

Wedded Bride 841

Chapter 841 A Gathering

Sheryl went to bed thinking how to start this topic with Charles. However, she woke up the next morning only to find that Charles was waiting for her downstairs. When Amy saw her coming down, she smiled. "Morning Sheryl! We were just about to call you. Charles has been waiting here for quite a long time. Go, change your clothes and freshen up soon."

"Oh! That's a pleasant surprise. So what brings you here?" Sheryl looked at Charles with a perplexed face and smiled.

"Since you don't visit me, I thought of paying you a visit," Charles replied her making a pity face for himself. Shirley was very delighted to see him and was seen to be clinging on to him. Charles continued, "Did you forget it? Clark has his name changed today. So I'm thinking about organizing a gathering to celebrate. And, it's been a while since the last time we met!"

All of a sudden, Sheryl felt as if she had been pulled out from some kind of a trance. She felt guilty as a mother for having neglected her own son. Recently she had been so much engaged in Sue's matters.

Poor Charlie, she thought. No, Clark, she corrected herself. The whole thing about changing his name had completely skipped her mind.

She blamed herself for that.

She told Charles, "Just wait for me. I'll get changed and meet you soon!"

Then she rushed upstairs and broke the news to Sue. She wanted to invite Sue to join the gathering,

but Sue rejected, saying that it was not suitable for her to attend their family feast.

Sheryl had no choice but to give up.

When she came downstairs, she saw Charles and Shirley playing happily with each other. Shirley's

giggles filled the room and Charles' face was glowing to his daughter who had fun with him. The loving

picture of the father and daughter warmed Sheryl's heart, and she couldn't help grinning.

"Let's go!" Sheryl walked towards Charles and said to them.

Charles took Shirley in his arms and started walking to his car.

The venue was at a fancy restaurant in the downtown. Its VIP room was big enough to hold more than

twenty people. They also invited Gary, Chris' family, and Isla's family. The kids were having fun with

each other once they met. Isla was looking for the right opportunity to speak with Sheryl. She glanced

at Sheryl, and then to Charles who was receiving guests. Isla was curious about their current situation.

She walked towards Sheryl and took her hand in her own. Then she took a few steps with her and asked, "Sher, how is it going between you and Charles? When do you plan to be together? You see, you have cleared the air already, and the kids were also found. Why do you refuse to budge? It's time to move on. In my opinion, you two would better be together as soon as possible. You love him and he loves you. So what are you waiting for?"

"You are right! I always tell Charles the same thing," Chris cut in abruptly. She said to Sheryl, "It will only be better for both of you if you just move on together. And not just that, the kids will also find a complete home for themselves. Come to think of it, they were the ones to suffer the most in the last three years. Poor kids! The new term will begin soon. How should they answer if other kids ask them about their parents?"

The conjugal attempt made by Isla and Chris made Sheryl both upset and amused. She stared at Isla and said, "Isla, even if Chris doesn't understand me, I always think that you do. You know my reasons, don't you?"

"Of course I do!" Isla heaved a sigh. "You can't forget what happened in the past, so you can't accept him right now. And you also think that three years in between had been enough to change everything,

right?"

"Isla, since you know it already, then why..." Sheryl creased her brows and asked.

Before she finished her sentence, Isla interrupted with a frown, "This is only what you assume, Sheryl.

It is just a one-sided thinking. Three years is a long time to change many things, but not the way

Charles loves you. You know him very well. If he could stay single and away from women for three

years for your sake, then you can imagine how much he loves you!"

Isla watched her expression and continued, "There were so many women trying to flirt with or seduce

Charles in these years. But he rejected all of them. He has suffered enough in these years. What else

do you ask for?

Sher, I know you love him too. In this case, how does it matter if you take the initiative from your side? I

suggest you think it over, for the sake of yourself, Charles and your kids."

"She's right, Sheryl," Chris started. "We have seen Charles clinging on to your memories every

moment. He completely shunned the company of women to the extent that I even doubted whether my

brother changed his sexual orientation after you disappeared. Therefore when I knew that Leila had a

baby with him, I was overjoyed. I even tried to fix them up. God! What a mistake! I almost messed up everything!

He still blames me because of this even today! You don't know how happy I was when I saw you back.

I really think that my brother was finally saved!"

Chris couldn't help breathing a sigh. "Now you are in front of him, but you don't want to move back to our home. He is like a poisoned man who can't get the cure that is so close to his hand no matter how much he tries."

"Chris, please don't talk like that. You know this is not what I mean," Sheryl replied. "I just need some time to think it over."

"I know, Sheryl," Chris continued. "I totally understand what you are concerned about. But you need to know that my brother respects you from his heart. He understands you very well. Once he told me that he is willing to wait for you no matter how long it'll take for you to make up your mind. He has waited for three years already, and he doesn't mind waiting longer."

Chris paused. "Today I just want you to know that my brother will also agree to live in separate rooms

with you as long as you are ready to come back home. If you still can't make a decision, maybe this arrangement will help you to think ahead. Come back to our home for a while and then you are free to move out at any time. If you really do so, you will be giving Charles some hope. What's more, you can even adapt to living together with him. It's good for both of you."

"But..." Sheryl hesitated. Even though Chris' suggestion was really a good one, she could not convince herself to accept it at the moment.

She gave them a bitter smile and said, "Let's talk about this later. I have something to deal with right now, so I can't move back."

Sue just moved into Zhao family. At this time, if she moved in to Dream Garden, how would Sue feel?

Wouldn't she think that they were trying to drive her away?

She knew Sue was a sensitive girl and she didn't want her to feel uncomfortable.

"You are really..." Isla sighed helplessly. Today both she and Chris made great efforts to persuade Sheryl to step forward. However, she shrank back every time when they saw some hope to bring her back into Charles' life. She just refused to look forward. They couldn't change anything. What else could they do?

Isla gave the final attempt. "If you don't treasure Charles, I'm sure you'll regret in the future. Take action now before it's too late! Don't wait until he is taken by another woman. In that case, I won't sympathize with you even if you cry in front of me!"

Chapter 842 To Have A Second Child

Sheryl gave a smile at Isla and said that she trusted Charles too well to fall a prey to her false alarms.

Then she said, "That day will never come Isla. Charles is not that kind of person. I believe in him."

Sheryl's confidence in Charles reassured Chris and Isla. They felt that even if she was taking time, she was still on the right track.

However, they were a little disheartened that their combined effort to get Sheryl back with Charles had failed. Since she was so stubborn, Isla couldn't do anything with her, but changed the topic of

discussion to work. Isla stared at Sheryl and said, "It's up to you. Nobody can make a decision for you.

But Sher, don't you think that as a boss, you should take more responsibilities in your company now?"

Isla raised her voice. "Recently, the company is going through a good phase. Everybody works around the clock, including me. I work overtime every night, while you are working at some other company and that too as an employee! What do you take me for? This is so unfair!"

Isla pretended to be angry. "Sheryl, I tell you. If you don't return to the company as soon as possible, I will quit! I will put it all behind just like you! I have helped you for three years, for which I have even postponed my plans to have a second child."

Isla continued in the same angry tone, "You are so lucky to have twins, a son and a daughter and that too at one go. I really admire you. Though I have Amanda already, I also want to have a son. Aron also feels that we should have both son and daughter to complete the family. We want a second child so much! So you can imagine how much I have sacrificed for you!"

"Yes, yes! I know! You have sacrificed and contributed a lot to the company. Thank you so much! Are you satisfied now?" Sheryl joked with her, thinking that Isla was more eloquent than three years ago. She could connect different things together to make up for a reasonable excuse.

Sheryl took Isla's hands and said sincerely, "I know you helped me a lot during my absence. Without your efforts, our company could not have developed so fast, or even worse it might have closed down already. Charles told me that the company has grown much bigger than before. I will always remember your devotion. I can never deny that."

"Beautiful words don't work for me." Isla took a glance at Sheryl. "How are you going to thank me?"

Sheryl smiled. "Okay. How about this? You tell me what you want."

Isla's eyes went bright. "My daughter Amanda likes your son Clark very much. So I think, maybe they can make a good couple in the future! Why not we get them married to each other after they grow up?

How do you think of this idea?"

"Well..." Sheryl frowned. Isla's proposal was acceptable for her. However, she could not promise her right now because nobody knew what future had in store for them.

She stared at Isla and hesitated. "Isla, I think this is a good idea. Even I like Amanda. But I can't make such an important decision for Clark at this moment. Who knows what will happen in the future? So I think it's still too early to arrange a marriage for the kids. As long as they love each other after they grow up, I will surely support their marriage!"

"I'm just joking! Look at your serious face. Ha-ha!" Isla chuckled. Then she heaved a sigh. "In fact, I just want to be Clark's sworn mother. You also know how much I am desperate to have a son. It's like a cherished wish for me that I will have my own son soon."

"No problem. Of course you can. Do you need my permission for that?" Sheryl agreed to her request

immediately and smiled with a sigh of relief.

As the ladies continued with their talk, the guests arrived and everybody took their seat. The

atmosphere was joyful and happy.

It felt like happy days had returned for the Zhao and Lu families. Charles and Sheryl had gone through

some of the most roughest patch of their lives. But fortunately everything was getting better slowly.

They had come together once again. Moreover, they had a pair of lovely kids, which was comforting

enough for the people who cared about them.

The thought of all this nearly made Gary cry. As an old man, he was more sentimental than before.

The ups and downs through these years had taken a toll on his health. He didn't know how many years

he had ahead of him. His only hope now was to see Sheryl move back to Dream Garden and the whole

family live together happily again.

"Grandpa, are you okay?" Sheryl moved towards Gary and spoke to him with concern. Sheryl kept

looking at Gary constantly because she was aware of his poor health. Tears in his eyes made her

worry.

"I'm fine. Don't worry," Gary denied, shook his head and smiled in a reassuring manner to Sheryl. It

was a happy gathering among families and friends. He didn't want to bother anyone because of his ill health. He then assured her, "I just feel a little sleepy since I'm already old. I'm just so happy to see all of you together. Don't worry about me! Go ahead. Help yourself with some food."

His words reassured Sheryl. She filled a bowl of soup for him and then continued to listen to Charles talking with other people.

The feast continued. Charles was in a good mood and he drunk more wine than usual. At last, except a few gentlemen who were drinking, nearly all of them finished eating. Chris sent Gary home while Abby left with Arthur and Amy. Isla and Sheryl stayed, chatting with each other to their hearts' content.

"Sher, I invited you to take a look at our company last time, but you cancelled it because of the kids.

How about now? You can't find an excuse to refuse me this time!" Isla complained to her, "To be honest, it's really busy and hectic in the company these days. I can't handle it all by myself anymore.

Come back soon, okay?"

"I know it, Isla." Sheryl nodded. She sighed and continued, "But I signed the labor contract with my current company. I need to go through procedures if I want to resign. I can't just leave as per my wish.

How about this? I'll go to the company tomorrow and figure out how much I can contribute at the moment. I'll try my best to help. As for my current job, I'll find an appropriate time to inform the company. It will take some time. How do you think of it?"

"No problem." Isla breathed a sigh of relief. She said to Sheryl, "I am relieved as long as you promise to come back. I'm looking forward to it!"

"But you should also be prepared for the new and upcoming problems that I will create for you." Sheryl smiled and confessed, "I haven't done the management for three years. There must be a lot of things that I will not be familiar with. And surely I'm not as good as three years ago. If I make mistakes, you must point it out to me and be prepared to guide me. And also reprimand me if needed."

"Are you kidding me? You are the boss! Who would dare to reprimand you! Spare me!" Isla teased and pretended to be surprised. Her funny reaction made both of them laugh out loud. When they finally recovered, Isla hugged Sheryl and said, "Sher, I'm so happy you are back. I missed you so much!"

"I know, really," Sheryl replied sincerely. "I will stay here forever. I will never leave my dear ones ever again in my life. It's all past!"

Sheryl felt so happy and content to have a friend like Isla and a lover like Charles who both loved her

and cared about her so much. They were the best gifts that God had given her. What else could she ask for? She just could not stop herself from counting her blessings.

Charles went overboard with wine during the feast. This was the first time that Sheryl had seen him drunken. He was no longer the prominent Mr. President who made people to be in owe of him. He was like an ordinary young man, who talked a lot and cared about no manners or etiquettes. But this side of him was cute and lovely. The more Sheryl watched him to be so casual, her heart melted towards him.

Then all of them left. Abby returned to pick up Andy, while Isla drove drunken Aron home. Sam called a taxi and took his leave. Sheryl planned to send Charles to Dream Garden. He was so much drunk that he needed rest.

However, when they walked out of the restaurant, Charles recovered like he was totally sober. He pleaded Sheryl, "I don't want to go home now. Stay with me, please. How about taking a walk?"

"I'm okay if you want," Sheryl agreed. But she kept glancing at Charles, not knowing whether he was really sober now or he pretended to be drunken all this while.

Chapter 843 Sheryl Losing Herself

"Why are you staring at me like that?" Charles asked turning his head towards Sheryl. He was rather

embarrassed by the way she stared at him with suspicious eyes.

"Actually, I just find it so strange." Sheryl replied with a tender smile, "Just a few moments back you

looked drunk and now you look absolutely normal! I can't make out if you were really drunk or were you

just faking it."

Charles gave out a laugh and said, "If a man does not have this ability, it will be hard for him to survive

in this society, and he may be manipulated by others."

Sheryl remained quiet as she heard Charles speak.

She knew how difficult it was for Charles to achieve so much of success all by himself. She did not

need Charles to speak about it, because she knew how much hard work and struggles had gone

behind Charles reaching the position he was in at the moment.

Sheryl looked at his face with admiration as they walked along side each other on the vacant streets of

the Y City. Suddenly her heart melted towards him and she wondered if she had been too harsh on him

all of this time.

"Sher, today is the happiest day for me in these three years." Charles turned his face towards her and

said, "With you and the children all by my side, I feel blessed. Until a few days back I didn't even know

if this would ever happen. Truly, it's one of my cherished prayers answered."

Sheryl gave him a warm smile and said, "Don't worry. We will all be with you very soon."

Charles looked startled as he heard Sheryl speak. He took Sheryl's hand immediately and asked,

"Sher, what do you mean by that? Are you trying to say that you are willing to move back and live with me?"

Charles took a step closer and looked into her eyes. He never raised this topic with Sheryl before this, because he did not want to put too much pressure on Sheryl. But now that Sheryl mentioned it herself, and also as a reaction of the wine in his stomach, he just mustered up his courage to speak his heart out.

He had been waiting for this day for such a long time.

"I..." Sheryl lowered her head, somewhat bewildered, not knowing what to say.

Seeing Sheryl like this, Charles could not help but have a bitter smile. 'Maybe it's too early. Maybe I have pushed her too hard.'

He looked into Sheryl's eyes and said, "Relax Sher. You don't have to be stressed out. I am just asking.

I'm not going to force you if you're not yet ready to move back."

No matter how sportingly he spoke these words, he could not help feeling the heaviness in his heart.

He was ready to wait till Sheryl made up her mind to come back. But how long? There was no answer to this question. The pensiveness of his heart reflected on his face certainly didn't evade Sheryl's eyes.

"Charles..." Looking at the depressed expression on Charles' face, Sheryl could not stop herself. She didn't have the heart to see him like this. As Charles started taking a few steps forward, she just went ahead and took his hand.

"I am really fine..." Trying to sport a happy face in front of Sheryl, Charles turned around to comfort her,

"I will wait for you, Sher, you don't have to worry about me."

"I am not saying that." Standing in front of Charles, Sheryl felt somewhat shy to speak her heart out.

There was also a certain decorousness. After hesitating for a while, she finally spoke to Charles,

"Today I have also talked to Isla about this. I know, you want me to move back, but I..."

Sheryl took a deep sigh, and continued, "Charles, to tell you the truth, I am not really ready yet to move back with you. But, my feelings towards you remain the same as before. It will never change. It is

just..."

Sheryl stopped for a while lowering her eyes. Then she bit her lips as she dealt with her inner dilemma.

Then she took a few deep breaths and composed herself. It seemed as if she had made up her mind now. "Actually, the truth is that it is not that I am not willing to move back. It's just that Sue has moved to the Zhao family house recently. I just want to help her deal with some personal problems she is going through as soon as possible. When she can move back to her own place, I will move back to the Dream Garden. How do you like it?" She spoke in just one breath and let out a sigh of relief.

"Sher..." Charles' heart skipped a beat. But then he was also apprehensive that Sheryl said this only to take care of his feelings. He asked her once again, "Are you... Are you really prepared for that, or just taking care of my feelings?"

"You have so little confidence in me?" Sheryl asked him with a smile. "Actually, I have been thinking about this for a long time. Today, Chris said something to me that totally enlightened me. It dawned up on me that you have done so much for me and made so many efforts all this while. And you never asked anything from me apart from moving back to Dream Garden. If I can't even do that much for you, how will I face you?" she added.

Sheryl raised her head to Charles and continued, "What's more important is that... Shirley likes you so much. I don't have the heart to separate her from you."

"Sher..." Charles could not hide the thrill in his voice as he uttered her name out of joy. He moved closer and held Sheryl in his arms tightly, as if he was trying to blend her with him.

Sheryl nestled in his arms feeling extremely comfortable and relaxed. She kissed him on his cheek and lowered her eyes feeling shy.

Charles was really taken aback by this cute gesture. This was the first time after Sheryl came back after disappearing for three years that she acted so affectionately towards him. All this while she had been so courteous and formal with him.

This was the first time in so many years. He was moved by this gesture. The very next moment, he pulled Sheryl close to him and held her tight. He did not want to let go of her.

"What are you doing?" Feeling nervous and shy at the same time, Sheryl looked at Charles and asked.

"You guess..." There was a mischievous look on Charles' face. The very next moment, Sheryl felt her lips were being kissed. She kept looking at Charles' face and widened her eyes in surprise.

Her eyes roved over his face which was so close to hers. She could see every pore on Charles' face,

smell the fragrance on his body and taste the lingering wine in his mouth.

Sheryl still looked surprised even after they spent a few moments being lip-locked.

Charles loosened his arms and quietly looked at Sheryl who looked so pure and innocent in his arms.

Her gentle eyes fell on Charles' face, which literally melted his heart.

It was certainly not their first kiss, but it was more exciting than ever.

As they stood under the street light, the mild rays illuminated Sheryl's face rendering an inexplicable charm on her face. He smiled affectionately and said to her, "Girl, has anybody ever told you to close your eyes while kissing?"

Charles' voice sounded like magic. Sheryl was still somewhat in a trance, but she closed her eyes as she was told.

Her face seemed calm on the surface, but inside, there was an upheaval of emotions. She could almost hear the pounding sounds of her heart in her chest. She took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down. Charles kept looking at her face feeling every bit of it that Sheryl was experiencing in her mind and her body.

Charles gently stamped a kiss on her forehead.

The warm touch calmed her down gradually, and she could feel all the tension and panic vanish out of heart. She rested in his arms feeling absolutely relaxed and secured. She heard Charles say into her ear, "Sher, I love you."

He gently held her in his arms, lowered his head and kissed her. He sucked her lips and tongue skillfully, and tightened his arms that were lying over her waist. Before she could respond, she was swallowed up by the warmth of his body. His gentleness made her feel like falling into a soft cotton ball.

He slowly slipped his hand in from the corner of her clothes, and his smooth fingertips rubbed against her waist and glided along. He held her closer to his chest and pressed his lips hard onto hers, making her feel difficult to breathe. When his palm was gently stroking her waist, giving her a tingling sensation, Sheryl felt the coldness of his fingers and suddenly came out of the trance. Then she came to realize what they were doing on the street.

She blushed and took one step back, pushing Charles a little away from her. "Charles, we are not at home."

"You mean... we can go on if we are at home?" When Sheryl blushed she looked so pretty that Charles

could not help teasing her. And when she stared at Charles with a pouted mouth, he laughed happily.

Although it was not the first time they were so intimate with each other, Sheryl felt shy. Her ears were hot and she lowered her head to calm her flustered heartbeat.

It took a while for Sheryl to feel her heartbeat back to normal.

Chapter 844 Another Request For Money

As any ordinary couple would do, Charles and Sheryl went out for a little stroll hand in hand down the street. The weather gave them a calm day, which seemed rare given the recent string of events.

The peace was shortlived, however, when Sue came to Sheryl's mind. She stopped in her steps and pulled Charles back and sighed. "Charles, I'm counting on you... with Sue. You know that, right?"

Charles smiled warmly in response, wanting to reassure her. "Don't worry about it. I'll do anything to sort it all out quickly so you can move back home with me."

Hearing his words, Sheryl felt red creeping up her cheeks.

It was Sheryl who planned to send Charles back home, but somehow, she was to be sent back to her place by Charles, and even with all that had happened, she found herself feeling nothing but affection for Charles because of it. When their stroll came to an end, she gave him a long stare. "You've had

some wine. You shouldn't drive."

"I know. I'll call a car to bring me back," he responded with affection. The air around them was warm and familiar. When they gazed at each other, they hid smiles in their eyes.

With Charles' promise, Sheryl nodded in relief. "Alright then. I should get back now." It was a reluctant parting. On the way to the door, Sheryl had to look back at the man before entering the house -- and he wore a warm smile for every turn she gave. Even as she finally got herself inside, her heart was still beating because of his words.

Sheryl jumped a little when the light in her bedroom suddenly went on. Sue's presence took her off guard, as she thought Sue would still be in her room. With someone else around, Sheryl had to calm her heart down and conceal the bashful smile threatening to surface. "It's getting late. Why are you still up?"

"I was waiting for you," Sue smiled as she said it. She stared at Sheryl with a suggestive look.

The latter had to pretend to be busy sorting and tidying things up to avoid looking at the other girl. "Why

were you waiting? You didn't have to."

"Just wanted to make sure you didn't forget to remind Charles about my dilemma, but maybe that's too much to remember when you're indulging in love." Sue's tone was teasing, and she smiled mischievously at her friend.

"What... What are you talking about?" Sheryl said hastily, her face growing red with embarrassment. "I do not indulge in..."

"Please, I just saw you two," Sue teased. "You were both so reluctant to part ways even for a night," she chuckled. "You're such a woman in love."

She then took Sheryl's cheeks in her hands and cooed, "Look at you, your lips are all swollen. The next time you make out, please remind Mr. Lu to have a little more control. You're a model, after all, you still need to keep up your image."

Hearing her words, Sheryl subconsciously touched her lips, earning a burst of laughter from Sue. At that moment, Sheryl realized she had been played hard.

She groaned in embarrassment and annoyance and pushed Sue down onto the bed to 'sort her out.'

"Sure enough, the IQ of a woman in love is zero," Sue continued.

"Shut up you..." Sheryl teased back and put an angry tone in her voice, even if her face said otherwise.

"You tease me like this after I just did you a favor? Well then, tomorrow I'm calling Charles, and I'm telling him to ignore all your problems, and you're on your own!"

Coming down from the high of laughter, Sue surrendered, "Stop, stop, you're not indulging in love. I admit it." A genuine smile replaced the teasing laugh. "Sher, I really am happy for you."

With a sigh, she continued, "I know you told me you didn't care about my relationship with Anthony a while back, but I was still worried. When I saw how happy you were with Charles, though, I finally believe it."

Sheryl looked at her then. "My relationship with Anthony is completely over, Sue. You really don't have to care about it anymore."

Sue nodded this time -- she had finally stopped resisting. "I know."

Lately, Sue had to deal with Peggy's and Allen's torture, and she didn't have time to think about her relationship with Anthony. Having moved into the Zhao family house still had her missing him dearly.

She loved him deeply, after all. She couldn't forget him at will, even in the midst of all that was going on.

"It's getting late. Time for bed." Catching a flash of sadness on Sue's face, Sheryl knew that Anthony crossed her mind. With a deep sigh, she attempted to comfort her, "As for your relationship with Anthony, I can't make any decision for you. But I just want to make sure you don't do anything you'll regret."

"I see," was all she said. Sue pushed Sheryl into the bathroom. "I know what I should do."

That night, insomnia plagued Sue. In the morning, she went to the company with dark circles under her eyes.

Peggy and Doris were unexpectedly already there, waiting for her at the door.

It only brought a frown upon Sue's face. "What are you doing here?"

"Give me some money," Peggy simply demanded, as if it was a mundane request. "I'm taking Doris for a body check. Hurry up and give me money."

Sue arched brow and looked at Peggy incredulously. "Do you think I'm an ATM? Why should I give you money for her pregnancy test?"

"You wicked bitch, shut up!" Peggy's voice was almost yelling, then. "You don't want to force me to sort you out here in public. Doris' child is your nephew, so what's wrong with asking you for money?"

She sneered, "Look, what a heartless woman. Don't you care for your family?"

"Nephew?" Sue's eyes went cold. "Even his parents and grandmother don't care about him. I'm just his aunt. Why should I care?"

"You..." Peggy was livid and even raised her hand in anger. "Why are you making it so difficult? Greedy bitch. No man would be willing to marry such a wicked woman like you."

"Shut up." There was no warmth between the two. If it weren't for Peggy's and Allen's sudden intrusion into her life, she could probably be with Anthony already. She hadn't blamed them outright, yet Peggy went ahead and insulted her in such an unexpected way. It triggered something deep within Sue, and the blame finally surfaced. "If I can't find anyone for me in the future, it's all your fault!"

"My fault?" She only sneered at the remark. "You dare blame me? Don't talk until you find a real man."

"Sue." Just as Sue was about to give a retort, Anthony's voice pierced through the tension in the air.

They all turned to see Anthony approaching. It made Sue feel anxious, when the other two were staring at the man and wondering who he was.

He'd been looking for Sue for a while. He had even visited her home but didn't dare go upstairs. After

several days of waiting for her, he couldn't figure out her whereabouts. Finally, he took a chance to look for her at the company and found her with a stroke of luck.

The moment he saw her, he felt like all the weight on his body had lifted. He relaxed in relief.

A few days ago, they parted on bad terms, but all that mattered to Anthony was that he could find her safe and sound.

As he approached though, Sue found herself worrying. Afraid that Peggy would find out about her relationship with Anthony, she dug up some bills from her purse and shoved them at Peggy hurriedly, just to end the whole interaction, before rushing into the company.

Fortunately for Sue, the BM Corporation had strict policies about people getting in and out, so Anthony could only watch as she rushed in.

Sue's face stayed pale as she escaped into the office. Since Charles picked Sheryl up for breakfast, the latter had arrived earlier than Sue. Her friend's rushed entrance was worrisome, so Sheryl approached her right away.

"Mimi, what's wrong? Was someone chasing after you?"

Chapter 845 Keeping The Secret

"It's all right," Sue replied in haste and turned back. There was distinct anxiousness on her face that

could not evade Sheryl's eyes. She marked the change in Sue's behavior as she turned around repeatedly taking quick glances at the entry gate. Then as she suddenly glanced upon Sheryl's face that was filled with questions, she tried to calm down and pretend to be normal. She tried to explain, "I thought I'd be late."

"Sue..." Sheryl stared at her with a stern frown set on her face. She did not need Sue to tell her that something was wrong with her. Then she asked in a concerned voice, "What is wrong with you?"

Sue looked terribly nervous. Sheryl patted her and assured her that she could confide in her. Sue still took a few moments to get over her hesitation, Then she pulled Sheryl aside and almost hushed into her ears so that nobody could hear, "When I arrived, Doris and Peggy were waiting for me at the gate."

"What?" Sheryl blurted with creased brows. Sheryl was stunned to hear that they had even followed Sue up to the office. She asked Sue, "What did they come here for?"

"For money," Sue answered, letting out a heavy sigh. Then she added, "They said that Doris needs to go for a check up in the hospital. So they need money. I remember they just asked for 500 thousand from you, right?"

"Now, they are really crossing the limits!" A stern frown settled on Sheryl's face. She hoped that Sue hadn't given the money they'd asked for and asked in a serious voice, "So? Did you give them the money?"

"Yes, I had to." Sue nodded her head, helpless. Then she added, "How could I refuse them. Peggy always threatens me to extort more and more money from me. She said if I refused to fulfill their demands, she would humiliate me right here in front of all my colleagues in this company. She used to treat me very badly at home, which I could tolerate because it happened behind the closed doors, but I couldn't tolerate her in my workplace!"

Sheryl looked Sue in her eyes and really felt sorry for her. Whoever had family and relatives like them, could only understand how helpless and exhausting it could be.

She remembered her own situation in the past. Even she had experienced what Sue was going through right now. All the bitter memories flashed in front of her eyes when she was wronged by her mother. How much she hated her! And yet she tried to bear with it instead of getting back at her.

Because after all, she was her mother. Even if her mother had ended up in a miserable state, she had nothing to do with that.

"That's so not right, Sue," Sheryl commented, and almost immediately, she had another question that just sprang up in her mind. She gathered her thoughts and asked, "They would leave after you gave them the money, but why are you so nervous?"

"Because..." Sue felt a little awkward while answering the question. She swallowed and closed her eyes as if she was trying to fight a dilemma in her mind and then said heaving a sigh, "Because Anthony came up, when they were at the gateway."

Now the matter was clear to Sheryl. 'Sue did not want her family to know about Anthony. She feared that if they learn about their relationship, Anthony would also get involved in her trouble. And more importantly, she could not even risk Anthony to know that she has such bad family like them. It would mean a lot of humiliation for her."

"Sher, what do you think will happen? Will they ask him for money?" Sue was scared like a little girl.

Unsure and trembling, she grabbed Sheryl's hands for support.

Having to see Anthony and Peggy on the same spot filled her mind with tension. All she wanted was to just run away so that she didn't even have to face him. How could she reveal her awkward family

background to him.

So many questions filled her brain. 'Did Peggy hear when Anthony called out my name? It is unlikely that it would evade her ears, ' Sue thought to herself. She prayed and wished that they never found out about her relationship with Anthony. Sue was nervous and confused about how to deal with the situation if her wildest fears came true.

"Don't be so scared, Sue. You are a brave girl!" Sheryl tried to assure her, "Nothing bad is going to happen. Why scare so much about something that has not happened yet? Come on, show me a brave face now. Give me a smile."

"No, that is not possible," Sue spoke expressing her inhibitions. No matter how much Sheryl tried to pep her up, she could not put her mind to rest. She said, "You know my mother, Sher. She is so greedy for money. She even had the nerve to ask you for money when she met you for the first time. If she knows about my relationship with Anthony, she won't..."

"I understand that." Sheryl kept persuading Sue and continued, "Don't be so stupid to think like that. Let's figure out a way to solve it. It's no use to just think without taking any action."

Sue reflected over Sheryl's words and felt assured. She calmed herself down. In the meantime, Peggy

and Doris were just about to leave.

Hearing Anthony calling out Sue's name, both of them turned towards him. Peggy eyed him from top to bottom out of curiosity and was quiet impressed by his handsome look and demeanor. She couldn't stop herself from having a look again. More to Peggy's amazement, he wore such seemingly expensive clothes. She thought how come Sue had such a young and rich male friend that she did not hear about.

Even Doris' eyes popped out in the first sight of Anthony.

In fact, she was blown over to see such a successful and charming man that she even felt that Allen was absolutely not a match for him. She really wanted to approach him and say hello, but she stopped thinking of her pregnancy.

Anthony glanced at them casually as he noticed them gazing at him and then turned to stare through the entrance of Sue's workplace from where she had just disappeared the moment she caught a glance of him approaching her.

He stood there brooding, 'Why does Sue always hide from me every time I come up to her? Am I that bad?'

"Let's go," Peggy said as she gave Doris a pull to draw her attention back. Peggy planned to find a chance to ask about this man next time when she came to Sue. After all, he might be of some use for her. But before that she needed to find out his identity.

However, Doris didn't make any move. She kept her eyes fixed on Anthony and grabbed Peggy's hand as she asked, "Don't you want to know who this man really is? What is his relationship with Sue?"

"Just being curious will not help us get to know him." Peggy looked towards Anthony once again, then turned to her and told, "We should find it out on our own when we get back to her next time."

Then she reminded Doris that they must go to the hospital right away. "We will be late. Let's hurry up," she said.

"But..." Doris had no intention to go to the hospital, but Peggy insisted that Doris must go and said that under no circumstances, she would leave Doris go unchecked. Doris had tried her best to keep the secret in her belly only to herself, but she felt it really hard to hide the secret from Peggy.

But now, she felt she found a way. She just needed to take advantage of this man who seemed to be related to Sue, in order to distract Peggy's attention.

"Do you really think she will tell you the truth?" Doris harped on Peggy's suspicious mind once again.

Peggy's suspicion rose as Doris kept harping again and again. She felt Doris was right. If Sue refused to tell her the truth, how would she come to know about him?

Gradually, Peggy was falling into Doris' trap. She asked her, "What should we do? Do you have any idea?"

"Go to him right away and ask. It is just as simple," Doris answered as she gestured Peggy to look towards Anthony with her mouth pouting. She knew her trick worked. Peggy's focus had already shifted from the hospital. In order to further drive her mind towards Anthony, she walked towards him alone, and asked, "Excuse me, are you Sue's friend?"

"Who are you?" Anthony turned towards her and asked.

"Don't be nervous. I'm just curious." She gave him a big smile and introduced herself, "I'm Sue's sister. I was just talking to her. We just felt weird when she just walked away the moment she saw you. Is it because she owned you money?"

"You are Sue's sister?" Anthony asked with his brows creased. He became suspicious as he had never heard Sue mentioning that she had a sister.

"I am..." Before Doris could say more, Peggy just came up and also introduced herself with a smile,

"Sue is my daughter and she is my daughter-in-law. Really nice to meet you."

With her eyes full of expectation and greed, Peggy thought she would definitely be lucky if Sue had a rich friend like this. She might get a great deal of money out of all the rich friends Sue had and eventually purchase an apartment in Y City for Allen out of that money.

With a smirk on her face, Peggy looked at Anthony, tried to chill herself down. Then she asked, "Do you have anything to talk to her?"

"Does she really owe you a lot of money?" She stared at his face to read his expressions but could not make anything out of it. Then she said blatantly, "If that is true, go to ask her for money. We don't have any."

"No," Anthony said. He was surprised to meet Sue's mother for the first time.

Chapter 846 Seek Help

Anthony was absolutely taken aback by the unexpected encounter by the two stranger ladies who just happened to pop up out of the blue claiming themselves to be Sue's family. He cast a glance at Peggy and said, "No. She didn't owe me any money."

Peggy felt confused and she looked at Anthony with curious eyes. Anthony was somehow feeling

uneasy as the creased rustic face of Peggy loomed over his face with intriguing eyes. As he was guilty of his conduct towards Sue and wanted to compensate for it, then the sudden appearance of her family made him really confused. After staring at his face for a while, Peggy blurted, "So what are you doing here, then? Do you love her?"

Peggy inspected Anthony carefully and added, "Let me tell you one thing very clearly. If you want to court Sue, you must take my permission first, otherwise..."

"Aunt..." Anthony interrupted her. He looked at her and said, "Sue and I are just common friends. I was just passing by her office and wanted to say hello, but somehow she tried to avoid me. I hope you can ask her why she did so."

Anthony paused for a while and said politely, "I have more important things to deal with. I will take my leave now. Bye Aunt."

"Wait..." Peggy tried to stop him so that she could intrude further but he just took quick and long strides and disappeared before she could say anything more.

Anthony somehow reached the corner of the lane where he could evade the eyes of Peggy and Doris

and gasped for breath while his heart was pounding fast against his chest.

Indeed, his relationship with Sue was not something that he could tell anybody. He had come here to

regret for his behavior towards her. He felt that he just owed too much to Sue. So he wanted to talk with

her and find out whether he could compensate her in anyway to make him feel less guilty.

Also Laura insisted on inviting Sue to have dinner with them. Hence, he had come to invite her for a

family dinner.

He had no other choice but to come to her company.

But he didn't expect to meet Sue's other family members there. Anthony told a lie about his relationship

with Sue just to avoid being harassed by them.

If they knew how unfairly he had treated Sue, they would definitely not treat him with respect.

Doris and Peggy exchanged looks with each other as Anthony left. They found his words absolutely

unreliable. Doris glanced at Peggy and said, "Aunt Peggy, the relationship between this man and Sue

can't be just so simple as he said. He must have lied to us."

Peggy turned to Doris and snapped back with a scornful expression, "Okay, enough! That's is none of

your business. It's time for us to go to the hospital now. Let's go!"

"I... I am not feeling well..." Doris whimpered as Peggy urged her to go to the hospital.

Doris' reluctance to go to the hospital triggered suspicion in Peggy's mind. She thought of the words spoken by Sheryl about Doris' belly. She shuddered at the thought of Doris keeping a secret from her.

Peggy sneered at her and insisted, "Don't worry. You can have a check up scheduled in the hospital.

Let's go now. Don't waste time."

Now Doris had no choice but to head towards the hospital. She kept quiet all the while till they reached the hospital and kept scheming various ways to hide her secret from Peggy. As they reached the hospital, Peggy paid all the fee for Doris' checkup. Her only purpose was to confirm the correct tenure of her pregnancy to rule out the suspicion that was planted in her mind by Sheryl.

Despite Peggy's repeated insistence, Doris managed to enter the examination room alone. "Doctor..."

She grasped the doctor's hand when the door was shut, begged with tearful eyes and bent down to fall on his feet. "Can you help me?"

"Stand up. Don't bend forward in this condition." The doctor hoisted her up and asked, "Tell me what I can do to help you."

"Thanks." Doris wiped her tears and said to the doctor, "The woman waiting outside is my mother-in-law. She came with me because she wants to know whether the baby in my womb is a boy or girl. You know there are still many people preferring boys than girls and my mother-in-law is one of them. She told me that if the baby is a girl, she will ask me to abort it."

"What?" The doctor felt very sorry for Doris to have such narrow minded family. "How can she treat you like this? Just tell me how I can help you."

Doris heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that the doctor had been deceived by her words. She wiped her face and said, "My mother-in-law is a countrywoman. She knows little about the medical technology. I lied to her that the baby is just for four months. And its sex can only be verified after six months."

Doris pulled the doctor's sleeve and begged, "Doctor, I know I shouldn't tell a lie. But... I really have no choice. I just want to keep my baby."

She rubbed her belly gently and added, "Two months later, the baby is big enough and there will be no chance for abortion any more. In this way, my baby can be saved."

She looked at the doctor nervously and said, "Doctor, I beg you to help me. Otherwise, I don't know what to do."

"But..." The doctor arched her brow.

"Don't worry, I'll take all the blame if it gets exposed." Doris promised to the doctor confidently, "I won't cause any trouble for you, I promise. But my baby's life can only be saved by your words. So please help me."

The doctor was moved by Doris' earnest words and nodded her head in agreement.

"Fine. I'll tell a lie for you." The doctor looked at Doris with serious eyes and warned, "But I will do it only for once. I won't do it again."

"Okay, thanks a lot." Doris was so happy that she promised the doctor, "Don't worry. I won't bother you in future."

Then the doctor began examining the condition of the baby. "Your baby is very healthy. Don't worry," she said with a reassuring smile.

"Okay, thanks." Doris heaved a sigh of relief. And just at that moment Peggy entered the room. "Is the examination over?" Peggy asked.

"Yes, it is done." Doris nodded slightly with a gentle smile on her face and said to Peggy, "Mom, let's go home."

"Hold on!" Peggy held Doris back and spoke in a stern voice, "There is no hurry. I want to know some more details about the baby." Then she turned to the doctor and said, "Doctor, can you please tell me how old the baby is at the moment?"

"I have already told you that..." Doris pretended to urge Peggy to leave but Peggy cast an angry glance at her and inquired, "What is your problem? Can't I talk to the doctor? Is there anything you are hiding from me?"

"I..." Doris gave a bitter smile and turned her eyes to the doctor for help.

The doctor glanced at Peggy and her trust became stronger on Doris. She agreed that Peggy was a difficult woman. She felt pitiful for Doris. She said to Peggy, "Why are you so rude to your daughter-in-law at the time when she is pregnant? The baby in her womb is just four months old. It is a very crucial stage of pregnancy and she needs to have a peaceful mood. Please take good care of her and call me if you have any problem."

"Okay, I will. I feel reassured then." Peggy let out a deep sigh of relief and a smile broke on her face.

The doctor's words assured her. Now she could put her worries to rest. Doris marked the changes on Peggy's face from the corner of her eyes and shared a reassuring smile with the doctor gesturing her gratitude.

Peggy felt restless since she had a talk with Sheryl. But now she was relieved.

Chapter 847 She's Having A Difficult Time

Peggy gently took Doris' hand and asked in concern, "Are you hungry? Just let me know what you feel like eating and I'll prepare it for you."

"It's alright Aunt Peggy. I'm not hungry." Doris cast a look of gratitude over her shoulder towards the doctor behind them and followed Peggy out of the examination room. She let out a soft sigh of relief. She might get caught further down the road, but at least for today, she was safe.

At BM Corporation, Sheryl was preparing to make a quick visit to Cloud Advertising Company. She had already made an arrangement with Isla anyway, so it was only the right thing to do.

"Sher! Wait up!" Just as she was about to leave, Sheryl heard a familiar voice calling her. She turned around to see Sue brisk walking towards her. "Do you mind walking with me?" she asked nervously.

"Why? What's the matter?" Sheryl was a little baffled. She was not used to the usually independent

Sue relying on her so much nowadays. "I still have some matters to settle. I'm not going home yet."

"I know..." Sue looked at Sheryl, who noticed the slight look of shame on Sue's face. "It's just.. I was wondering if you could accompany me out of the office building, that's all." For a woman like Sue with a huge amount of pride and ego, this was a big favor to ask.

"Are you worried that Anthony might still be waiting outside?" Sheryl understood in an instant. She smiled gently and agreed, "Alright then, let's go."

Sheryl led the way to BM Corporation's main entrance. Before they reached the doors, Sue caught sight of a familiar silhouette through the huge floor-to-ceiling windows. She could only see his back, but even though many men probably owned the same suit, she could tell from his posture that it was Anthony. She instantly felt a jolt of panic, as if she were about to get caught doing something illegal.

She quickly pulled Sheryl back and hissed, "Sher, look over there!"

Sheryl looked in the direction that Sue was pointing at and instantly recognized her former boyfriend. She frowned slightly. It had been a few hours and he was still stubbornly waiting at the entrance. She wasn't sure if she should be annoyed or impressed by his persistence.

She wondered why he was looking for Sue. It had to be something urgent if he was willing to wait for hours.

"Sher, he's still there. He's really waiting for me." Sue squeezed Sheryl's arm tightly. She fought the urge to hide her face in Sheryl's shoulder, as if he would magically disappear if she couldn't see him. "I don't want to see him, but he's still waiting out there. I can't go out without him spotting me. What should I do?"

"Don't worry," Sheryl reassuringly patted Sue's hand, which was still clinging tightly to her. "Where there's a will, there's a way," she said with a wink.

Sheryl was lost in thought for a while and finally said, "Okay, how about this? I'll go out there first and talk to him. Then when he's distracted, you just grab the opportunity to leave quickly. That way, he wouldn't notice you and you won't have to worry about talking to him,"

"But..." Sue protested. Her eyebrows pulled together into a small frown. "Sher, I know your history with him. I know he's the last person you'd want to have a conversation with. I can't ask you to..."

"It's alright," Sheryl interrupted gently, giving Sue a warm smile. "It's not that a big a deal whether I bump into him or not. You, on the other hand, really want to avoid him, and I know that you're not

exactly in the right condition to see him at the moment. So I'll help you avoid him this time, okay? All I need from you in return is for you to escape as quickly as possible, you understand?" she told her gently but firmly.

Sue knew it was no use arguing with Sheryl. She was overcome with gratitude and gave Sheryl a sudden hug.

In just a few days, Sheryl had done so much for her. She had no idea how to repay her.

Sheryl exited the doors of BM Corporation and marched straight towards Anthony. He had strategically positioned himself so that he could see every single person who came in and out of BM Corporation's doors. He never let his eyes wander elsewhere, lest he miss Sue. He knew very well that the possibility of bumping into Sheryl was very high, but since she disliked him so much, it wouldn't make a difference. They weren't likely to talk anyway. She would not be a distraction from his quest to find and talk to Sue.

To be honest, he hadn't even imagined in his wildest dreams that Sheryl would approach him first and talk to him. As a result, seeing Sheryl walking towards him threw him totally off guard.

"What's wrong? Surprised to see me?" Sheryl couldn't help but smirk at Anthony's dumbstruck expression.

Anthony shook his head slightly, wondering if he was dreaming. He pinched himself on the thigh quickly just to make sure he hadn't fallen asleep. "I thought you never wanted to see my face anymore. You made it clear that I was dead to you," he said, slightly confused.

"You're right, I really don't want to see you," Sheryl reminded him. "But there's a very good reason I'm standing here in front of you. The person that you're waiting for, she wants to see you even less than I do. So I took one for the team and came over to talk to you instead of her."

"You mean, Sue..." Anthony blinked at Sheryl. Then, he gave a huge sigh and said, "Sher, I know you two are good friends now. I also know that I did her a huge wrong. It seems to be the only thing I'm good at, hurting the women in my life. So, I came here today because I want to sincerely apologize to her from the bottom of my heart and also find a way to make up for it. Please don't stand in my way, Sher. I'm trying my hardest to be a better man."

Anthony caught sight of Sue leaving the building and wanted to go after her badly. He moved towards her, but Sheryl quickly blocked his way. She was smaller than him but he did not want to cause a scene

by pushing her out of his way since there were so many people around.

"Sher..." Anthony glared at her. It was clear she wasn't going to budge. "What do you want from me?"

he growled.

"I think I've made it very clear. She doesn't wish to see you," Sheryl replied calmly. She looked at him

directly in the eye and told him, "If you really want to make it up to her, here's a tip. Find out and

understand what kind of situation she's in right now, and not just come here aimlessly, waiting outside

the building like a homeless man. Anthony, I'll be frank with you. If you really want to help her, you need

to stay away for a while. Give her a few days of peace. Right now, you're only stressing her out even

more, so it's understandable that she wouldn't agree to see you."

"What are you talking about?" Anthony eyebrows knitted together. He asked urgently, "What do you

mean by 'situation'? Is she in some kind of trouble? Tell me what exactly is going on." Sheryl was

surprised that Anthony seemed to be genuinely concerned for Sue.

"Do you really care about her that much?" Sheryl scoffed. Deep down, she was wondering if Anthony

had somehow ended up falling in love with Sue.

"I..." Anthony paused for a while to gather his thoughts, and admitted bashfully, "I just really want to know how she's been doing recently. And if there's anything I can do to help, I really want to be there for her."

Sheryl gazed at him for a while and gave him a simple answer. "She's going through a difficult time," she said coldly. "Is that good enough for you? I bet you're happy about that deep inside right? You love to see her suffer."

"Sher, you know that's not what I mean," Anthony protested, suddenly feeling the need to explain himself. But before he could say anything further, Sheryl cut him off.

"I have no idea what your intentions are," Sheryl said with a grim face, "but I do know this. If you really love her, you should be staying by her side. Love her, protect her, care for her, and don't let anyone hurt her. What you're doing now, giving her mixed signals, not only makes her confused, you're also hurting her even more. She doesn't need any more pain than what she's facing at the moment."

"Sheryl..." Anthony tried to explain himself again.

"That's enough!" Sheryl snapped, cutting him off for the last time. "I have my own matters to attend to. I'm not going to waste any more time and energy arguing with you. But I'm warning you right now,

Anthony. You only have a few months. I have no right to interfere in the personal issues between you two. Just remember, if you cause her to shed even a single tear, I'm going to make sure you pay for it."

Anthony stood by helplessly as he watched Sheryl leave. He no longer know what was the right thing to do. He was confused not only by Sheryl's words, but by his own emotions as well.

He went over Sheryl's words again in his head and deduced that Sue must be in some kind of trouble.

Quickly, he pulled out his cell phone and made a call, ordering one of his men to find out exactly what was going on.

Even after he hung up the phone, the sense of trepidation still lingered in his heart. His gut had been telling him all along that something was not right, and Sheryl's words only confirmed his fears.

He still couldn't figure out what were his feelings for Sue, and all he knew was that it was driving him insane.

If someone had asked him to describe his feelings, it might sound like love. But he knew it was nowhere near the affection and devotion he had felt towards Sheryl.

Then again, if it wasn't love, why was Sue keep running through his thoughts all the time? Why was he

always worrying about her and hoping that she was doing well? And now, why was he so restless knowing the fact that she was going through a hard time? All he wanted to do at the moment was to see her face and see her smile so he knew that she was okay.

He was truly bewildered by his own emotions. He had no idea at all what he ought to do. Perhaps the first thing he should focus on was to ascertain exactly what were his feelings towards Sue. Only then he could plan his next move.

After leaving BM Corporation, Sheryl headed straight to Cloud Advertising Company without any further ado. Before she reached the entrance, she suddenly remembered the dessert place at the corner of the street. It was one of her favorite places and she would always head over during teatime to buy some pastries and cakes to share with the other staff.

Just like her old routine, she went into the shop and bought some desserts before going up.

Even though three years had passed, Cloud Advertising Company did not seem to have changed much. The major difference was that under Isla's management, the company had expanded to more than double of its original size. They even had to rent the entire floor above to accommodate all the extra staff and business. Sheryl couldn't help but marvel at the spectacle, and all the unfamiliar faces

moving around in the office.

"Hi, can I help you? May I know who you're looking for?" The receptionist approached Sheryl, who was still gaping in amazement from the main entrance.

Chapter 848 Misplaced Authority

"I..." Sheryl mindlessly looked at the tender face that was before her. The woman wore make up, but she could never mistake the sincerity painted on the fair lady's face for someone else; Leila had been the same as she was three years ago.

Leila had been an innocent girl from the beginning, but she had changed a lot afterwards.

"May I ask who you want to see, please? Have you scheduled an appointment?" the receptionist had to ask Sheryl again, who was drifting off in her own thought. "I'm sorry, miss," the receptionist said before Sheryl could respond, "but if you don't have an appointment then it's best you leave right now."

"I'm not here to see anyone," Sheryl said, forgetting to gather her words more wisely. She looked at the receptionist and was about to explain, "I am here to..."

The receptionist could not help but interrupt, "Not here to see anyone?"

The receptionist could not help but to cast a judgmental glance at Sheryl. After looking at her from top

to toe, she subtly rolled her eyes and said, "I think it's best if you leave now. This is not where you should be."

Sheryl frowned faintly, not missing the underlying tone of irritation in the words of the one before her. 'In

a company, the receptionist is a very important position. How the receptionist treat the people will reflect the name of the company.

No matter who comes to visit the company, they must be treated with equal respect by the receptionist because the receptionist is the first employee that every person interested in the company will come in contact with. Therefore, if a company has a great receptionist, every customer will be left with a satisfying and good impression of the company. However, if they are treated in such a rude manner, no matter how well the program goes, the customers' first impression of the company will always be recollected from a bad experience, creating a bad reputation, ' thought Sheryl.

Sheryl was still not given the proper time to make herself understood since the rude receptionist once again ordered her to leave the premises, "Are you going away or not?" With an unamused face, the receptionist was determined to drive her away

and rudely told her, "This is not the place where you can just come whenever you like. Get lost!"

At this point, Sheryl's brows were tightly knitted together. She was just about to take her phone out to call Isla when an old employee who just happened to be passing by seemed to have recognized Sheryl. They stared at each other for a longer time than a person would stare at a stranger until Sheryl realized who she was and said, "Suse, do you remember me? It's been three years since we last saw each other."

The employee was still trying to recognize Sheryl, "Autumn?" Suse Shi thought she was only looking at someone who resembled Autumn but was surprised to realize that it was really who she thought it was since rumor had it that Autumn died three years ago. If the person standing before her was really Autumn and if she really was alive, it would be hard for her to believe.

Only a few people who were close to Charles knew about the truth about Sheryl's return, so it was normal that most employees had no idea that they were never really in close contact with the real story.

"Yes, it's me. Although I do go by Sheryl now. Call me Sher if you like."

Sheryl smiled warmly, relieved to see a familiar face.

Back when she was still working in the Cloud Advertising Company, Suse Shi was a competent

assistant to her. Three years had already gone by, but she was still working for the company with her unwavering loyalty.

Compared to what had she looked like three years ago, she looked more mature and sophisticated; she had grown.

"Is it really you? I can't believe it!"

Suse Shi quickly walked towards Sheryl and excitedly took her hand, overwhelmed by the fact that someone she thought was dead was actually alive. She could not contain her joy and stammered,

"Sheryl? What happened to you?"

Sheryl dipped her head to the side and shrugged. "It's a long story." She grinned being just as excited as her old co-worker was. However, Sheryl was still so clearly bitter about the things that happened just now. "Today, I went down here to see you, but I did not expect..."

Sheryl motioned her eyes towards the receptionist and said, "I did not expect to be questioned and rejected by the receptionist. I wasn't even given the chance to say anything. I was just given orders to leave. Is it because I don't look like a customer?"

"What's the matter?" Suse Shi glanced at the girl in the reception. She suddenly took on a serious tone and asked the receptionist with a stern look, "Why didn't you let her in?"

"Manager, it's not that..." The receptionist did not immediately understand what Sheryl was trying to imply. She had been just busy chatting with her boyfriend over the phone when Sheryl interrupted her.

She was afraid that Sheryl would be witness to her slacking off and lousiness during her duty so she thought that the only way she could get rid of the evidence was to dispose of the visitor. Little did she know that the visitor she was rude to would know the manager, Suse Shi.

Sheryl examined Suse Shi, thinking how she had grown to a manager; more experienced and more matured wearing the right dress and the right make up to look like she was in charge.

"Explain it," said Suse Shi, staring down the lazy receptionist.

Suse Shi also heard from the rumors that the receptionist was dating a customer, violating the office policy, so she did not like that she was working for the company, but she never got the chance to fire her;

not until Sheryl arrived and provided that opportunity. It was one thing to violate small policies, and another to disrespect and offend customers.

Nobody could have known that the receptionist would commit the worst mistake today.

Suse Shi sneered and spoke to the receptionist, "Tell me about what just happened."

The receptionist angrily glared at Sheryl, thinking she was a snitch. "This woman tried to break into our company without an appointment or an invitation at least. At first, I politely asked her who she wanted to see and what she wanted to do here, but she simply ignored me and gave me no answer. I had to ask her to leave right away."

Suse Shi, still unconvinced by the narrative of the receptionist, said, "Is that so?"

She once again sneered.

"Yes, of course," answered the receptionist who was already panicking. She was hurrying to keep her job because it would be difficult for her to find another easy job in the city with the same amount of salary paid to her by Isla. The job was perfect for her since she was satisfied that she could work under the aid of her boyfriend. The last thing she wanted to do was to lose this job because of such a woman. She walked to Suse Shi's side for redemption and flattered her boss, trying to overcompensate for what she had done. "Miss Shi, you know I've been working for the company for more than two months now.

You've seen how responsible and hardworking I am. Besides, Isla told me to be strict with the people I let in, so I really am just doing my job to stick to company rules."

She paused, creased into a faint smile and added, "Of course, I had no way of knowing that you knew her. If I had known the friendship between the both of you, I would have been more polite to her."

The receptionist turned to Sheryl complaining, "Hey you, you should have told me earlier. If you did, there wouldn't be a problem right now."

Sheryl sneered at her, "Told you earlier? It was impossible to get you to give me the time to say."

Awkwardness overcame the room. The receptionist turned pale but she pretended to be calm, held her head up and told Suse Shi, "Miss Shi, see? It was a complete misunderstanding. Can we agree not to let Isla know about this, please?"

The receptionist had always been aware that Isla did not like her and would dispatch of her in a heartbeat. That was why she tried to explain the matter to Suse Shi and begged for her understanding.

Suse Shi smiled and said, "Well, if you have offended another person, it would be no big deal, but you've offended Autumn -- I mean, Sheryl, and she is the company boss. How am I supposed to help you?"

"What? What do you mean? How can she be..." The receptionist's eyes grew wider in realization of what she did.

"Sheryl, since you're the boss of the company, please do whatever it is in your will. You can fire her or you can keep her, and once you make the decision, I will immediately inform the personnel manager so they can make your choice effective immediately," Suse Shi told Sheryl.

However, Sheryl was hesitant for a moment -- she was embarrassed even. "Suse, I think... It's been so long that I've left the company, so I would rather leave the decision to Isla. After all, she has been managing the company now for such a long time. I'm sure she knows how to properly deal with the situation; she's more experienced than I am after all."

"What's going to leave to me?" Suddenly, a female voice came from behind. It was at this moment that Isla came in, hearing everything that Sheryl said.

Chapter 849 You Are Messing With The Wrong Person

The receptionist heaved a sigh of relief at the first sight she got of Isla. Immediately she rushed to her as if she was a savior for her in this situation and said, "Isla, I just followed your instructions. You told me that I should not allow anyone apart from the employees inside the office. That's exactly what I did.

But, see how Miss Shi is blaming me. I really don't understand what mistake I've made?"

"Really?" Isla sneered. She was amazed at the girl's stupidity. She had always known what kind of person the receptionist was and hadn't had a way to deal with her. But now, the receptionist was stupid enough to give Isla the excuse to fire her.

"Yes." The receptionist sighed helplessly and said as she turned towards Sheryl, "I know that small people like us mean nothing to you at all, but even we have self-respect. I didn't do anything wrong. Even if you were the king of heaven, you can't do anything to me. I'm sure Isla will give me a fair chance."

"What is going on here?" Isla looked at Sheryl who was standing on the side with a completely exasperated look.

Before she could even speak, Sheryl was interrupted by the receptionist on the side. "Isla, she is a friend of Miss Shi," she said, "she will definitely help her."

"Shut up!" Isla blurted out loudly. Isla stared at the biggest hiring mistake that Sheryl hit up on the very day in the office. She was quite impatient now, and all she could do was to snub her to be quiet at the moment. She said, "I think you are really as blind as a bat."

"I..." the receptionist stammered as she stared at Isla, flabbergasted by her remark.

"Forget it, Isla." Sheryl gestured Isla to let go and said, "The receptionist is the first image of a company. If clients come in and see such a person like her, their first impression will be very bad. Just fire her. There's no need to be angry on her."

"Well, I'll do as you say." Isla laughed and said, "Come on, let's go inside."

"Stop!" the receptionist commanded loud and clear as Isla and Sheryl turned around to enter the office.

Evidently, she was reluctant to take their decision to fire her lying down. She stopped the three and said to Isla, "What do you mean?"

"What do I mean?" Isla was stunned at the audacity of the receptionist and stared at her into her eyes and asked, "Don't you understand what I mean?"

Looking at her disgruntled appearance, Isla sneered at her and said, "Then let me repeat myself. I mean to say that you should pack up and leave now. Oh, by the way, the company will pay off the rest of your salary to you at once."

"For what?" The receptionist stared at her with a stern face and threatened Isla, "Don't you forget

whose girlfriend I am? Before you drive me out like this, just think about it once. Aren't you afraid of how you will explain this decision of yours in front of him in the future?"

The receptionist glanced bitterly at Sheryl and continued, "Besides, who the hell is she? Why is it that she just uttered a word and I am fired? Since when did she take charge of the company?"

"She has always been in charge of the company." Isla sneered and pulled Sheryl forward so that she could be the center of attraction for everyone. There were already many people gathered around them.

Sheryl was unfamiliar with the people around her. Most of them were newcomers, so it was normal that they would not know her. Sheryl could see all the employees whispering among themselves which made her feel like a stranger inside her own office.

Isla held Sheryl's hand and addressed the employees who had gathered there, "I know that a lot of people don't know her, but I am sure that you're all familiar with the name Autumn Zhao." As she spoke, Sheryl smiled at the employees who stood in front of them. But her smile was received with frowns and more hush-hush sounds.

However, the mention of Autumn's name made the receptionist tremble with fear. Isla kept mentioning the name during meetings, so everybody was aware that this person was the real boss of the company.

But in the past three years she had not shown up, hence no one in the office had really expected to see her all of a sudden.

Isla turned towards the receptionist and spoke with a crooked smile, "Even you are familiar with the name, if I am not wrong. Isn't it?"

"So what if I know? For you information, just like I am familiar with Autumn's name, I am also aware that she died three years ago. So, do not try to scare me," said the receptionist, disgruntled and defiant.

The receptionist looked annoyed as she stared at Isla with a stiff frown and continued, "I think you just want to kick me out. That's why you are just cooking up some stories. How ridiculous is that! You just wait and watch! I am not going to take this lying down."

She sneered at Isla in a defiant manner and threatened, "I will tell everything to Mr. Bian and make sure that I get justice."

"Mr. Bian? Mr. Bian from Summer Tree Studio?" Sheryl recalled instantly. She remembered him as one of the eminent customers of their company. So she wanted to take a chance to see if it was him.

"Yes. That's him," Isla confirmed.

"How do you know him?" the receptionist turned towards Sheryl and snapped. It was evident from her startled expression and voice that she got panicked for a moment.

"Hmmm, I guessed it right. It's him," Sheryl spoke with her eyes narrowed as she recalled the past. She said, "Though I haven't seen Mr. Bian in the last three years, I am amazed to see that he still likes to keep a mistress in his love nest just like before. However, the quality of the mistress is getting worse."

Sheryl casted a disapproving stare at the receptionist. Sheryl sneered and added, "And, I died three years ago? Right? So, how could I not know that? "

"You... Who on earth are you?" The receptionist looked anxiously at Sheryl and it was clear on her face that she was frightened.

"You have already guessed who I am. Haven't you?" Sheryl narrowed her eyes and stared at the receptionist. Then she spoke lightly, "Girl, pretty face is not your only weapon. If you think that you can survive in the Cloud Advertising Company only with this face, then you are wrong. If I were you, I would take things and leave right away, instead of stubbornly standing here and getting humiliated."

"For what?" The receptionist was just too strong willed to leave her post so easily. She sneered and

continued as she turned towards Sheryl, "And even if you are Autumn, you still don't have the authority to fire me. Because you must not forget that Mr. Bian is my real boss. He has so much of contribution towards the Cloud Advertising Company every year that if he knew that I was fired by you, he would not let it go. Hence, I advise you to be polite to me. Besides, you disappeared for some good three years. Hence it is difficult of you to catch up the current situation of the company. Trust me. You won't be able to handle it anymore."

"Really?" Sheryl sneered at her. Then she just steered clear of the negative vibes of the receptionist and started to feel the aura of her own office -- the Cloud Advertising Company. She felt alive as she recalled the time when she and Isla had worked together to build this company. A smile of accomplishment came to her face.

It was such a familiar surrounding. The atmosphere of flattery, creativity and sophistication.

These feelings surged up and the time lapse started to feel no big deal any more. She felt as if she had never left this place. As if she had returned to become the woman named Autumn who had done things decisively.

"Girl, given the character of Mr. Bian, I could not be more clear."

Sheryl sneered, "Yes, he can protect you for a while, but don't forget that Mr. Bian has a dragon wife.

Do you think she would easily spare you if she knew you were here?"

Sheryl smiled and continued, "Forget your Mr. Bian, even the king of the heaven can not protect you now."

The receptionist's face became as white as a sheet. It was finally dawning on to her that she was messing with the wrong person.

The reason why Mr. Bian had arranged her here was that he was afraid of being discovered by his family. So even though she did not like it, she was deputed here.

Chapter 850 Alright I Will Leave

The easy money from Mr. Bian was good news to the receptionist. She subtly rejoiced, knowing that the money was more than enough to squander, and there was no need for her to work as hard as her other colleagues to make a living.

The change was rather difficult to get used to, but as time went by, she began to get used to the comfort and even began enjoying the life she had at the company.

This easy and comfortable life she had just gotten accustomed to after all this time, however, was

interrupted by a certain woman.

"What on earth do you want?" the receptionist questioned Sheryl furiously as if she could make her melt with a mere fiery glare. There weren't any other ways to dodge the trouble Sheryl brought, so she figured she should deal with it right there and then.

"I could ask you the same thing. What do you want?" Sheryl threw the question back at her. "If you leave this place now and promise to stay away, I'll let you off and pretend you were never here in the first place. I don't know, and I don't want to know what's going on between you and Mr. Bian, but if you don't take this good chance I'm giving you right now, I'll have no choice but to bring this up to Mrs. Bian. I can assure you, the next person who you'll have to answer to won't be as nice as me. By then... do you really think that Mr. Bian will spare any effort to protect you, a liability? You don't think he'll kick you away as soon as he can?"

When the receptionist heard Sheryl's threatening words, her face darkened with concern.

She was well aware that Mr. Bian would not have ended up as who he was at present without the loyal support and help from Mrs. Bian's family.

The receptionist wasn't completely foolish. If he was ever even suspected to be disloyal to his wife because of her, she knew she'd be canned on the spot without warning. After all, what was she to him, compared to his money, status, and fame? It was incomparable, in reality. Once their relationship was put under a spotlight, she would be the one to suffer.

Mr. Bian had let the relationship last as long as it did because she was more clever than most when it came to knowing her boundaries. She knew what she should and shouldn't do, how she should behave, and what lines she shouldn't cross.

When Mr. Bian needed her close, she was attached to him as the perfect little kitten. When he needed his space, she was well capable of making herself scarce and keeping a safe distance from him.

It was almost a talent in his eyes, and this quality of hers was what won her his affections.

At that moment, however, it seemed that she had no chance of escaping from Mrs. Bian's suspicions if she ignored Sheryl's advice. If Mr. Bian found out that she revealed her existence to Mrs. Bian, any little affection he had for her would be wiped away in an instant, and he would show no mercy, no matter how many years they had shared together. If she was thrown away, how would she find another

sugar daddy as good as Mr. Bian, who was as generous as they came?

Weighing the possible outcomes of the options she had before her, she knew she had to give in. With a reluctant nod, she agreed to Sheryl's offer, "Alright, I will leave right away."

Sheryl smiled in satisfaction. "Smart move.

You should go now." After the whole episode, Sheryl was led by Isla into the room by her hand. She handed the freshly bought desserts to Suse. "Can you do me a favor and share these to everyone, please?"

"Sure, no problem." Suse simply nodded. After all the cakes were distributed, Suse couldn't push away her curiosity. She had to ask what had happened to Sheryl. After practically bursting into Isla's office, she immediately asked, "Autumn, what happened to you? You were gone for three years. Why?"

"Suse, I'm back now. Oh, by the way, call me Sheryl instead of Autumn, alright?" she replied with a warm grin. "Suse, I didn't expect that you would be still in the company."

"Oh please don't," Suse interrupted, her eyes turning glassy with tears threatening to fall. "When you left, I cried for what seemed like forever. I prayed for you every day. I hoped to see you safe and back with us again. I was so worried, I could barely do my work properly. Luckily, Isla was there. She helped

me get on with things. And now after all that time... you're here! You just appeared again. I'm really glad you're back, Sheryl. What happened to you? Everyone was saying you were dead."

Sheryl tried to smile, albeit bitterly. "It's a really long story..." She then gave Suse a short rundown of all that happened to her, and it wasn't enough to explain everything. Even with the summary of the past three years, though, Suse was stunned by all the miseries Sheryl had suffered, and she couldn't help but let the tears fall.

"Oh no... why are you crying?" Sheryl asked, feeling somewhat helpless.

"I just feel sorry for all that has happened to you. I can't even believe... It must have been terribly difficult," she said in between sobs.

"It's all in the past, Suse. Let's keep it there, yeah?" she consoled her friend. "Look at me. I'm perfectly fine now. You don't have to worry so much about me."

Then, they heard a sigh from someone. "In the end, she's still really all yours," Isla complained in her jealousy. "She's been working under me for three whole years, and she didn't cry even once. This is the first time I'm seeing her shed any tears, and they're all for you, Sheryl."

"Isla..." Sensing Isla's discontent in her words, Suse felt embarrassment creeping up her cheeks.

Afraid that she had offended Isla, Suse hurried to explain herself, "Please don't get me wrong. I really, truly appreciate everything you've done for me when things were tough. It's just that... I mean Sheryl..."

She trailed off when Sheryl began to laugh. Suse's reaction was hilarious, she thought. "Suse, you've always been a clever girl. You've been in this industry for quite some time. Can't you tell when a superior is just kidding?"

Darting a short glance at Isla, she saw that she was also holding in a laugh. Suse sighed in relief.

"She is a clever girl indeed, especially when she crafts plans and negotiates on tables. I have to admit, sometimes even I have to learn from her. Outside of work, though, she's still got a long way to go," Isla praised Suse with a smile on her face. "I was so lucky to have her working with me while you were away. She gave me a great deal of support. Without her, I wouldn't have survived the heavy workload."

"Isla, I'm flattered. You don't have to say that," Suse said, feeling much more relaxed, enough to even crack a joke. "You've given me such a high rank and salary. I have to do the work its worth, right? If I don't contribute enough, it's better for me to just pack my stuff and leave. Otherwise, it's a shame for both of us."

"Ok, now I know you're kidding." Isla smiled and kindly sent her back to work. "Suse, you can return to your desk and get back to work now. I need to settle something with Sheryl."

"Alright then." She nodded in agreement. "Sheryl, I'll be off now. I'll see you again soon, okay?"

"Of course," Sheryl smiled and bid her goodbye. When she was out of reach, she said to Isla, "I didn't expect her to become someone who can handle things so well. Three years ago she seemed so naive.

You've really made an impression on her."

"Well, this isn't the only thing that'll surprise you." Isla smiled coyly. "A number of people came in and left. Many of the old faces were replaced. Most of those who have chosen to stay are either sticking to their own work and doing an average job, just muddling along, or trying to take advantage of the company however they can. But Suse is different. I can see she really wants to work hard. She's got that desire to genuinely devote herself to the company so it can change for the better. That's why I want her to have all the opportunities to experience and grow."

Isla kept smiling as she continued complimenting her dear mentee. "Suse is now someone who can accomplish complex tasks on her own. I've heard a lot of positive comments from our customers. She

has truly done an amazing job."

"Thanks to your coaching." Sheryl showed her sincere appreciation. "She wouldn't have been who she is today without all your help." Sheryl knew it was a monumental task to teach a girl from knowing almost nothing to pretty much everything with regards to work.

"Isla," she suddenly called her name.

Isla raised her face gently, with the sunlight shining on her face. It was such a familiar sight that seemed far away, but in reality, it was only from three years before the very moment. There didn't seem to be any big changes over time. It gave Sheryl the urge to recollect all the memories she had from that time. Life seemed so pure and sweet back then.

"Why, Sheryl?" Isla was a bit puzzled. Sheryl looked like she was in a kind of daze, and she couldn't tell what was going on in her head.

"Thank you, Isla. Really." Sheryl genuinely appreciated Isla for saving Cloud Advertising Company from its declining situation. Its healthy development it was enjoying at present wouldn't have been possible without Isla's help. Her decisiveness made her a good shot for making the tough choices that were life and death for the company.

And no one but Sheryl knew better of Isla's financial capabilities. In fact, the salary that the company could offer her was nowhere near enough for all that she did. She could've stayed at home and devoted herself to being a housewife, taking care of her husband and child, as she was inherently blessed with such an opportunity to enjoy a light-hearted life.

If not for Sheryl, who wished to have the company prosper, why else would she join? Taking up such a job was not a fun activity after all. It was exhausting.

"Hey, what are you saying?" Isla was flattered. She could feel the blush creeping up her cheeks as she realized how highly Sheryl thought of her, and how much she recognized and admired her work.

Feeling flushed made her divert the topic of conversation to something else. "Do you think that I'm here just for you? Come on, did you forget about the promise you made to me regarding the share of the company? I'm one of the holders, so I have the responsibility to do so. Don't forget to pay me what I'm owed."

"Of course, I will keep my promise. You'll receive a great percentage of financial benefit in return," promised Sheryl. She knew that Isla had reminded her simply to shift her attention, and assure her that

she shouldn't feel guilty in any sense. Their strong friendship put her at awe. How could she ever truly repay her? It would take a long time to really find out.

"Oh! I have something to show you. Come with me." Isla suddenly remembered and stood up, ready to lead Sheryl somewhere else. What kind of surprise would it be?