk away together, Anthony felt even more enraged.

Sue wore a distressed smile as she stood momentarily. She thought Anthony had come for her as she saw him at the gate. But she was finally forced to accept the fact that the only woman in his heart was Sheryl, even though she detested him now. He had never truly cared about her.

She shook her head, trying to drive all these thoughts from her mind. She was strongly considering just turning around and going in the opposite direction.

She didn't know how to face him so she decided to simply pretend that he was just someone that she didn't know and walk by him without even acknowledging that she saw him.

But Anthony called out to her. "Sue, are you free tonight? I want to have dinner with you," he said

hesitantly.

Somehow, she felt anxious and answered, "I'm sorry. I am busy tonight."

She worried that Anthony would say something she didn't want to hear so she hesitantly refused his

invitation.

She instinctively knew that it wouldn't be a happy dinner. So she thought it was better for her to reject it.

"What are you going to do tonight?" Anthony further inquired.

Sue couldn't quickly come up with a feasible excuse so she stammered.

Anthony smiled bitterly and said to Sue, "You are free tonight, aren't you? You just don't want to have

dinner with me"

"No! I do want to have dinner with you." Of course she wanted to have dinner with him but she didn't

know what Anthony would say to her. She just didn't know if she was ready to deal with whatever it

might be.

She smiled bitterly and added, "How can it even be possible that I don't want to have dinner with you?"

Anthony smirked and asked, "So why did you refuse? If you don't tell me the real reason, I won't let you go!"

Sue gave a reluctant smile and said, "I feel a little uncomfortable and want to rest."

"Don't lie to me!" Anthony sneered and added, "You are just trying to avoid me, aren't you?"

"No, I'm not..." Anthony wouldn't listen to Sue's explanation because of the anger he felt. She smiled bitterly and said, "Fine, it doesn't matter what you think of me anyway. Just go home, otherwise your mom will be worried about you."

However, Anthony began speaking to her as she was walking away.

From his voice, she could tell he was feeling a number of feelings including sorrow, anxiety and reluctance. She couldn't help but stop in her tracks when she heard his voice.

From behind her, Anthony murmured, "Sue, I'm just in so much pain right now. I just... I just want to be in your company. I don't want to be alone right now. Why can't you see that?"

Are you dead set against wanting to see me too? Just like Sheryl?"

Chapter 806 Who Do You Think You Are

"You got me wrong..." When Sue saw Anthony so weak and heart-broken, her heart ached for him. She

really wanted to tell him that he was not alone and that she cared about him, but she thought it would be better if she held it back. Then she continued, "Anthony, stop it, please..."

"Then what do you mean?" Sue's comfort only made Anthony even more aggravated. He wanted to ask her for an answer. He yelled, "Well, then you should explain to me why you all try to hide from me? Did I do something wrong? Why do you all treat me like this? I don't really get it. So tell me, why?"

"I am not trying to hide from you." Sue gave him an awkward smile, trying to explain, "It's just that I... I am not sure that I have the courage to face you."

"Sue..." Hearing what Sue just said, Anthony calmed down and kept staring at her. Then he quickly grabbed her hand and begged, "I am just feeling so miserable. I don't want to be alone. Can you stay with me? At least for a little while."

Sue had decided to forget about Anthony and move on, but she really felt bad for him and how he was feeling right now. Furthermore, she found it very difficult to refuse his request. After a moment of silence, she agreed and said, "okay, I will stay with you."

They retired to a restaurant where they could chat and grab a bite to eat. Once they were seated, Anthony ordered a bottle of wine and drank the entire thing by himself.

Sue just sat there in silence across the table from him. Not really in the mood to eat, she simply wanted to listen to and be there for him in his time of need.

After a moment of contemplation, Anthony spoke up, "Sue, do you think that... I really am an incompetent man? Three years!! I had spent three years with Sheryl! Why did she just abandon me like that? I just don't get it. It doesn't make any sense." Anthony sighed deeply and continued, "I've tried my best to take care of her and her child. I loved them so much and had done everything for them. In the end, she just pushed me away and ran right into Charles' arms. How could she just be so heartless? I suppose she only cared about Charles. No matter how hard I tried to love her, I guess she just didn't give a fuck!"

The more he kept questioning it, he got more and more emotional, but Sue just kept silent and took one mouthful of water after another.

She really didn't know what to say in this very sorrowful time.

What could she really say when the man that she loved was talking about his heartache over his loss of love from another woman? If she chose to say something about it instead of staying silent, what would

she even say? Should she tell him that she loved him? Followed by maybe criticizing Sheryl to help ease his mind? Or would that just backfire and make him cross with her?

"Why aren't you saying anything? I'm pouring my heart out to you and you're just sitting there!"
Anthony

said, with a slur. He thought Sue didn't care about him either, so he glared at her and said, "I know, you think I am a loser too, just like Sheryl did. You think I am no match for that man named Charles. Am I right?"

He gave her a cold smile and turned to blame Sue, "You women are all the same, never know to how to cherish us, no matter how hard we men try to please you."

"You drink too much. You should consider stopping." Sue got impatient. He just kept drinking and talking about the past that he shared with Sheryl. Sometimes, without even realizing what he was talking about. It brought her so much pain to continue to listen to him go on and on. But she didn't want to leave Anthony all alone in here, either.

She even began to think about how stupid she was to sit here and allow it to continue.

"What are you talking about?! I am not drunk." Anthony denied, and yelled at her, "I am stone-cold

sober now. I am telling you, I know what you are thinking right now."

He didn't let Sue respond, and continued, "You must regret falling in love with me. Is that it?"

He began to laugh at himself and scorned himself, "Surely, how funny I am right now. I even feel

disappointed in myself. If you feel that too, just leave. Don't pretend.

Why don't you just leave me alone, just like Sheryl?" He started to murmur and was reminded of the

day Sheryl left him. He felt so heart-broken.

"I never regret." She knew he was drunk, so she got a little courage to speak her mind.

She took a close look at him, only to find his whole face had changed. He looked very worn out. He had

become almost haggard looking, which made her heart ache so much.

She confessed, "Anthony, I have fallen in love with you from the first time I met you three years ago.

Unfortunately, at that moment, you were Sheryl's boyfriend and I, was Sheryl's friend." Sue still

remembered that day when she first met him, and remembered what he looked like that day. He was

wearing a white shirt with its sleeves curled, standing on a chair to replace the damaged bulb on the

ceiling. Sheryl was just beside him. Sue didn't realize that he and Sheryl were an item, so she just let

her imagination run away with her.

In the heat of the summer days, she longingly stared at his sweat drenched shirt, watching as more sweat beaded on his forehead and continued to flow down from his hair. That sight alone left a lasting impression in Sue's mind and made her heart race.

When she learned that he was Sheryl's boyfriend, she was at a loss for quite a while. It took her a long time to accept that fact.

As Sheryl's friend, she would always see Anthony around. Thanks to that, she was presented with the opportunity to get to know Anthony on a personal level. However, the more she knew about Anthony, the more she loved him.

After Sheryl and Anthony broke up, Sue saw the great opportunity that was before her, but it also made her realize that she would never be able to replace Sheryl in his heart.

Otherwise, Anthony would never talk about his feeling for Sheryl in front of her without caring how she would feel about that.

She tried to console him, "A lot can change in three years. Especially along the lines of the love between you and Sheryl. It quickly turned from being happy to being so terrible. You said you miss her.

I totally understand that."

"Can you really understand?" Anthony took a stern look at her. "You don't. How could you possibly understand my feelings?"

He continued, "You don't know how deeply I love her. For her, I am willing to do anything and take any risk. You never know how hard it was for me to accept the fact that she didn't care about my love at all and even abandoned me."

"How do you figure I don't understand?" Sue explained, looking him in the eye, "I love you just the way you love Sheryl. You are just like a moth and Sheryl is the flame. The moth flies all its way to embrace the fire even if it will kill itself. Anthony, my love for you equal to or maybe even more so than your love for Sheryl!"

Hearing what Sue just said, Anthony felt so relieved. He gave a pleased smile to Sue and raised his glass. "Come on, let's drink to you and also for me."

Sue didn't raise her glass, just staring at him with her eyes squinted. Before Anthony got his lips to his drink, she quickly reached out her hand, grabbed his glass and begged, "Stop, you have had enough!"

"Let me drink!" Anthony pushed her hand away and shouted angrily, "Let me drink! Do you think you

can stop me? Who do you think you are?!

Chapter 807 Nightmare

Anthony's mindset towards Sue was not hidden from her. She knew that he just used her to just deal with his separation pangs with Sheryl. But to hear it from him was all the more heartbreaking. Sue froze when she heard Anthony. Yes, it seemed that he was right. She was nobody to him, so she wasn't qualified to intervene in his life.

Sue gave him a bitter smile and said, "Well, fine, you're right. It's not up to me to be in charge of you.

You can enjoy your wine. I'll take my leave."

Sue's voice choked as she spoke these words. She was hurt, angry and disappointed beyond word.

She just got up and began to leave. A moment more with Anthony and she would lose her temper completely.

As she turned around and walked away from Anthony, she was stopped by a thud on the ground. She

turned around to find Anthony lying on the ground unconscious.

"Anthony! Oh, my..." She rushed back to see if he was alright. She checked if his breathing was normal

and also if he got bruised due to the fall. After checking him properly, she was assured that he was

absolutely alright. He just fell asleep for being drunk.

Sue was rendered speechless when she saw Anthony's face as he fell into a deep slumber. She could certainly not leave him behind in this state. She payed the bill and got Anthony into the car with the help of a waiter. Initially, she planned to send him to his house, but due to being overtly drunk, Anthony was feeling very sick. Hence, she had no choice but to find him a hotel nearby.

The moment she laid him down on the hotel bed, he threw up. It was certainly not easy to look after a drunkard. All through the first half of the night, Anthony kept puking and Sue kept cleaning up the mess. She put off his dirty shirt and cleaned his body. While washing his clothes, she heard him mumbling and came running to see if he needed anything.

She gave him some warm water to drink, in order to make him feel better.

And just like this, she didn't even realize when the clock struck two.

By the time Anthony was feeling a little better and fell into a relaxing sleep, Sue was a bit tired. She lied in the sofa to take a nap. She was waken by a call near five o'clock in the morning.

Sue forced herself to open her eyes to see whose call it was at the wee hours of the morning and the number that flashed on her mobile screen made her spring up on the sofa. A stern frown settled on her

face as she glanced at her phone and then at Anthony. Then she proceeded to the balcony silently to answer the phone.

It was no sooner than she had just pressed the receiving icon on her phone, she was exposed to a loud shriek from the other side. It was a woman's voice shouting and cursing her by using all the dirty and evil words. Sue took a while before she was confirmed that it was her mother on the other side.

Sue remained silent without interrupting her mother. This was something that happened often. She just heard it expressionlessly until her mother got bored and stopped.

After a while as she could hear her mother's breathing pattern to come back to normal, Sue spoke,

"Are you happy now?"

"You little slut. Did you think that you can run away from me? See, I found you out," Peggy Li blurted.

Peggy Li came from a typical rural background. She didn't have a good education and hadn't see the world beyond her village. In her opinion, daughters could never be valued.

This was very common notion in rural areas. Sue was her first born. After Sue was born, she was

abused by one and all in her husband's family, especially her mother-in-law. In order to earn some

dignity for herself, she planned to continue having children until she could have a son. But unfortunately for her, even the next two children were girls.

Peggy Li was desperate for a son. But their financial constraint did not support the idea. Hence, she decided to put Sue's two younger sisters up for adoption. Sue was spared because she was old enough to help with some household work.

Several years later, the living condition of her family got a little better, so Peggy got pregnant once again. This time her dreams came true and she finally had a son.

What happened next? As it happened in such families often -- the boy became the center of attraction for the whole family. He got everything he wanted at the drop of a hat while Sue was completely ignored and deprived. Having suffered living in that kind of family, Sue managed to leave her house when she turned eighteen. She found a job to support herself and never got back again.

A few years ago, Sue got acquainted with some models by chance. From that time onwards, she entered the modelling industry. She made enough money from her modelling career that she could save some money. Though she didn't want to go back home, she had been sending almost 100,000 dollars to her family.

Her parents could have used that money to build a house for themselves but her younger brother, Allen Wang, had lost all the money in gamble.

Peggy Li was a typical uneducated rural woman who spoiled her son. She refrained from spending a single penny on herself but fulfilled all the whims of her son even if it needed her to go out of her means. Needless to say, the money that Sue sent them was all spent by him.

Allen Wang was just four years younger than Sue and he had never been to work. He didn't even bother to earn because all the money he used came from Sue.

Three years ago Allen Wang wanted to get married, but his fiancée asked for a bride price of 180,000 dollars, and a two-floor house. Allen Wang was obsessed with that girl, so he said yes to all her conditions.

He came back home and told his mother that he needed some money to get married, but Peggy Li couldn't arrange such an exorbitant amount of money.

Allen Wang, who had never been denied anything all his life, was mad at his mother and urged her to find out a way to arrange the money. Finally they thought of Sue. They made an agreement with an old

man in their village that he would give them 300,000 dollars in exchange of having Sue to get married with him. Allen Wang was satisfied with the trade. He would have the money to get married if they could find Sue and get her back.

How could Peggy Li refuse her son? She made up an excuse to call Sue back home and planned to force her to marry that old man.

Sue was reluctant to come back but she couldn't defy her mother. Soon she realized what her mother and brother were planning. And when she refused to marry that old man and tried to leave, Peggy Li stopped her and locked her up in a room. After that Sue somehow managed to escape from the house.

Since then she had never been back. Right after that she got the opportunity to go abroad three years ago. Though she never came back home, she didn't stop sending money home every month. But she never revealed her address.

Sue had been having enough of them and wanted to be away from them. She knew that they would find her out some day, but she didn't expect it to come so early. It had been just three years since she had met them the last time.

Sue's head felt heavy as the faces of her mother and her brother came in front of her eyes. She closed

her eyes at once to shut the vision out and asked in a cold voice, "How did you get my phone number?"

Now that she had found her, she wouldn't let her go so easily. Sue was tired of her mother's eccentricities. She just wanted to live a peaceful life.

However, Sue was curious about how she found her out in such a short time.

Peggy Li shouted exasperatedly on the phone, "It's none of your business. You little basebred filthy slut, how dared you run away from us three years ago! How dared you hide yourself from me for so long! How dared you! Well, well, now I know where you are hiding." Peggy Li was angry on Sue.

Because of her escapade, Allen Wang's wedding could not be materialized. She threatened Sue, "I'm telling you, I'm coming for you tomorrow. You'd better wait for me in your God damn room. Otherwise you don't know what will happen if you cheat me again."

Sue smiled coldly and said, "Waiting for you? Waiting for you to sell me to that old guy?"

Sue was not sure what she felt about it when she said that to Peggy Li. Her mind was overwhelmed out of anger, sadness and disappointment. She turned to see if Anthony was waken by her, and she found him sleeping well.

Sue vetted out her situation and hundred of thoughts flooded her mind in a jiffy. As long as she lived abroad, Peggy Li could not reach her. But now that she had come back to Y City, it was quiet possible that her mother would leave no stone unturned to hunt her down from any corner of the city.

And if she knew that Sue had a boyfriend, Anthony would be in a huge trouble.

Especially if she knew that Anthony was from a wealthy family, Peggy Li and her son would go out of their ways to extract money from him.

Her heart shuddered at the thought of her mother exploiting Anthony. But what if that really happened?

How could she allow Anthony to be harmed because of her? On the second thought, even if Anthony was willing to meet their requirements, Sue couldn't allow him to do so, because it would be unfair to him. Moreover, Peggy Li and Allen Wang were greedy. They wouldn't be satisfied so easily. The matters could get worse to the point that even Sue would not be able to handle it.

The more she thought about all this her heart sank. Then she finally made up her mind to face Peggy Li head on. She sighed and said, "That's alright, I will be waiting for you tomorrow. But let me tell you one thing, Peggy Li. I am not the girl that I used to be. Hence, you'd better be polite. You have no idea what I can do to you now. Have a try if you want.

Don't yell at me or order me, don't abuse me in a mother's name. I'm telling you, I am not afraid of you anymore, and I'm even ready to fight you to death if need be."

"You fucking bitch, how dare you speak..." Peggy shouted back at her as she was mad when she heard

Sue speak up. Sue just disconnected the phone to shut the noise out of her ears.

Chapter 808 All Good Things Come To An End

Sue stood outside on the balcony, thinking for a while. The wind chill caused her goosebumps. A

shower was just what she needed; so she went for it. As she walked out of the bathroom, wrapped up in a bath towel, her wet hair left a trail of water drops behind.

With another towel, she began patting her hair dry, when the warmth of a hug rendered her motionless.

Anthony's embrace was irresistible. She just loved him too much. As Anthony buried his head in her neck, Sue felt a heaviness in her heart.

Their relationship had to end. She had to end it. It was the right thing to do.

"You smell so good!" Anthony whispered. The sound of the shower and the fragrance of her conditioner woke him up. As soon as he opened his eyes, Sue's slender, half-naked body tempted him to get up right away. He kept kissing her passionately on the shoulder and neck.

It was all bitter-sweet for Sue. That morning, she had given it her all; she showed Anthony the sexiest and craziest side of her.

He enjoyed it so much that he even forgot to use a condom.

At the end of their steamy session, they were both lying in bed gasping and drenched in sweat. After resting up a bit, Anthony attempted to stand up but Sue pulled him back in bed. She asked anxiously,

"Where are you going?"

"You stay here and get some rest. I'm going to buy some Plan B pills for you," Anthony explained. His tone was calm and worry-free as if nothing had happened.

However, for Sue, his answer felt like a stab through her heart. She forced a smile and felt pity for herself. She should have known that their relationship was based on sex alone. Anthony didn't want to have a baby together with Sue because he never expected a future with her.

She stared at him and insisted, "Don't worry about it. I will buy them myself later. Now we... We need to talk."

"Talk about what?" Anthony asked casually. He got back in bed and lit up a cigarette.

"Anthony," Sue began but quickly paused. She threw him a glance and hesitated to open the subject

once again. She still loved him, but she had to come to a resolution.

If only that moment could last forever! She enjoyed sitting quietly next to him.

"Give me one cigarette!" Sue demanded, delaying the discussion even more. Anthony gave her a

strange look but didn't argue. He handed her the cigarette and inquired, "When did you start smoking?"

"Whenever I see you smoke, you always look relaxed and content. I want to see how it makes me feel,"

Sue claimed. Her real reason, however, was to summon up some courage to talk. Once done smoking,

she could not postpone it any longer. So she took a deep breath and turned toward Anthony.

If he could only try to love her. If he was willing to be her boyfriend, she would stay by his side

regardless of Peggy's threats.

She would even cut her off from her life.

However, none of that would matter if he didn't want to be with her. So she had to find out. "Anthony,

where do you see this relationship between us going?"

Anthony stiffened at the sound of her words. He didn't expect Sue to ask him such a question. He

thought she was aware that there was only sex between them and nothing more.

"Why do you ask?" he questioned in an effort to avoid giving her a direct answer. Anthony was trying to tread carefully around the issue. He didn't want to hurt her.

Sue already suspected his answer, but she needed to hear it. So she threw out a cliché white lie, "No reason. Just curious."

She stared at Anthony with a poker face for a moment but could no longer pretend. "Anthony, even though we haven't been together for a long time, I still need to know if you see any future in this. I am not young anymore. I can't do this without any assurance. So I need to know what you feel for me, if anything."

"Sue, you should know that I am in love with Sheryl," Anthony blurted out. Sue's honest confession put too much pressure on him. He thought she was clear about their relationship. He had never implied anything else.

So he wasn't sure how to handle her at that point.

"I know that," Sue replied. She looked into his eyes and added, "I also know that you will never forget Sheryl. She will always have a spot in your heart. But you two have already broken up! There is no going back. Now both of us are single. I am willing to patiently try to win your heart. Are you willing to

allow me in?"

"I don't know," he stated quietly while turning away from her. He couldn't even look her in the eyes because he didn't want to see the pain and disappointment there.

He began feeling guilty, like the lowest man on Earth.

Sue forced a bitter smile and continued, "I feel like a fool begging for your love and you can't even bother to think about it at least. I mean nothing to you, do I?"

All her pain was turning into numbness.

"Sue, please don't do that!" Anthony pleaded. With a fake smile, he tried comforting her, "I know I'm a jerk! I'm a scumbag! You can curse me or hit me if you'd like. But please..."

Sue huffed. Loads of thoughts were crossing her mind. 'Curse him? Hit him? As if that would change anything.'

She stared at him blankly and concluded, "Thank you for clarifying this for me."

She then slipped out from under the covers and began dressing up. Anthony panicked as he saw her actions. "Sue, what are you doing?"

"I'm going home, of course," she replied sternly. Noticing his lost expression, she added, "What?

Should I stay here and continue to get humiliated?"

"I didn't mean it like that!" exclaimed Anthony. He got out of bed and walked toward her justifying

himself, "It's not you. You are a great woman, but... Sheryl is my only love. I can't forget her and I can't

be with anyone else. I didn't expect you to get attached..."

"Enough!" Sue interrupted him. With an indifferent stare, she spelled out her verdict, "It's over between

us, Anthony. You don't need to say anything anymore."

Those words crushed her on the inside but she had to hold it together.

Feeling the need to explain further, she went on, "I can't go on like this. Since we will never have a

future together, our relationship needs to end. So Anthony, it's over. We are simply strangers to each

other now." As she was saying all that, she finished getting dressed, grabbed her stuff and headed out

the door.

"Wait!" Anthony grabbed her hand before she made it out completely. He was ashamed of what he was

about to say, but still felt the need to say it. "I'm sorry, Sue. I know I hurt you. If you allow me, I'd like to

offer you some compensation for all my wrongs; however much you need, just tell me and I will give it

to you."

Smack! Sue slapped him as she tried to hold back her tears. She could not believe his nerve. With a fiery glare, she retaliated, "What do you take me for?

A tramp? Someone you can fuck for a price?" Curses, insults and more hurtful questions kept pouring out of her, as her rage intensified.

Chapter 809 School

Anthony stared at Sue with utter disbelief. "What the hell are you talking about?" After hearing Sue's words, he just could not relate her to the girl he had known for such a long time. His face grew increasingly pale. He had known her to be a well-educated and reasonable girl, who was always so gentle and thoughtful when she spoke to him. He had never thought that Sue would say such annoying and rude words.

Sue stared at Anthony with a stern face. She could see how deeply her harsh words had affected

Anthony. But she did this on purpose.

All she wanted was to generate so much of hatred and disgust for her in his heart that he would not even like to see her anymore. Yes, she wanted to break up with him once and for all.

"Sue, I... I am shocked to hear that. This is what you think about me? I've never thought that you consider me to be such a wicked man." Anthony said straight to Sue with a wry smile, "I know, I have hurt you deeply. All I want to do is to make up for that. I am awfully sorry if my action makes you get it wrong. Please trust me. That is not my intention."

"Stop it now, Anthony." Sue sneered at Anthony. The coldness in her voice ran a chill down his spine as she continued, "Don't think I've never known that you were just fooling around with me from the beginning to the end. Now, you are afraid that I will take our relationship seriously, so you can't wait to get rid of me. Anthony, you are such a disgusting scum."

"You..." Staring at Sue in front of him, Anthony was rendered speechless. He just could not find an appropriate word to reciprocate to the accusations made by her.

And more than anything else what bothered him the most was the change in her behavior that happened almost overnight.

"So? You have nothing to say? Why are you so speechless?" Sue sneered and said to Anthony who was in front of her, "Anthony, listen! I'm not a fool. I am an independent girl who can afford what she wants. Since you don't want to take our relationship seriously, I won't be with you anymore. You can be

rest assured that I will never badger with you again from now on. I give you my words on that."

Sue was breaking down into pieces inside as she watched Anthony being hurt by her rude and harsh words. Only her soul would be a witness to her bleeding heart as she craftily executed her plan to break up with the man she loved so dearly. A man on whom she showered all her love and support even after knowing that his heart rested on another woman. She gave her all to him till the night before.

But everything changed now.

Indeed, she had no other choice. With Peggy coming running after her, she could not risk Anthony and his family to get involved into the muck and grime of her life. The only way for her was to end her relationship with him.

Sue took a deep glance at Anthony, and said to him, "Here is my last words to you! Please don't bother me anymore. We are strangers from now on. Even if we happen to meet each other on the street, please treat me as a stranger and just ignore me. Do you understand?"

"Sue, do you really need to be so heartless?" Anthony tried to move closer to her with an intention to persuade her and looked straight into her eyes. Anthony loved Sheryl and he was clear that he did not

want any other girl to take her place. Yes, he had been with Sue during some moments of weakness but he was clear that they could not be together as a couple. Yet, he thought that they could be good friends. However, after hearing what Sue had to say to him this morning, he realized that being friend with Sue was just his illusion.

Sue sneered with coldness, and questioned Anthony, "Heartless? So what I am saying sounds heartless to you, right?"

Sue stared straight into Anthony's eyes and continued, "And what about my dignity, Anthony? My dignity as a girl? Don't you think you have denied my dignity time and again? Though you were with me, you always parked your loyalty on Sheryl. Always pining for her! And now after you have expressed clearly that you wouldn't be with me in the future, you still expect me to be shameless enough to stay with you?"

"Sue, I thought we are still friends," Anthony said with a wry smile.

"Friends!" Sue scowled, "Does it even work? Do you think after the intimate relationship we had we could merely be just friends?"

"Let it go." Sue took a deep sigh and added, "I am really feeling exhausted. Now, please... just let me

go."

Staring at Anthony in front of her, Sue continued, "Since it is not possible for us to be together, I would rather that we've never known each other. As far as your compensation is concerned, it is not what I want."

Yes, even though her financial state was not as well as Anthony's, but her self-esteem made her to turn down his compensation.

Sue had fallen in love with Anthony, but not his property. If he could not return her love, it was alright.

But she didn't want Anthony misunderstand that she had any purposes to be with him.

"As you said previously, I came with you out of my own will. As long as you do not bother my life any longer, I'd consider it to be the biggest compensation for me."

After hearing Sue's words, Anthony took a deep breath and said to her, "Well, in that case I have nothing to say. But Sue, you have my words. I know you are angry right now, and you don't want to accept any help from me, but if one day..."

Anthony spoke with a wry smile, "If one day you are really driven into the corner and need a hand,

please do call me, okay?"

Anthony looked at Sue imploringly. This was the only way that he could be a little bit relieved in his heart.

However, much contrary to his expectations, Sue sneered with coldness and retorted, "Anthony Xiao, don't ever expect that from me! There won't be such a moment when I would need to ask you for help."

Looking straight at Anthony, Sue continued, "And God forbid, even if I come under a hard moment ever in my life, you will be the last person on earth I would turn to."

Sue ended up the conversation with her final words. Then she turned around and left, leaving Anthony behind in the hotel room.

Anthony gazed at the closed door as Sue walked away, feeling a weird void inside his heart. He did not love her but he took support from her when he was in despair. She loved him without an expectation.

Anthony would be at peace if she accepted his offer but when she chose her self-esteem and returned his offer, he became a bit unsettled. He thought for a while and realized his mistake.

He suddenly thought, 'I am such a jerk. I hurt a girl who loves me so deeply.

To be honest, if I hadn't met Sheryl before or if I did not love Sheryl so deeply, perhaps I would have

fallen for Sue.

However, there is no 'if' in the world. I knew and fell in love with Sheryl first, so Sue was doomed to get hurt.' Anthony finally tried to justify his action attributing it to fate.

As Sue walked out of the room, her eyes burst into tears. She knew that it was all over between Anthony and her. Now, she had never hated herself and Peggy so much in her life.

Had it not been for Peggy, she would not have ended her relationship with Anthony.

Three years ago when Peggy had compelled her to marry that old man, she was depressed. She never had hatred for her mother despite all her misdoings. But now her heart was filled with hatred for her mother. She would never forgive her for this.

Outside the hotel, Sue stopped a taxi to go home. After taking a bath at home, she went to the Shining Company with a tired body and two black eyes. The Fashion Show of Shining Company was getting closer and closer. For Sue, merely putting her attention on work could make her forget Anthony.

Nearly lunchtime, everyone went to have lunch, except Sue. Sheryl looked at Sue. Sheryl didn't come to the Shining Company for a while, but Sue had been here everyday. Sheryl observed Sue to be off

the mark that day. There was obviously weird about Sue working so hard that day.

Sheryl wanted to ask Sue about what happened. But she immediately stopped herself from thinking that it would not be appropriate for her to interfere.

At that time, Charles came to invite Sheryl to have lunch, and Sheryl left with Charles.

After the lunch, Charles handed over a document, and said to Sheryl, "The kids will go to school next month. I have applied for their admission earlier. I will take Charlie to change his name to Clark tomorrow. I have already arranged an intelligence test for him in the school. If it is okay, I want him to stay in this school for the next two years. After all, he is too young. It is not a good thing for him to skip too many grades. Shirley has also attained the school going age. These are the schools I've found for her, which are also close to his school. What do you think of it?"

Chapter 810 We Lost Him

"No, thank you," Sheryl said quickly, without even sparing a glance at the file. "BM Corporation told me that they will help make the arrangements for Shirley's schooling. You don't have to worry about it."

"Sher," Charles said softly. He frowned slightly as he continued, "At least take a look at the file before you make up your mind. The school that BM Corporation plans to send Shirley to is a decent school, but as Shirley's father, I want nothing but the best for her. What's more, I can afford the best school for

her too. We don't need to worry about troubling other people."

Reluctantly, Sheryl opened the file and scanned through it. The more she read, the more she felt like she was reading the brochure for a school in a more advanced country. She wasn't sure if she should be impressed or intimidated by the content in front of her eyes. Finally, she asked in an incredulous tone, "Charles, is this school really in Y City?"

"Of course." Charles nodded slightly. Eager to persuade Sheryl, he quickly added, "It's very hard to be admitted into this school. I had to put in a lot of effort but I managed to secure two places for both Shirley and Clark. What I love most about this school is their security measures. I don't want the kids to face any more danger, so that's what makes this school the top choice for me."

Sheryl flipped through the school's introduction again. She noted that the school was fully quipped with all the facilities you could think of - high tech computer labs, tennis courts, a swimming pool, not to mention only hiring the nation's top teachers - you named it, they had it. It was indeed every parent's dream school for their children and she was convinced that Shirley and Clark would get the best education there. It was no wonder all the elite sent their children there. Suddenly, she saw something in

the brochure that made her stop flipping and she stared at it again closely, hoping she had read the details wrongly.

"Charles, am I reading this wrong? Is this really the cost for a year's tuition?" she exclaimed. Sheryl's eyes were wide with disbelief.

"No, this is the fee for one semester." Seeing Sheryl open her mouth to object, he quickly reassured her, "Don't worry, they are my children and I will pay for them. All I need from you is your green light and Shirley can start attending classes tomorrow."

"But..." she sputtered. "Even for you, this way is too costly!" The tuition fees were equal to five years of a regular family's income. She had thought it was outrageously expensive for a year's education, and finding out that it was meant for only one semester made her even more uncomfortable.

To make things worse, Charles would be paying for not one, but two children. Even though she knew he could afford it, it still made her extremely guilty to accept his kindness.

"It's no big deal," Charles said, seeing the trepidation in her face. "Every man is willing to do anything so their daughter can lead the best life possible. I missed out on the first few years so I intend to pamper her as much as I can. What's most important is that I want to be the perfect example of a good

man so she wouldn't be deceived by any Tom, Dick and Harry when she grows up."

Sheryl couldn't help giggling at the overconfident, pompous expression on his face as he said the last part. "Good man? Are you sure about that?" she teased. She quickly grew serious again as she gazed at the file in her hands. Finally she looked up at Charles and said, "Okay, I agree."

Charles was overjoyed at her words. The feeling of success was even sweeter than securing a huge business deal.

Sheryl came home to see Sue still practicing, looking as if she hadn't taken a break at all. She looked over at Sue curiously but decided to remain silent.

Around two in the afternoon, Sue went outside to answer a call, just as Sheryl came out of the bathroom.

Sue frowned as she talked on the phone, so distracted that she didn't even notice Sheryl standing not far behind her.

"I told you, I have some things to settle right now and can't go with you. You can wait all you want or you can go back without me. Just stop nagging at me, it's not going to work."

On the other end of line, Allen threatened, "You brazen woman! Mom is right next to me at the moment.

If you continue speaking to me in such a tone, I can guarantee you'll get a good beating from her when you return."

"Don't try to threaten me using Mom's name," she replied coolly. Sue's years abroad had broadened her vision and matured her. She was no longer the weak, timid girl she had used to be and Allen's threats didn't work on her anymore. "I wouldn't go back even if Dad rose from his grave and ordered me home, much less if it's Mom's order. I'll come back only after I've finished my work here."

"You..." But Sue had hung up, not bothering to wait for Allen's reply.

Allen growled in annoyance and hit redial but his call went straight to voicemail. Sue had switched off her phone. She closed her eyes and took a few deep breaths to calm herself down. When she opened them again and looked up, she finally realized Sheryl was standing not far away.

She felt slightly embarrassed, like a big dark secret of hers had been exposed. She could see concern and even a bit of pity in Sheryl's eyes, making her feel even more awkward.

She made eye contact with Sheryl and nodded her head in acknowledgement. Then she quickly

escaped back to the rehearsal room.

She didn't want anyone to even know about her family, much less get involved with them. They could be described only as blackholes and bloodsuckers. Anyone who got too close to her family would be manipulated until they could no longer squeeze out any more benefits from them.

Sheryl didn't know what had just happened, but she could deduce from Sue's words that she was having some troubles with her family.

She remembered that Sue mentioned her family before, but had been under the impression that she had broken all ties with her family. She was surprised to hear Sue's phone conversation as she thought that Sue had hidden herself from them.

For a moment, Sue debated if she should offer help to Sue. Then she remembered that Sue had a boyfriend now and decided to let him deal with any troubles she might be facing.

With that in mind, Sheryl didn't bring it up with Sue. Later that day, Charles drove her home as usual.

Amy invited him to join them for dinner and he happily agreed. Amy's cooking was so delicious; only a fool would turn down the opportunity to savor one of her meals. He also enjoyed spending time with the

family.

Everything had fallen into place and the whole family finally seemed complete and happy again.

Although Sheryl and Charles hadn't officially gotten back together, everyone already considered him as part of the family. They all had faith that the two would reunite someday.

After dinner, Andy exchanged a meaningful look with Charles, who immediately got the hint. They went outside sneakily, avoiding the women so they would not be interrupted.

Andy held up a lighter, helping Charles light up a cigarette. Then he said shakily, "Charles... There is something I need to tell you."

Charles looked at Andy curiously and replied encouragingly, "Go ahead, I'm all ears."

Andy knew that his actions years ago had caused severe pain for both Sheryl and Charles, so he was now trying to redeem himself as best as he could. He told Charles that he had gotten a group of his men to tail Ferry and try to keep track of his actions. Ferry was good at disappearing but they usually managed to find him again not long after. This time, he managed to lose them totally, and they had no clue at all where to find him. Andy was worried that he would try to sneak back again.

"We lost Ferry. That's what I wanted to tell you urgently. We need to brainstorm together how to deal

with this." Andy frowned as he told Charles, "Sheryl has suffered so much and now her life is finally starting to change for the better. I don't want him to reappear and ruin everything."