

Wedded Bride 821

Chapter 821 Shame

"If you did not want any part of it in the first place, then why did you join?"

Sheryl bravely asked Roger.

"Because of life," Roger responded with a wry smile. He continued to explain, "Unlike you, my family background wasn't always successful or well-off. To be exact, we had our humble beginnings. To you, money isn't a big issue, but to me it was. Becoming a star is one of the fastest ways of acquiring money, so I..."

Roger took a glance at Sheryl before continuing, "But you know? When I've reached the peak of my career where everything and anything I want, I can get; when I've finally had so much money, I've begun missing my old life wherein there had to be a certain degree of struggle before getting what I wanted. What I've really always dreamed of is a life just like today where I am allowed to stop whatever I am doing and just be with the person I love -- we could light up a candle or enjoy a nice cake, just as simple as that. It's just that..."

Roger once again paused with a bitter smile on his face and then proceeded finishing his thought, "It's just that a wish as simple as that could never be granted to me."

Sheryl glanced at Roger, without expressing her opinion.

That is the nature of being human -- there is barely a time wherein there is no conflict, dilemma, or irony.

Even these three words are an understatement. To be more precise, it is greediness that the human nature runs on.

"Roger." A little voice called out Roger's name while they were in the middle of conversation. Sheryl slightly tilted her head and found a young girl rushing into Roger's arms.

"I missed you! Did you miss me?"

she asked while embracing Roger. It was as if she was throwing a tantrum and she did not mind that there were other people around them.

Roger frowned and said, "Helin, stop that!" The girl was named Helin He. She just wished to enjoy the warmth of being enveloped into a hug and refused to follow the wish of Roger.

She hugged him even tighter as if she was trying to morph her body with his. She replied, "No, I won't.

We haven't seen each other for so long. Didn't you miss me at all?"

"Let go of me first," Roger demanded. He took a glance at Sheryl in embarrassment. For reasons he could not tell, he did not want Sheryl to witness the situation with Helin He. He wanted to get closer to Sheryl because he was afraid that she would misinterpret his relationship with Helin He. As a matter of fact, there was nothing between Roger and the clingy girl.

Despite the tightness of the hug, Roger managed to push the girl away and ordered her to sit down.

"Don't get any closer," he demanded.

"Roger..."

Helin He fell sorrowful and asked, "What happened to you? You are being so strange."

Helin He was actually a famous hot star who was in the same company Roger was in.

While Roger climbed up the ladder of fame all by himself with his hard work, Helin He relied on her family's fortune. Her father held position on the Auspice Film Company and helped her clear the obstacles in the way of getting famous. She was privileged and had many opportunities served to her in silver platters.

Though their backgrounds greatly differed, Helin He fell in love with Roger. She would often describe it as love at first sight. Worrying that she would use her father's power to suppress him of his rights,

which may be a major hindrance to his development in the industry, Roger could not turn her away. He could not reject her, but he did not accept her either.

If not for Sheryl's presence, Roger would have treated Helin He more nicely and he would have been more patient with her as if he were the older brother of a spoiled younger sister. He would satisfy her needs. But today was different since Sheryl was around. By instinct, Roger tried to draw a line between him and Helin He.

After reluctantly breaking away from Roger's arms, Helin He noticed that Sheryl was there. She realized this was the reason why her beloved Roger was acting so strange. She then eyed Sheryl from top to toe with her judgmental eyes as if she was inspecting her.

"Allow me to introduce her to you."

Upon realizing the awkwardness, Roger tried to break the ice by making things seem normal. He

introduced Sheryl to Helin He. "This is Sheryl Xia, a model of BM Corporation."

Roger thought of so many ways to introduce Sheryl -- what she was the best at, what she did, how amazing she was -- but, he had to keep his admiration for her at a low-profile or else Sheryl herself

would notice Roger's affection for her. He then gestured towards Helin He. "This is Helin He, a colleague of mine. She joined the company a few years later after I did."

"I'm aware," Sheryl smiled politely and said. "I have seen Miss He many times in TV Shows. She is the hottest and most popular star at the moment."

"Is she?" Roger smiled back yet Helin He was still dissatisfied despite the compliment given to her.

"Colleague?"

Helin He frowned and questioned Roger. "Am I only a colleague to you? Is that how you see me? This was not how you addressed me the last time."

Helin He was clearly a spoiled girl. Like most pampered girls, she had a bad temperament and had difficulty managing her anger upon hearing things that did not please her. Sensing that Sheryl might be a threat to her relationship with Roger, she gazed at Sheryl intensely and once again introduced herself, "Hello. It's nice to meet you. Let me introduce myself properly. My name is Helin He, Roger's future girlfriend."

Sheryl felt awkward and was speechless. All she could afford to do was to return a few words to Helin He. "Hello. Nice to meet you, too."

Sheryl saw through the childish attempt of Helin He, trying to claim ownership over Roger. Sheryl could not help but let a laugh out.

"Helin, what are you talking about?" Roger questioned the naive girl with embarrassment.

"What are you laughing at?"

Helin He ignored Roger and began to take notice of every little detail Sheryl made.

Realizing that Helin He might have misinterpreted her laugh, Sheryl tried to explain herself so that Helin He would calm down. "I'm sorry, I hope you're not misinterpreting me, I just feel..."

Sheryl paused to gather her words. "I just feel that it's so rare to see an ingenuous girl like you these days."

Even though Helin He was acting like a child, she had her own way of doing things -- at least she was bold enough to express her feelings, good or bad. That was her edge.

"There's nothing for me to be proud of," Helin He taunted Sheryl. "You know, nowadays there are just so many seductresses out there. In this scenario, it is quite pressing for me to win Roger's heart before any of them could possibly get to him. Indeed, I'm claiming ownership over Roger. Tell anyone else

who have the intention to take him from me this: you bitches will forever be out of his league."

"Well, that sounds really harsh and unacceptable, Helin. You've gone too far. Stop being rude." Roger

was already pissed off. Even though she did not mention that Sheryl was the one she was pertaining

to, it was pretty obvious that Helin He was just being passive-aggressive.

Sheryl disagreed with everything Helin He said, but she kept her composure. She was not mad. In fact,

she found Helin He cute. To her, Helin He was just a child, an immature younger sister. Why would she

be irritated with the childish words of Helin He?

"Roger!" Helin He suddenly raised her voice. Apparently, she was annoyed, too. Roger was usually

soft-spoken to her and had never scolded her the way he just did. To her, Sheryl was the cause of the

sudden shift of tone of Roger. Because of this, Helin He just despised Sheryl more. She asked, "Did I

say anything wrong?"

"Apologize to Miss Xia. Now!"

Roger demanded angrily.

"For what?" Helin He felt so hurt that her voice was quivering. "Do you love her?"

"What the hell are you talking about?"

Roger was deeply embarrassed now. He tried to come up with the words to give Sheryl a reasonable explanation. "Miss Xia, don't listen to her. She's so spoiled to the extent that..."

"It's no big deal, so don't bother about it,"

Sheryl said with an unbothered smile.

Sheryl was about to leave when Helin He got so agitated by her own assumptions. How could she let this woman go so easily? She sneered at Roger, "Don't try to fool me. I know you've fallen for this woman! You used to be such a gentleman to me no matter what I did or said. You've never lost your temper in front of me, but now that she's here, you've changed. How should I accept the fact that you're angry at me for some woman? How can I..."

"Shut up!"

Roger finally had it. He was offended at the position Helin He put him in. He then put his shame aside and explained, "Miss Xia is my friend and my guest. You said things that were so unnecessary. That's absolutely unfair."

"Is she really just a guest? Because, oh man, I don't buy it. The way I see it is that, you were showing

her much more favor,"

Helin He grumbled in detectable dissatisfaction.

"Can you just..." Roger trembled with anger, but what could he do? He couldn't have known Helin He

would overreact this way. Could he expect her to calm down and listen to him with rationality? 'Forget it,

' he thought. 'She'd never understand.'

Chapter 822 Roger's Explanation

"Miss Xia, I am so sorry about what happened today!" Roger had no choice but to apologize in the

place of Helin. Sheryl replied with a smile, "It doesn't matter and you don't need to apologize. I've

already told you not to worry."

She took a glance at Helin and turned back to Roger. "Happy birthday! I'm afraid I'm gonna have to

leave your celebration before your party starts. Goodbye!"

"Please, don't!" Roger rushed to stop her and asked her to stay. "The party's just about to start and you

haven't had your slice of cake yet."

"I think Miss He would prefer I be out of your sight, yes?" Sheryl smiled. "I'm sorry that I didn't know

today is your birthday. I'll bring a gift with me the next time we meet."

Sheryl looked at Roger and said, "You said you wanted a birthday party. I'm sure Miss He can make your dreams come true."

"Miss Xia! Miss Xia!"

Roger was unwilling to give up and wanted to be with Sheryl even though he knew that nothing could be done about it.

"Just let her go if she wants to! Why are you so desperate for her to stay?"

Helin stopped Roger. "I have good news!" she continued.

"Do you have any idea what you've done?"

Roger shouted at Helin in frustration.

"Of course I do!" Helin exclaimed. She confessed, "Roger, I fell in love with you at first sight. I'm always transparent with my affection towards you and I believe you're well aware of that fact, right?"

Roger stared at Helin, not knowing how to react to her feelings. "Why are you saying this?" he asked.

"You know very well in your heart that I have done so much for you all the years we've known each other. Do you really think that I have done all this because my intention is to be your 'little sister'?" She came closer to his face and continued, "I really don't know what you would think, but everything I did

today was to tell her that you are mine; that I earned you. She shouldn't even think of you! Do you understand?"

Roger stared at Helin, worried that she would do reckless things to mess up the party, which would ruin everything he had come so far to achieve such as his fame and social status.

He smiled as he came forward to touch her hand and comforted her, "Helin, why are you angry all of the sudden?"

Helin once again sneered, "You know why, don't you?"

"Yes, I do," Roger nodded. "I know how you feel for me, but I treat you just as well, don't I? Even though no one dares to say it, we have done enough to show each other gratitude. I'm sure you also know how my heart is towards you, right?"

"Really?" Helin replied coldly, "I thought I was sure with how you felt before today. For all these years I stayed by your side quietly for the sake of your fame, so that we would not cause any rumors and controversy. But today, when I saw you get mad over some stupid amateur model, I came to realize that I did not know you at all. I mean nothing to you and you promise me nothing!"

"Helin, you misunderstood me!"

Roger frowned, "I was angry not because I liked Miss Xia, but because I didn't want to displease her!"

"A small model? Do you think I'll believe you?" Helen sneered. "Roger, if you want to lie to me, come up with a better lie."

"I'm telling you the truth," Roger explained with a bitter smile. "Do you see that man over there?"

Helin averted her gaze at the direction Roger pointed at. There was a man who was talking with Helin's father.

"You must know him, right?"

Roger asked Helin.

"Is he... Charles Lu?" Helin frowned slightly and asked Roger in confusion.

"Yes, it's him."

Roger nodded. "The Charles Lu himself."

"Charles is not a very friendly man and he seldom attends other people's birthday party. Why does he show up today? Moreover, you're not even close. Why would you invite him?" Helin asked. She knew that Roger had attended the fashion show of the Shining Company recently. But how was it possible

that they became good friends only because of a show?

"He is not here because of me." Roger grinned bitterly. "Even Mr. He needs to fawn on him. How could he do me the favor?"

"Then why is he here now?" Helin was utterly perplexed.

"I invited Miss Xia so that Mr. Lu could accompany her to the party. Do you know why now?"

Roger looked at Helen and continued, proud of his excuse. "I helped Miss Xia out because if I displease her, it means I displease Charles. Do you understand now?"

Helin was looking at her father who was bowing and scraping in front of Charles when she realized what she did wrong.

"So you mean

the small-time model has an affair with Mr. Lu?" Helin frowned. "How is that possible? Charles is not so shallow to stoop down to that woman's level!"

"It's not an affair." Roger explained with a bitter smile, not really liking what he was scheming. "I guess you must know the story of Mrs. Lu."

"Of course I know." Helin nodded slightly. "Rachel was also an actor in our company years ago and that accident sparked a huge controversy. It's impossible for me to forget."

Roger continued to explain, "Outsiders only know that Mrs. Lu passed away three years ago, but in fact, she didn't; she just lost her memory. Now she's back."

"What? You mean Sheryl is Mrs. Lu?" Helin was stunned, awing at the information she just found out.

"Roger, that's ridiculous! You must be kidding me."

"It is the truth whether or not you believe me; it's the truth," Roger sneered. "Helin, I couldn't explain to you when she was there. I met Mrs. Lu before, so I couldn't be mistaken."

He took Helin's hand in his. "I did that for your own good."

Helin was starting to feel guilty for pinning Roger as the wrong kind of guy. She took a glance at

Charles who wasn't too far away and then she returned her attention to Roger. She anxiously asked him, "What should I do? I disrespected Sheryl!"

"Take it easy, now. Don't worry too much about it since what happened has already happened." Roger sighed. "I'll just have to explain to her on your behalf later, but the next time you meet her you must be nice and polite. Don't be wrong to make the same mistake again. I can't always clean up after you!"

"No problem! I promise, I won't do it again." Helin, being gullible, nodded immediately.

Chapter 823 A Threat

Sheryl had no idea what Roger and Helin were talking about after she left. She wanted to tell Charles that she wanted to leave, but decided to wait for him on the side instead, when she saw him talking to someone else.

Even though Charles was talking to Heron He, he still paid Sheryl glances at times to see how she was doing.

Worry grew on his face when his eyes darted on an empty space where Sheryl was supposed to be standing. He searched around with the hope to see her. Luckily, he felt relieved when he noticed Sheryl standing at a spot close to him. She was looking at him.

Not wanting Sheryl to wait any longer, he hastily told Heron He, "Mr. He, I still have something else to do later. Please excuse me first."

"Yes, of course." After a short conversation with Charles, Heron He felt satisfied that a partnership had been made. Smiling widely at Charles, he said, "Mr. Lu, shall we confirm the partnership then? If yes, I'll ask my men to send you the contracts later."

"Alright," said Charles with a nod. After parting with Heron He, he immediately walked towards Sheryl and asked, "Why are you here? Is there anything wrong?"

"It's alright." Sheryl smiled at him gently and continued, "If you have something important to discuss, just go ahead. Don't worry about me."

"I don't have any other things to do now; all the important discussions are done," Charles said indifferently. "Shall we go?"

"Okay, sure." Sheryl nodded gently. It was impossible to eat anything properly while on a wine reception, so Charles took her elsewhere for some light food.

Helin only decided to bring Roger to Heron He when Charles and Sheryl had left. With a curious look on her face, she asked her father, "Dad, what were you discussing with him?"

Heron He seemed to be in a pretty good mood. "Darling, you came just in time. I have just confirmed a partnership with Mr. Lu. To make it more interesting, he agreed to have you as the endorser of his company's brand, 'Kelly'. You should personally go to the Shining Company later. But remember, don't upset him with your tantrum, or else even I can't help you with it. Do you understand?"

"Yes Dad, I got it," Helin answered cheerfully.

Her brows were inseparable. She was worried that if she had displeased Sheryl, it would let the whole thing fall through. Heron He would get angry if that happened.

"Congratulations, Mr. He," Roger uttered with a smile as he faced Heron He.

Heron He patted Roger's shoulder and said, "Your contribution to the agreement was really undeniable.

If you had not invited Mr. Lu, I don't think I'll ever have this opportunity. Tell me, what rewards do you want?"

"I..." Roger hesitated and gave him a modest smile as he said, "Don't mention it, Mr. He. This is what I'm supposed to do."

Heron He's smile deepened with satisfaction at Roger's words.

Helin turned to Roger to give him a small nudge and said, "Roger, it's not easy to get a chance like this.

This is a rare opportunity. You don't have to be so courteous to my father."

Helin smiled as she held his father's arm lovingly and said, "Dad, you mentioned before that our

company has this drama adaptation of a popular novel which will start filming by the end of the year.

But, the male lead has not been confirmed yet, right? How about Roger? What do you think?"

Helin gave her father a sweet smile and then went on, "Roger is one of the hottest young celebrities in our company now. Popular shows like this will get more interests with actors that are young and popular, don't you think? And Roger's image fits the description of the leading character of that show.

Should we..."

Heron He interrupted with an unreadable expression, "Well, I'll think about this." He became serious when he heard Helin's request. "I am not the only one who will make decisions in terms of casting.

Besides, the company has its own arrangements already. It should not be your concern."

"But dad..." Helin protested with a frown.

"Save your breath." It was obvious that Heron He did not want to discuss the subject and so he avoided it. He looked at Helin as the warmth in his eyes disappeared. He added, "You should go and eat something first, I have other things to discuss with Roger."

Helin was reluctant as she looked at her father, but still left without further objections.

After making sure that Helin already left them, Heron He turned to face Roger with an intense gaze.

"Roger, you ought to know... Helin is my only daughter, the apple of my eye..."

"Of course. I know that very well," Roger nodded and said, "and I always see Helin as my own younger

sister."

"Indeed, it would be better for you to see her as your own sister," Heron He said with a grin. "I wasn't able to change her mind in joining the entertainment industry. Truly, that's what she really wants. With that, I arranged everything for her to join my own company. I had two reasons. One was to fulfill her wish and the other was to keep her close to me so I could watch over her."

Heron He shot Roger a sideways glance and went on, "We all know what it is like to be in the entertainment industry. The obstacles and challenges were certainly not easy for any of us. But we managed to overcome those to be in the positions we are today, don't you agree?"

A little frown could be seen on Roger's face. He looked at Heron He impassively and said, "Mr. He, if you have something to say, put it directly. It's quite tiring for me to listen to you while beating around the

bush."

"In that case, I shall tell you this frankly," Heron he responded coldly. "Helin is my only daughter so I do not want her to get hurt even a bit. It's quite obvious that she has feelings for you, but we, as her parents, do not want her to be with someone from the entertainment industry. So my point is that you

should keep your distance and stay away from her. Do you understand?"

"Mr. He, I think there's a misunderstanding here," Roger said with a frown. "Helin and I are just friends; it is not what you think..."

"It doesn't matter what I think it is." A sense of coldness was present in Heron He's tone as he uttered his words. "I just want to warn you. Stay away from Helin or else you know what might happen."

Heron He released a brittle laugh. With that, Roger understood immediately why he was not chosen to be part of the upcoming popular drama. It was all because of Heron He. It was pretty clear that he was giving him a warning.

Roger had the courage to stare at Heron He who stood firmly in front of him. He was not moved, but he did not know what else to say.

The next moment, Heron He kindly patted Roger on the shoulder, as if no confrontation had happened.

He then said, "You know what Roger, to be honest, I am quite satisfied with you in general. But of course, it would be better if you keep a good distance away from my precious daughter, Helin. If you do that, I can assure you of a brighter future in the entertainment industry."

"I'm sorry but... are you threatening me?" Roger winced upon saying those words.

"Of course not, why would I?" Heron He laughed coldly. "This is nothing more than a gentle reminder for you."

Despite his assertion of it being just a 'reminder', Heron He still fired Roger an intense glare and said,

"You better choose, your future or my daughter. Do remember to always choose wisely."

Roger's fists tightly clenched as he watched Heron He leaving.

"Roger, what did my dad tell you?" The moment Heron He had left, Helin who had been waiting at the side all along came up to Roger. She took his hand and asked, "What exactly did he tell you?" Urgency could be sensed in her tone.

Roger turned and looked at Helin. He had always hated this kind of situation. He didn't like the idea of being threatened by others. He was genuine when he said he had no feelings for her. So he firmly opposed what Heron He assumed. Heron He's threat to him was not only pointless but also nerve-racking. It only made him develop a rebellious attitude inside him.

Chapter 824 Roger's Inducement

Roger developed no liking toward Helin, despite the fact that she had brought him many pleasant opportunities in his career.

He was thoroughly upset with Heron threatening him to walk out of his daughter's life because of his underprivileged social status. It hurt his feelings and his dignity, indeed.

'What justifies Heron's superiority over me? How could he talk to me like that!'

Roger thought defiantly.

Although Heron threatened to ruin his career, he decided to turn the table around.

Roger's face had turned grim and he was unusually silent, which scared Helin. She stood by his side

for quite some time waiting for him to say something. Then she broke the silence and said, "Roger,

what are you thinking of? Do not fall into silence!" Still Roger remained motionless. Helin became

impatient. She touched Roger's hand and asked eagerly, "What happened to you? Is it due to my Dad's

inappropriate remarks?"

"Helin...." Roger frowned and shrugged off Helin's hand. Then he pretended to talk to Helin in a very

grave voice without making eye contact with her, "I think... we had better keep a distance among each

other."

"Why?" Helin was initially taken aback by his words. Then she lowered her eyes feeling embarrassed

and guilty of her father's behavior and added, "I had planned to introduce you into starring the hot series as a birthday gift to you, least expecting..."

What Helin least expected was Heron's denial of her proposal. She could not figure out why her father had dismissed Roger who was a leading actor of Auspice Film Company.

"Roger, I am fully aware of your eagerness to distinguish yourself and cherish our time spent together, but..." Helin forced a smile and continued apologetically, "I am absolutely confused about my Dad's rough dismissal of you. I am sure there must be some misunderstanding. But you relax. I will try my best to facilitate your starring career!"

Helin touched Roger's hands once again, seized with a deep fear that Roger would break off with her.

She could feel her hands turning cold and trembling as she touched Roger's hands.

Roger forced a wry smile and broke free of Helin's hands. Her heart skipped a beat. She tried to pull herself together and added, "Roger, please do not get annoyed with me. I promise to give you whatever you want as a compensation."

"Helin, I am not at all angry or annoyed with you. But... it would benefit us both if we maintain a distance," Roger replied in a very calm and gentle voice.

Helin was a little surprised and stared at Roger with disbelief. How could he even speak about getting distanced from her so easily? She added in a stubborn tone, "I do not see any point of distancing myself from you."

Suddenly, Helin's thought turned to Sheryl. She turned towards Roger and asked eagerly, "Are you infatuated with that model?"

Roger was rendered speechless and was seemingly stealing his eyes from Helin. Seeing this, Helin's suspicion got confirmed. She gave a cold smile to Roger and said, "I could sense your fondness of her to be the reason behind your impatience to break off with me!"

Helin could feel Roger slipping out of her hands. She could sense the indifference in his behavior. The more she tried to confront him, the more distant he appeared. Roger took a deep sigh and spoke, "You may break up with me for that so-called reason."

"What do you mean by saying so?" Helin shrieked at such a point blank reply from Roger. She felt partly wronged and partly uncertain about what Roger tried to say. "Roger, you must give me an explanation to justify our long-term relationship or else... I will not let you walk away so easily. I will

plague you to the extent of scandalization and humiliation which will not be in favor of you!"

"Is it a good way to end our romantic relationship?" Roger forced a smile and turned gleeful as he marked his scheme to be unrolling gradually.

He was fully aware of Helin's position in the company that he had very skillfully leveraged to serve his end.

"Helin, there is one point you must understand that I am willing to do whatever I can in your favor." He looked at Helin with a false affection and continued, "You are the daughter of the President of Auspice Film Company, deserving of everything going that come your way, but my case is diametrically different."

Roger paused and continued, "I have such a humble origin that I have to strive and achieve so long as I want to distinguish myself. Such a feeling of being underprivileged is beyond your comprehension!" He looked at her with a grave expression.

"What on earth do you want to say?" Helin became totally confused. She tried yo figure out Roger's real intention.

Roger responded with a gentle smile and continued in a diplomatic way, "Helin, I prize my starring

career over anything else. My life would be meaningless without that. Please have the mercy on me. If I continue with our romantic relationship, I will be removed from this show circle."

He looked at Helin endearingly and continued, "You are such a good-looking and young girl. Moreover, given your social status, any man would consider himself to be too lucky to have you as a wife."

"What the hell do you mean?" Helin frowned and then suddenly there was spark in her face. She asked, "Is it due to my Dad's personal attacks on you?"

Roger glanced at Helin pretending to be embarrassed and replied with all his modesty, "Whatever your Dad decides for you is for your own good. You should learn to understand him..."

"Sheer nonsense!" Helin interrupted Roger and continued defiantly, "I am old enough to decide what is good for me and what is not. I don't need to just follow his verdict about my life. After all it is my life!"

"Helin, my dear." Roger glanced at Helin and said in a very polite voice, "Being capricious and willful is your nature as your Dad is always tolerant of you. But by no means would I contradict your Dad, because he can give me a fatal blow anytime."

Roger forced a smile and continued, "Please try to understand, Helin. I have been struggling very hard

to reach where I am today. The pains of the journey are simply unexplainable through words. And our continued romance would be met with your Dad's cruelty against me! Can you make sense of it?"

Roger, seeing Helin somewhat moved by his words, continued, "As far as you are concerned, you are very well aware that it is difficult to sustain popularity in this profession. I have to make efforts to be in the right place, at the right time if I want to be with the right people. Without that I will fall into a helpless

oblivion!"

Chapter 825 Heron's Adamancy

"I will support you financially!" Helin exaggeratingly replied, "Roger, I love you because of your personalities. You are optimistic, dedicated, and responsible enough to excel over your colleagues.

Because of these, I have a desire for you.

Besides, I do not deny the fact that we have a big difference in terms of social status. But I think that

made you strive harder and achieve getting ahead of your colleagues." Helin continued, "If my Dad

remains stubborn, I will not hesitate to compete with him. As a last resort, you may take me anywhere

you want to seek fortune. I strongly believe this matter will be perfectly solved!"

She brushed Roger's hand affectionately and continued, "Or better yet we may flee with my jewels and

accessories. We can sell those to sustain our lifetime."

"Stop your fantasy!" Roger gathered his words as he caressed Helin's hair and then said, "You were

born with a silver spoon in your mouth and I think you are not destined to have a simple life with me!"

Once, Roger had lived in poverty and had a miserable life.

"I am willing to face anything even suffering if that's what can bring us together!" Firmness was clearly

noticeable on Helin's face as she expressed those words.

With that, Roger forced a smile and said, "Helin, you are too innocent and young to involve yourself in

this stressful situation!"

Helin took again Roger's hand with a painted hope in her eyes and begged, "Roger, you don't have to

worry because I will do everything to get my Dad's approval of our relationship."

"If... If he remains adamant, we may escape in a worthwhile manner. I believe we can clear up this

situation!" Helin said with a gentle smile on her innocent face.

She gave Roger an endearing hug and said, "Now, I have to discuss it with my Dad. Just wait for the

good news."

Gazing into Helin's back figure as she turned from him, Roger became delighted at the prospect of

Helin arguing with Heron.

When Helin was walking towards Heron, she found him chatting happily with his friend.

Without the slightest consideration of the ongoing conversation, she directly went to his father and demanded time for a talk.

"Helin! You are impossible. That's very impolite of you to interfere with my talk with your senior." Heron expressed his disbelief and displeasure to Helin, "Please say hello to your senior... following the action of a well-nurtured girl."

"It is nice to meet you, Uncle." Helin forced a welcoming greeting and motioned her father to leave the scene on the disguise of her discomfort.

"Mr. Zhang, I'm sorry that I have to leave now. Helin has been spoiled by me." Heron clearly expressed his apology.

"It doesn't matter. Take care of your daughter for now. We may still chat later."

On their way home, Helin was so upset. So upon entering her house, she immediately called her father to explain, "Dad, how could you do that?"

"I have no idea what you are talking about!" Heron frowned and replied bitterly, "Are you babbling?"

"Spare your hypocrisy! You fully understand what I am referring to. So stop being deceitful, Dad!" Helin

stared straight to her father and said, "It is indecent of you to ask Roger out of my life."

"Indecent?" Heron let out a cold smile and said, "I threatened Roger to your advantage."

"No! I know you are doing it for your own will." Helin replied amusingly, "You want me to marry into a

family which will promote your career into a higher level, and ignore Roger because he is neither rich

nor influential."

"Shut up!" Heron felt his kindness being taken for granted and opposed, "I expected Roger not to be

submissive and timid."

"Dad, to put it honestly, I would rather break our family ties than lose Roger if you continue your wish to

part us!" Helin responded harshly.

Helin thought her father would concede to her demand just like before.

However, Heron approached her with an unconcerned attitude by saying, "Helin, you must realize by

no means would I accept your romantic relationship with Roger despite your efforts and demanding

appeals. You must cut ties with him soon, otherwise..."

"Dad..." Helin was greatly challenged and so she said, "I can not figure out why you are so insistent on parting us. And, I do not see any flaws in Roger."

With a helpless look as she faced her father, she continued, "Roger has been doing everything by himself to get his position, overshadowing most of his colleagues, and will provide me with a happy married life. I hope you can bless us."

"My dear daughter..." Heron sighed as he moved closer to pat his daughter's shoulder affectionately and said, "You are too inexperienced to see through Roger's true nature which would hurt you beyond measure. And to tell you, I am experienced enough to see the real him. Think of my advice and stay away from him to avoid future troubles..."

"No! I won't split with Roger!" Helin broke free of her father's hand and swore to stay close to Roger under any circumstance.

She looked at her father with a growing bitterness and said harshly, "You could not see how ideal and worthy he is so you have no right to criticize him.

Honestly speaking, I am destined to be with his company no matter what will happen!" A cold smile

came out of Helin's face and she threatened to betray her father who would hinder her love for Roger.

"How dare you argue with me like this?" Feeling disappointed, Heron felt his love to his daughter backfired.

He looked at his daughter helplessly and said, "My dear daughter, since your mother's passing, I have showered love and care upon you in a bid to make up for your loss of maternal love. I catered for your every whim which resulted in your tenacity and vulnerability. Now there is one point you must understand that I won't permit your continued contact with Roger. He will bring more despair than blessings to you!"

Chapter 826 Stop Lying To Me

Heron looked at Helin with an icy stare. "Since your mother left, I've been responsible for your life. I will spare no effort to intervene if you keep dating Roger. I don't need him in my company anymore. You'd better stay at home and get your head together. You're grounded."

"You're grounding me?" She looked at him incredulously. "You're really trying to ground me?"

"I didn't want it to come to this, but it's for your sake," he said more gently. Then he turned to the servant and demanded, "Sheena, take her to her room and keep watching. She's not allowed to leave without my permission, for any reason."

Helin started getting fidgety and anxious, realizing that Heron was dead serious. "Heron He, you bastard! You can't do this to me! I'm in love with Roger. I love him. I'll spend the rest of my life with him, no matter what. Once I have chances to get out, I would definitely elope with him."

Sheena pulled at Helin's arm and tried to calm her. "Miss He, please don't say that. What master did is for your sake."

"No. He did it to save himself, for his stupid image." Helin shook her head in disapproval as she walked. "He just won't allow his daughter to marry someone who doesn't meet his stupid status standards. That's why he's doing this to me. I'm not marrying anyone else, Heron He. Just give up."

Sheena took her upstairs, and all the while, Heron could hear Helin throwing a fit in the room, throwing things against the wall and groaning in frustration. It made him feel a bit dizzy.

When it finally calmed down and there were no longer any angry sounds coming from the room,

Sheena came downstairs.

She saw Heron sitting on the sofa staring at nothing in particular. "Mr. He, are you hungry? Would you like me to prepare some midnight snacks for you?"

"No, I'm good." He put out the cigarette in his hand and asked her instead, "How is she?"

"She's exhausted. It's time for a little peace and quiet tonight." She smiled at him. "Mr. He, since you strongly oppose the relationship between Helin and Roger, he must not be good enough for her."

Sheena had been serving the He family all her life. She was around to see Heron grow up, every step of the way, and she knew him very well.

Heron forced a smile in return at her words. "Sheena, you do know me best."

"So..." Sheena started. "Why don't you just talk to Miss He?" She frowned in concern. "Miss He isn't ignorant. If you were to talk to her about this properly, I believe she would listen to you and not resist you so much like she just did."

"Sheena, there's something... something I don't want Helin to know." He sighed, at a loss for how he should deal with everything. Other people probably didn't know how Roger debuted, but Heron knew all too well.

He knew everything that went down between him and Rachel.

Helin wouldn't believe he was doing this for her sake from the get go, but this was really why he was so strongly opposed to her being with Roger.

He didn't care about his wealth, or his lack of it. But if he did despicable things to get where he was, and it was unforgivable for him to claim to be clean.

He looked at Sheena with rather sad eyes. "Helin lost her mother when she was very young. I

protected her as much as I could." He smiled in spite of himself. "She's a delicate flower, that one. Too afraid to deal with difficult things. I'm afraid she won't know how to stand it if I told her the truth about Roger."

"But... Wouldn't it be much more of a problem later if you didn't tell her the truth? She might resent you, even."

Sheena's frown was tight as she knew Helin as well. She knew that in the long term, she would prefer to have been told the truth.

"Then let her hate me."

He smiled bitterly and said, "It doesn't matter if she hates me her whole life, as long as I can protect her. Especially from people like Roger."

A low rumble of anger bubbled up inside him again. He threatened Roger earlier that day. The bastard

had the nerve to use Helin against him. 'How bold, ' he thought.

Since Roger basically declared open war on him, Heron thought, 'let's just see who'll laugh at last.'

In a single phone call, Heron had all Roger's activities suspended until further notice.

It was a worrisome demand for Roger's agent, who had been anxious since he received the notice.

"What did you do? You offended the president. You have to come with me to apologize to him

tomorrow. And be sincere. You can't just give this all up on a whim. You're finally here, don't screw it up."

"I won't." Roger sneered at the thought. "Since he suspended my work, I'd better use the opportunity to rest. Book me a plane ticket for tomorrow. I'm going on vacation for a few days."

His agent widened his eyes at the ridiculous statement. "You're going on a vacation?" He stared at

Roger in astonishment. "Do you have the slightest idea how serious this is? Your future, your whole

future is ruined if you don't go up there and apologize to him. There are so many people eyeing you in

the company right now, and you're going on vacation for a few days? They're not holding your position,

Roger. Once it's taken you're back to zero."

Roger didn't even blink. "Don't worry about it." With Helin, he had his trump card, and he wasn't afraid of anything. He faced his agent and said, "I have more hold on this company than you think. It'll be mine soon. I'll make sure of it."

First, he wanted to see if Heron still had any balls to face him off.

"But..." Before the agent could say anymore, Roger gave the demand again. "Hurry up. Book a plane ticket for me."

The agent pursed his lips to stop from saying more, and just nodded. Although Roger's words seemed like wishful thinking, he believed Roger wouldn't say it if he wasn't absolutely sure.

After working with him for so long, he knew that Roger was someone who would truly do anything to get what he wanted. Maybe it wasn't just a dream, and Roger did have everything he needed.

When he got the ticket, Roger dialed Helin's number.

She had done all she could against her father. No matter how much she cried or yelled, no one paid her any mind. She had to go quiet for a while.

She did not know what else way she could use to deal with her father. Just as she was at a loss while lying on the bed, she received a call from Roger. Her face flashed with surprise and she answered the

phone hurriedly

"Helin, are you okay?" Helin couldn't see Roger's expression over the phone, but she could hear the worry in his voice clearly

A hint of sweetness floated in her heart. She worked so hard that she didn't want Roger to worry. She pretended to be relaxed and said, "Don't worry. I'm doing fine."

Helin paused for a moment and said to Roger, "Don't worry about me. I've made a deal with my father. He won't interfere the relationship between us."

"Really?" Roger forced a smile and said, "Helin, stop lying to me."

Helin's heart skipped a beat. She still didn't want to tell Roger the truth. She smiled and said, "It's true.

How could I possibly lie to you?"

Chapter 827 Peggy's Weird Questions

Roger sighed upon hearing her denial. "Helin, here's the thing. I already know." He added indifferently,

"All my work plans have been cancelled. If everything is alright like you said, this shouldn't have happened."

"What?" She didn't even know what he was talking about. "Oh my god, he's gone too far."

Helin consoled Roger, "Don't worry. I am going to talk about this matter with my father right now!"

"Helin." He stopped her. "Don't, Helin. I'm actually alright with this whole arrangement. I've always been busy at the company, so I'm taking the chance to get some rest for a few days."

Roger heaved a deep sigh and added, "The only thing I worry about is you. I want to know if you are alright. Did your father scold you?"

Helin was happy to hear his concern for her. She couldn't understand why Heron just couldn't accept Roger for who he was -- he was perfect in her eyes.

She put aside feeling bad for him and merely answered, "Don't worry. I'm fine, really.

He won't punish me harshly, even if he thinks I've made a mistake. He's my father."

"Okay, then." Roger let out a sigh of relief. "I've booked a ticket to fly out tomorrow. Do you want to come with me?"

Helin wanted to go with him, of course, but in light of what just happened, she had to refuse. She smiled resentfully and answered, "Sorry, I just can't right now, with this whole situation going on. Have fun, though, you deserve the break. When you come back, I hope everything gets settled."

"I do hope so," Roger sighed. "Anyway, it's late now. Time to go to bed. Off you go. Good night."

As soon as he hung up the phone, the cold sneer made its way to his face.

Meanwhile, in BM Corporation, the work in Shining Company was over, and all the models were heading back.

Sue, however, didn't show up the first day after their return.

Sheryl thought she would be able to offer Sue some more help or support, but she lost her chance.

Sue's absence also piqued Holley's curiosity, so she made sure to ask Sheryl about it after work.

"Sher, do you know why Sue didn't come today?"

Sheryl shook her head, concern on her face. "What happened to her?"

Holley pouted. "I worry about her. I called her a bunch of times this morning, but she didn't pick up

once." She arched a brow at the other. "Sher, you're her neighbor and best friend, so I hope you can go

and find out how she is. And please let me know how she is when you do, I just want to make sure

she's alright."

"But I..." She wanted to tell Holley that she had already moved, but she was interrupted.

"Okay? Please just check on her. I have to deal with some business, so I've got to go now." She smiled

and added, "Call me when you see her so I can stop worrying, okay?"

And she left before Sheryl could react.

She was speechless, and all she could do was sigh. She was worried about Sue, so she decided to give her a visit.

As soon as she left BM Corporation, she made her way to Sue's place.

After several knocks on the door, a strange voice called out from inside. "Stop knocking, it's too noisy!"

Allen opened the door impatiently, with a sour look on his face. When he saw Sheryl standing outside, he examined her skeptically. "What do you want?"

"I'm here for Sue. Is she inside?" She was puzzled -- she had never seen the man before.

"She isn't here." He threw her a cold glare and added, "There's no one called Sue here." He was about to swing the door shut when Sheryl grabbed the edge of the door.

"Hold on." She felt nervous about dealing with the rude man, but she was more worried about Sue. She had to find out what was going on with her. "This is Sue's house. Tell me who you are, or I'm calling the police."

The man's face twisted in anger. "Why you..." He raised his fist, as if he was going to hit her, but Peggy

appeared behind him. "Miss, please forgive my son's rude behavior. He's usually decent," she said with a staged friendly tone.

"Who are you? Why are you stayin here in Sue's house?" Sheryl asked them again, more cautiously.

"Don't misunderstand. I'm Sue's mother, and this is my son, Allen. We're family. And you are?" Judging from Sheryl's clothes, Peggy assumed that she was a very rich woman.

'Sue picked up quite a number of decent friends in the past years, ' Peggy thought to herself.

"I'm Sheryl, Sue's friend." She knew she should've been more polite to her, since Peggy was an elder, but all she really felt for the woman was anger -- anger for all the injustice Sue had suffered because of her.

Instead of spewing any more niceties, she just asked, "Where is Sue? Why isn't she here?"

"She went out to take care of some business. You're welcome to come in and have a sit." Peggy

gestured for her to come inside.

She hesitated for a moment, but her desire to see Sue made her agree.

As she looked around the place, she frowned.

It was clean enough, but much messier than when Sue lived there alone. A strange smell also filled the air, and her brows knitted further in concern.

"Sit here, Miss. Sue will be back soon. You can wait here."

She gave Allen a hard nudge. "What are you doing? Bring our guest some tea!"

She sure was trying hard to seem friendly, Sheryl thought. "Are you close with Sue, Miss?"

"Yes, I am." She nodded. "I've known her for years. We're good friends."

"So... You do know about her condition, then?" Peggy asked Sheryl cautiously.

Sheryl paused for a moment to consider how she should answer the woman. In the end, she thought she might as well just answer honestly. She wasn't completely sure how to judge these people, but at the very least, they were Sue's relatives. "Yes." She looked at Peggy in confusion, wondering what her motives were.

"As a model, Sue must have earned quite a sum of money these past years, right?" she asked Sheryl, her eyes looking greedy. Sue had always told her she didn't have much money with her, but Peggy never believed a word. She thought she could take this opportunity and verify that Sue was deceiving her. "Rent for this house must be really expensive, hmm?" she added, with a suggestive tone.

Sheryl narrowed her eyes at the questions. It was strange for her to be asking about money as soon as she met Sheryl, instead of asking about her daughter. "Why are you asking this?" Sheryl asked.

Chapter 828 Doris

"Please do not misinterpret me. I was just concerned about my dear daughter, Sue. I didn't mean anything else." Peggy heaved a sigh and explained herself further to Sheryl, "I think that you may believe that I have not been a good mother all these years. I was totally unaware of how she was doing. I know I may have neglected her feelings, but I hope to make it up to her now. That's why I wanted to talk to you. I just wanted to know more about her life."

Peggy even managed to squeeze some crocodile tears out, as if she cared for her daughter to the point that she could not help but cry. The act looked genuine that it would have easily deceived any spectator. Who would doubt the overwhelming love and concern of a crying mother? Luckily, Sue had already given Sheryl an understanding on Peggy's true colors during their previous discussions.

Noticing that Sheryl was not at all moved, she began to act further. "Sue has always been a considerate daughter. She would only tell us the good but hide the bad. She told me that she bought the house on her own, and that she has been doing well. To me, that's apparently not true. How is it

possible for her to get all the money to buy a big house like this at such a young age? Do you know whether she is involved in any monkey business?"

"Aunt Peggy..." Peggy's words confirmed Sheryl's suspicion that she was lying. All the while she was just trying to trick Sheryl into telling her about Sue's money. Sheryl felt miserable enough on what she had gone through, until she met Peggy. Now she felt even more miserable for Sue, whose mother spared no effort to exploit her own daughter.

'At least my family treat me well. Luckily, I do not have to take extra caution when I'm with my family,' she thought.

"You are right, Aunt Peggy. Sue is so kind and considerate that she lied to you about her true financial condition. This house is not hers. How can she even afford it?" Sheryl smiled politely to Peggy. She was testing the waters.

They were too busy that they never even noticed that another person had stepped into the room. Allen just got back and after he heard Sheryl's confirmation that the house was not Sue's, he couldn't help having his nasty thoughts. "Then could it be that she found herself a sugar daddy?"

As he spoke, he could hardly contain the excitement which was clearly written on his face. It was as if

he was eager to hear a positive answer from Sheryl.

"What are you talking about?" Sheryl was obviously annoyed and defended firmly for Sue, "You think Sue is such a person?"

"Stop talking nonsense!" Peggy pushed Allen away. She was this close to getting Sheryl to spill the beans, only to be interrupted by her dear son. After a few nudges, she was able to make sure that Allen wouldn't disturb her again, she then turned to Sue and explained, "Sheryl, please don't take his words seriously. We know that Sue is not the kind of person who would do anything for money. As a parent, I was just worried that she may have been cheated into doing something immoral."

"Rest assured, Aunt Peggy. Sue will never do that." Sheryl's assertiveness seemed to have convinced her.

"Then about this house..." Peggy intentionally let her question trail off and hoped Sheryl would finish it with the answer she was looking for.

That was enough hint for Sheryl to pick up from where Peggy left off earlier. Aware that Sue wouldn't want her mother to know the truth, she paused for a while to think of how to make up the story, and

then she said, "To be honest to you, Aunt Peggy, this house does not belong to Sue at all. She is just living here temporarily."

"How could that be?" Peggy couldn't seem to hide the surprise in her voice. Hearing that the house was not the property of Sue made her feel uneasy. Did she hear it wrong? She clarified, "Sue told me that..."

"Just as you mentioned earlier, Sue would only tell you the good and hide the bad." Sheryl sighed.

"This house actually belongs to the company. Our company has leased the house for its employees. So we are just renting the place."

Although Peggy was shocked to hear that, Sheryl could make out from her face that she was starting to believe her story. That was a cue for her to continue, "I was living at the house across the hallway previously. Since my parents also live in Y City, I moved back to their place afterwards. Clearly, this apartment is too expensive for both Sue and I to afford."

Seeing that her words were actually affecting Peggy, she continued with her string of lies, "Indeed, Sue has had decent earnings these past few years. You should also be aware that she wasn't able to save any money for herself, not even a single cent. She cared so much about you that she ended up

sending almost all of her earnings the moment she received it. Most of the time, she was barely left with any amount to even survive. Because of this, I even had to keep an eye on her, otherwise, she might just faint due to undernourishment. What a poor girl! She eats very little everyday just to save more money for you."

Realizing that her words might have come across as offensive, she rephrased, "Aunt Peggy, please do not get me wrong. I am not blaming you for her suffering. I just feel sorry for Sue. You know, she has always been a warmhearted girl." Sheryl had her eye glued to Peggy as she took everything in.

"Yes, yes, you are absolutely right. She is a nice girl." Peggy smiled. 'It seemed that Sue was telling the truth all this time, ' she thought.

At first, she didn't want to trust Sue's words that she had no money left. Now, with what Sheryl had said, it seemed that she indeed had exploited Sue to the fullest. But she had already promised Doris that she would plan a grandiose wedding for her. How could she keep that promise if she didn't have any money?

"Mom, what do we do now then?" Allen's worried voice interrupted Peggy's thoughts. Glancing at her

mom, he pleaded, "Doris has made it very clear that she would not agree to marry me if her needs are not met. She would even abort our child for that. That's your dear grandson that you've always dreamed about. It's going to be a cute baby, I promise. You must help me!"

"Shut your mouth!" Peggy shouted at her son with discontent.

Looking at Sheryl in embarrassment, she feigned some sympathy for Sue. "It seems that life has been hard for Sue."

"Absolutely," replied Sheryl. "She doesn't have any savings. She can't even go shopping even if she badly needs a new pair of shoes. She rarely goes out with us. That's also why she only has very few friends."

"Hi, I'm back..." Sheryl hardly stopped when Sue's voice emerged. Just now she went out to fetch Doris. As she stepped in the house, Sheryl - an unexpected person - appeared in her sight.

"Why are you here?" she asked with a slight sense of nervousness.

"Oh, it's like," Sheryl started to explain, "you didn't go to work today, so Miss Ye asked me to pay a visit to you. How are you?" Sheryl smiled in her typical way and said, "I didn't know Aunt Peggy is here.

Why didn't you get me informed beforehand, Sue?"

"Well, I'm okay." The day was not even that hot but Sue felt her hands were getting sweaty. She was so afraid that Sheryl, who was not aware of the situation, might let the words that should have been kept within themselves slip out of her mouth incautiously. "I'm alright, and now you see. If there's no other thing to deal with, you may leave now."

She came over to Sheryl, reached out to her hand and started to lead her out of the room. "I'll personally call Miss Ye later to explain the situation," she reassured her that there was nothing to be worried about.

"Why does she need to leave right now?" Peggy's voice made everyone stop for a moment. "She doesn't seem to be in a rush, does she?" As Sheryl was about to leave, Peggy started to persuade Sue, "She came all the way here to visit you. Why don't we have a meal together with this affectionate girl?"

Peggy grinned at Sheryl, trying to persuade her as well, "Girl, you don't mind this, do you? Not as fancy as a feast, just a casual home-cooked meal."

"No need..." Sue knitted her brows unnaturally. She just wanted to fulfill her purpose -- chase Sheryl

out of the house so as to prevent her from spilling the beans to her mother -- as soon as possible. She answered on behalf of Sheryl, "She's quite busy. She wouldn't have time to stay here for a meal."

"Yes, I'm free. I can make time for the meal," Sheryl said otherwise. "Thanks for your invitation." Sheryl agreed. She had already detected something by now. Peggy was cooking something up. She wouldn't give her a treat without any hidden agenda. Now, Sheryl wanted to figure out what the agenda was.

Peggy's face lit up with a sense of satisfaction. She intended to turn over Sue's lukewarm response to Sheryl's visit. "You need to learn how to treat people well, my child. Now, go and cook the meal, please. I'm going to have some chitchat with her."

"Oh it's okay, Aunt Peggy." Sheryl gave Peggy an ever-so-polite smile. "I remember Sue is not so sophisticated with cooking. I can help her with that. By the way, I can cook very delectable dishes."

Sheryl and Sue went to the kitchen together. Allen was over the moon due to Doris' presence. He simply couldn't suppress his enthusiasm to her. "Do you feel tired, Doris? May I wash an apple for you?"

"No, thanks. I have no appetite for that at the moment." Unlike the majority of the countryside girls, Doris was blessed with soft, tender skin like that of newborn babies. She only gave Allen an annoyed

glance, her voice hostile as she said, "Let's keep in a safe distance. I'm pregnant, and I'm afraid that you'll scare my baby."

"Oh don't be so nervous. I surely won't do that." Allen immediately explained, "How can I scare my own baby? I have no reason to do so."

Chapter 829 Her Way Or The Highway

Doris sat down on the sofa, and directed her sight toward Allen asking, "So... how is the thing going... the thing I asked you to do?"

"I'm on it. Everything is in progress!" confirmed Allen. He then proceeded to inquire, "How do you like the house? Our dinner's purpose today is mostly for you to take a look at the house. What do you think?"

"It will do," stated Doris, unimpressed. She glanced around the room again briefly and added, "The house itself is rather small but it's enough for the two of us."

"Yes, exactly! Good, I'm glad you like it!" Allen affirmed excitedly. A small sigh of relief followed his large smile.

However, the moment didn't last long as Doris began questioning him again, "So... When will we

finalize the procedure?" She had her own agenda and wasn't about to postpone it.

"Procedure? What procedure?" inquired Allen nervously. He surely had a sense of where Doris was heading with that question but hoped to avoid the subject.

"Ownership transfer procedure, of course!" Doris replied without hesitation. She was surprised he was asking for clarifications. He should have known what she was talking about. To show that she wasn't messing around, Doris addressed the big elephant in the room directly, "Do not think that I don't know the owner of this house is still your sister. I'm telling you, the house needs to be in my name! I have to see it written on the certificate of title with my own eyes. Why can't she give it up already? A house like this in Y City is not for one person alone to live in! You are her brother, the man of the house, the one getting married and the one about to have a baby. You have more right to have it than her!"

Allen sputtered to say something, "Doris, I..." No words could come out, though. Intimidated by her angry expression, he quickly looked away hoping to avoid further conflict.

However, his attempt was futile; Doris was even more enraged by his gesture. "Allen Wang! Are you going to go back on your promise?" Her face turned red. She moved closer to him and started

threatening, "I don't like to be played around like that. You have to keep your word. Otherwise, you will

be sorry! I will have an abortion and you will never get to marry me!"

"No! No! No! Please don't!" begged Allen. He grabbed her hand as she was about to hit her belly. With a calm voice, he requested, "Take it easy, Doris. We have to do things step by step."

"Step by step?!" she exclaimed even louder. Doris couldn't believe her ears. She had to get him to commit. "The baby is getting bigger and bigger every day. How long do you think I can wait? Allen Wang, you have to confirm a date today! No more playing games!"

"I..." Allen mumbled. He could never protest in front of Doris. Unsure what else to say, he turned to Peggy with a helpless look.

Peggy sighed heavily and began comforting Doris, "Doris, don't worry about it. Our family never goes back on our promises."

She continued, "You need to take care of yourself since any stress can affect the baby. Keep calm and don't get angry. Take a seat and hear me out."

Doris frowned, but she obeyed and sat down.

Before Peggy could say anything, though, she started justifying herself, "Aunt Peggy, I don't mean to

push you. But the baby is growing every day. Of course, I don't want to lose it. However, if you can't provide me with what I need, as you promised, I'm afraid you are forcing me into an abortion. I hope you understand my concerns!"

After another moment of silence, Doris went on, "As a woman, I'm sure you can understand that I only want a better life after marriage. But you take a look at your son! I'm better than him in every aspect! If you can't keep your promise, I will have to..."

Peggy immediately interrupted her, "Yes, I understand! You are right. I know you are a good girl." With a fake smile, she continued to flatter Doris, "I know it is my son's honor to have you as his girlfriend. What a lucky man!"

"It's good that you know it," Doris reiterated. Without moving away from the topic too much, she decided to ask again, "So what are you going to do about it? When do we sign the property deed?"

Keeping calm, Peggy explained, "I'm afraid we need to take it slowly. We will do it, but not now." Peggy was weighing her every word trying not to upset Doris any more.

However, Doris still got annoyed by her answer. She stood up, pointed at Allen and cursed, "Allen Wang, you son of a bitch! You lied to me! Didn't you say that you have everything settled? What is

going on now?"

"Take it easy, Doris," pleaded Peggy. She continued elaborating, "I said we need to do it slowly, not cancel it."

"Why?" Doris questioned her immediately. With a mean stare, she emphasized, "You know, I'm not stupid! Don't even think about fooling me. There is no way your son will get me for nothing!"

"The house will always be here. It won't go anywhere, right? Why can't you be patient?" insisted Peggy.

Running out of excuses, she decided to lie, "We need to postpone it because the property deed is not ready yet. When it is ready, we'll put your name on it. I promise!"

Hearing that, Doris quieted down. "Really?" she asked after a short pause. Peggy's answer seemed like a good enough explanation for her, though she still remained suspicious.

"Of course!" confirmed Peggy. She rested her hands over Doris' and continued, "You know how much I love my son. I always give him the best I have. This house will be handed to him; you can rest assured."

"That's good to hear," Doris stated. She still wasn't convinced. So, in order to be sure, she declared,

"Then our wedding ceremony will be postponed until the certificate of title says my name."

"What? Why? You can't do this!" Peggy responded in a panic. Nervously, she patted Doris' hands in an attempt to reason with her, "As you said, the baby is getting bigger and bigger every day. What if you give birth before the property deed is ready?"

You also know that there is nothing more important than one's reputation within the village. If you have a baby before marriage, how are you going to face the rumors and shame?"

"It doesn't matter. I don't care what others say about me," Doris claimed. Making sure she was clearly understood, she rephrased her request, "I won't marry him before I get this house. End of story!"

Doris' resolute attitude left both Allen and Peggy confused and worried.

They all stared at each other for a few seconds in silence, until finally Peggy broke the ice, "Doris, I have an idea."

Assessing her words, she continued, "Let's hold the wedding ceremony first, in the style that you want it to be. It doesn't matter how much money it will cost, as long as you are pleased with it. After all, a wedding happens once in a lifetime and we must give you the best one. Your parents will also be happy for you."

Beside organizing the wedding according to your wishes, I'll also add eighty thousand dollars to your dowry. Nothing is more reliable than money in hand, right?

As for the house..." Peggy paused thinking of how to phrase it. The only thing she could do was to reassure her, "You don't need to worry about it. It will be yours for sure. Let's have the wedding ceremony first, as it is also better for your reputation. Don't you agree?"

"But," Doris tried to argue.

However, Peggy was riding on the momentum she had gained. "You have nothing to be concerned about. Take my offer. It's in your advantage. You realize it too, don't you?"

Confused, Doris replied, "Well... Let me think it over." An additional eighty thousand dollars was not something to be easily dismissed.

"No problem. Take your time to think it over," stated Peggy. Seeing Doris was still not convinced, Peggy decided to adopt another strategy. "You should also know that even though my family is not rich, my daughter does make a lot of money. If you are really uncomfortable marrying my son, I won't push you.

I can assure you that there will be a lot of other girls for us to choose from!"

Chapter 830 The Compromise

"What are you talking about, Mom?" Allen snapped. He made sure to show that he didn't agree with Peggy. Gripping Doris' hand, Allen declared, "Doris is already pregnant, and this baby is my flesh and blood. There is no other woman in this world whom I want to be my wife, except Doris. And you can be sure I mean that."

"You shut up! I don't want to hear that!" Peggy screamed. She was extremely offended and glowered at Allen to express her anger. Bringing him up, Peggy pampered Allen, and he was, for the most part, an obedient boy. He would always do what his mother asked knowing it would make her happy.

Besides, Peggy was the only person capable of convincing Sue to listen to her and for some reason, to never disobey what she said. Still, she never failed to show her full concern for Allen. She wanted to do everything to benefit her son, and Allen was well aware of this.

"Did you hear that, Allen?" Doris snapped. "Did you hear what your mother said?" she sneered while trying to suppress her anger. "Do you remember when we first decided to get into this relationship? Can you recall how strongly my parents, both of them, were opposed to it? At that time, I thought you were a good man and would be a responsible husband when we got married. So, I chose to sacrifice my relationship with my parents to be with you. I did my best to be with you, even in the face of such

hardship. Now, I'm pregnant. But I don't feel like you're going to protect me, because you're acting as if this is none of your business. Tell me, is that how a responsible life partner should behave? Is this how you intend to bully me, by letting her humiliate me?"

"No, Doris! You know that's not true!" Allen defended himself. He was frowning, trying to think of a way to deal with such an awkward situation. Allen kept on holding Doris' hand to console her, "You know my mother. She doesn't mean what..."

But Peggy, voice dripping with disdain, was quick to cut in, "No amount of prodding will ever make me change my mind." It made her proud to hear her son pledge his loyalty to her. "Allen is my son, and he will listen to me and do whatever I want him to do unconditionally."

Trembling with rage, Doris said, "You..." She rolled her eyes in disgust. But no one had any idea what was going on inside her mind.

With a look of superiority, Peggy eyed Doris and said, "I know you're pregnant now, and this baby is not only your child but also my grandchild. I want to assure you that as long as you do as I say, I will treat you and your child well."

However, if you insist on aborting the baby, I won't stop you from doing it. If you believe Allen is not good for you, I won't convince you otherwise. If that's how you feel about my son, you may leave now."

"Mom..." Allen was upset after hearing his mother's words. Anxiously, he started to coax Peggy to show a little mercy for Doris. "Mom, Doris is pregnant. She's fragile now and has nowhere to live. Where else can she go?"

"It's none of my business," Peggy snapped. She fixed steely eyes on Doris. When she spoke again, her next words were a veiled threat. "Listen, let me remind you that you will only be granted recognition if you give birth to this child. After all, this baby will be part of our family. It is the only way to show your worth in this family. If you do as I wish, I will spare no effort to provide whatever you need or want. But, if you opt to get an abortion, you will lose your worth here. You will not be welcome in this family. You will never enjoy a friendly atmosphere when with the family, and neither can you demand anything such as accommodation and money. Whatever you decide, it will bring significant changes to your life. So, if I were you, I would consider everything carefully," Peggy explained.

She didn't mind spending time with Doris to patiently negotiate with the pregnant woman because

Peggy was anticipating the birth of her future grandchild. But if Doris ever chose to have an abortion, it

was made clear by Peggy that she would lose any leverage for bargaining in this negotiation.

After Doris listened intently to everything Peggy said, the offer was a bit clearer for her. The key word for her was money, and hearing this, she darted a glance at mother and son. After a few moments of consideration, Doris responded tentatively, "Did you really mean what you just said now?" She looked intently at Peggy, waiting for her answer with apprehension.

"Of course, I absolutely mean it!" Peggy exclaimed. She forced a motherly smile on her lips. Looking Doris in the eye, she guaranteed, "Rest assured that as long as you give birth to my grandson, everything in the family will be yours. And even though the property ownership certificate for this house is not yet available, you don't have to worry about that. You can stay here for the meantime, and there will be no problem about that."

Blowing out a breath, Doris said, "Okay, I heard everything you said. But, I'm still not ready to agree."

There were a few other things she wanted.

"So, tell me what else you want," Peggy urged her. Peggy was thrilled with her conversation with Doris.

She believed they were close to striking a deal. She felt the girl was softening her stance. "I will do

whatever I can for you," she offered.

"I can accept the pending property ownership certificate, but you have to pay my family an agreed sum of money beforehand without delay. Furthermore, I want to have the right to decide how the wedding should take place. If there's anything, even just one, that goes against my will, I won't marry Allen,"

Doris laid out her conditions. There was a smug look on her face as Doris continued. "Maybe you think I won't abort the baby because it's too dangerous at this stage of my pregnancy. And you're right. But while abortion is a tough choice for me, backing out of a wedding is not. If you do anything to displease me, I will leave Allen and move immediately after the baby is born. Then I will make sure you can never find me, however hard you look for me or how much resources you utilize. I believe those conditions aren't difficult, don't you think so?"

Slightly alarmed, Peggy quickly assured Doris of her good faith. "Please calm down. I promise to fulfill my end of the bargain." More than anything, she wanted a wedding for Allen and Doris. As long as the woman agreed to marry her son, and attend the wedding, Peggy would do everything she could to make good on her promise. But she was thinking of cheating Doris first in regard to the house.

According to her plan, by then everything that should happen would have already happened, making it

harder for Doris to leave. Believing in her scheme, Peggy said, "I just promised to meet your demands, so don't worry, I will treat you as well as I treat my son."

The other woman nodded and said, "All right." But she had more demands. "I know that Allen's house now belongs to my future sister-in-law, but once we're married, I don't want to see her in that house,"

Doris said firmly. "I hope she will be moving out," she declared, her eyes challenging Peggy to disagree.

"Well..." For the first time, Peggy hedged. Shaking her head slightly, Peggy knew this was not an easy request, because it wasn't a matter of simply kicking Sue out of her home. She could find a way to do that. But the house was a property of Sue's company. Without her, there was no legitimate reason for Doris and Allen to occupy the house.

"What?" Doris said with a mocking tone. "I thought you just said that you would do everything I want, and follow all that I say. But you can't even grant me a simple request?" The pregnant woman was enjoying her advantage.

A worried Allen butted in, "What are you waiting for, Mom? Just say yes! Kick Sue out. How difficult can

that be? Why are you still hesitating?"

"What the hell do you know?" Peggy retorted angrily. She muttered a curse under her breath.

Taking a deep breath, she looked at Doris and explained, "Doris, over this matter of Sue in the house...

We need to rethink this. You must understand the house is under Sue's name. With no one to support her, where would Sue go? That's why it's complicated."

"It is precisely because the house is under her name that I want her out of there," Doris scoffed. "As long as she lives in that house, Allen and I will always be guests. We will never own it. I will make sure that she leaves that house, and learns the lesson that regardless of the name on that housing certificate, that house will belong to, and only to Allen and me," she said emphatically.

Before she continued with her outrageous demand, Doris' eyes looked sharply at Peggy. "The house isn't big enough and will be crowded after the baby is born. Think of it this way, once she moves out, we'll have more space."

"But..." Peggy still didn't feel comfortable. She understood that in this matter, Doris was never going to back down. But booting Sue out of her home was not something she had the power to do.

Running out of patience because of his mother's hedging, Allen suddenly agreed to do it on her behalf.

He promised Doris, "No problem. I assure you that I will talk to Sue when we have dinner and ask her to leave by tonight. You will never see her face in the house again."

"Wait a minute! Calm down, Allen," Peggy quickly jumped in. Her son's interference irritated the woman.

He threw his mother a dissatisfied look. "I don't get it, Mom. Why is it so hard for you to agree? What's making you so hesitant? Doris is right. This house is too small for the three of us, four if we count the baby. And let me say this, can you imagine how inconvenient and embarrassing it will be if she stays with us? Okay, if you feel uncomfortable telling Sue to leave, I'll do it for you. I'll ask her to move out,"

Allen volunteered.

His mother brushed off the offer. "Never mind. It's my business. I'll settle things." She sighed before scolding her son, "How can a rash and rude person like you be able to talk at all? I'll talk to her later. All you need to do is keep quiet."

Her abrupt remarks delighted Allen and Doris. Finally, they were getting their way, and they smiled at each other to signify their plan was succeeding.

In the kitchen, Sue found Sheryl washing vegetables in the sink.

A frown showed her displeasure. "What are you doing here?" Sue asked.