

## Wedded Bride 871

Chapter 871 Amy Is Angry

Allen sat close to Doris and held her hand while trying to calm her down by saying, "Doris, please don't be upset. You saw what just happened. We are in some trouble now. But as soon as we solve all these problems, mom will give you all the money she has promised. Isn't that right, mom?"

Doris shook his hand off impatiently and turned to Peggy. "Aunt Peggy, it's not that I want the money now. But those horrible people really scared me. I am going to give birth to a baby. How can I do it without any money? I hope you can understand."

"Doris, please..." Allen tried to stop her. But Doris snapped back at him, "Shut up, Allen! Stay out of this."

Allen stared at Doris in shock. She was stern and cold towards him. He had never seen this side of her before. Doris then turned back to Peggy, who was also staring at her, but with anger in her eyes.

"You seriously want to discuss this, right now?" asked Peggy frowning. 'Those people just left and this woman wants to add fuel to the fire, ' she thought.

"Yes, let's talk about it," said Doris smiling. "How about this? You give me the bank card and I withdraw the money by myself, which could save you some trouble. What do you think?"

Peggy rejected her with a sneer, "No! I said I'll give you the money, and I will keep my word! You're really making me sick, for asking for it now!"

Peggy gave Doris a loathsome look, then stood up and said to Allen, "I'm going out. You stay here and be careful."

Peggy left without saying another word to Doris. She was going to find Sheryl and make her pay for this.

Peggy barged into the hospital, full of rage. But when she went to the ward, she found that Sue had already been discharged. Now, even more furious, she headed directly to the Zhao family house.

After returning home with Sue. Sheryl surprised Amy with the news, that Sue was carrying a baby.

Amy was so excited and soothed her in a caring tone, "Sue, honey. Just relax and rest. Don't worry about the baby. I am going to take good care of you and make you a wonderful mommy."

"Oh, thank you very much, Grandma Amy," she said touched by Amy's kindness.

Sheryl glanced at them with a smile. "Sue, you must be tired. Why don't you go upstairs for a nap? I'll help grandma with the lunch."

"Well, I can help too," Sue said smiling back. Even though she was pregnant, she felt guilty to just lie around and do nothing. She could always help with something small, like washing the vegetables and things like that.

However, Amy stopped her instantly, "Oh, no. You go and lie down. The baby is still weak. I will get Sheryl to bring your lunch to you upstairs. Honey, just go get some sleep."

Hearing her sweet words, Sue felt a wave of warmth overcoming her.

But at the same time, she had a sense of sorrow. It was the very first time, that she felt cared about by someone and they weren't even her family. Her own mother and brother treated her so badly and only brought her grief. How ironic!

Sue couldn't help but feel a little envious of Sheryl. 'How nice it would be if I too had such a loving family?' she thought.

"Sheryl, Sue. Come out!" Suddenly the sound of a woman's angry voice interrupted her thoughts. She paused for a moment and then realized it was her mother yelling outside the front door.

She frowned and raised herself to get up from the sofa to open the door. But Sheryl clutched onto her arm to stop her. "What are you doing?"

"I am going to see what she wants," she answered full of guilt. "Sheryl, my living here has already inconvenienced you. I don't want her to cause any trouble for you."

"No, Sue. Don't go." Sheryl wouldn't release her grip on her arm. "You're pregnant and so weak now. What if she does something to harm you? You can't risk the safety of your baby. Just go upstairs and let me handle this."

"No, Sheryl," Sue said protesting, "I can't let you go through this..."

"Sue, it's okay. Let Sheryl go. She can handle this," Amy said interrupting her. "I've heard about your mother. She wouldn't care if she hurt you. Don't worry, we'll take care of this. You just go get some rest."

"But..." Sue was still struggling and wanted to say something, but Sheryl stopped her, "Sue, relax. I know what she has come for. Trust me. I can handle this."

They were both so insistent to not let her face her mother. Sue had no choice but to listen and with a feeling of dread she went upstairs. Sheryl waited until Sue disappeared out of sight and then asked the maid, who was patiently waiting by the door to let her in.

As soon as Peggy heard the door unlock, she barged in with such a force that she knocked the poor maid to the side. Peggy rudely stormed into the house and scanned the room trying to find Sue. But, when she saw that Sue wasn't there she became even angrier and yelled out, "Where is Sue? I want to see her!"

"What is this lunatic doing here?" Amy asked raising her voice while giving Peggy a cold stare. Sheryl was even startled by Amy's outburst. Amy was usually an easy-going and amiable type of lady. But when it came to protecting the ones that she cared about, she would show her tough side and she wanted to protect Sue.

"Grandma, she is Sue's mother," said Sheryl in a quiet calm tone, which was in sharp contrast to Peggy's wrath.

Sheryl looked at Peggy and asked, "Aunt Peggy, what brings you here? Why are you so angry? What has happened to you?"

"What happened to me? You know what happened to me," Peggy said accusing her. "If you didn't want to loan me the money, why didn't you just say, no! Why would you go to an usurer and give him the IOU note? What did you mean by doing that?"

Just as Sheryl had suspected, Peggy was here for the usury thing.

But she came sooner than Sheryl had expected.

Sheryl smiled with calmness, "Aunt Peggy, what you've done to Sue is unacceptable. She is my friend.

I won't let anyone hurt her. Now that you're here, let's make things clear. Firstly, you hogged Sue's

apartment and kicked her out. That was unforgivable. What kind of mother would do that to her own

daughter? But, now that Sue is living here, well, I'm going to let that one pass.

Then you were going to burden her with all the expenses from Allen's wedding. That was crazy. Not to

mention, she didn't have that much money in the first place. It's not her responsibility to pay for his

wedding. That will never happen."

Sheryl smiled coolly and continued, "Then, you came to me for all this money. But I either didn't have

that much to give you. So I went to find some usury. I was just trying to help you. Plus, you're the one

that signed the IOU, which I didn't force you to. So it's your responsibility to pay the money back, not

mine." She paused briefly for a moment and then continued, "Aunt Peggy, are we clear now?"

"Rubbish!" Peggy couldn't think of anything to say back in her defense and she didn't want to waste her

time arguing. So she just insisted on seeing Sue instead. "Where is Sue? Get her out here at once! I

can't believe what kind of evil she has befriended."

"She doesn't feel well. She is sleeping," said Sheryl still remaining composed. "I'm afraid she won't be able to see you."

"Are you not permitting me to see her?" Peggy snorted with anger, "She is my daughter. I can see her whenever I want to. You have no right to stand in the way. Just let her out."

"She is really weak now. I'm not lying."

"You're lying. She is just trying to avoid me," said Peggy furiously.

"Don't you remember, you dearest son just hit her? Thanks to him, she almost had a miscarriage. She needs to rest now. Do you understand?" Amy said in a low threatening tone, while she glared resentfully at Peggy.

#### Chapter 872 Force Her Way

As a granddaughter, Sheryl had rarely seen Amy getting furious at someone. However this was not the first time she witnessed her grandma getting enraged to such an extent. The last time she saw this face of Amy was the time when something happened between her and Charles. Amy had always been

gentle and good-tempered, and would not be triggered unless someone had really done something severely offensive. Apparently, Peggy had irked her beyond her point of tolerance.

For a moment, a slight sense of embarrassment flashed on Peggy's face. However, she very promptly shrugged it off and asked confidently, "This is our family matter. How does it matter to you?"

Amy jeered and retorted, "The place where you are standing right now is my house. You have come to my house and yelled to my granddaughter. And now you are childish enough to say that it has nothing to do with me!" Amy looked at Peggy from head to toe. She needed no more clue to understand where she was coming from. She cast a disgusted look at her and warned her harshly, "Let me tell you something. You better move your ass off now, or else I will show you no mercy."

"You old jerk..." Hearing her threat Peggy became all the more defiant and uncourteous. She showed no respect for the old lady. As she was about to hurl some more curses at her, Sue's voice cut through their conversation as she walked down the stairs. "Clean your dirty mouth before you talk!"

Peggy stared at Sue and spoke in a sarcastic manner, "Well, I thought you were going stay inside forever." Peggy continued hurling her daunting remarks on Sue, "I can see how easy and convenient it is for you to just hide behind this old woman, isn't it? Why did you even bother to come down?"



"Didn't I ask you to rest in your room? Why did you come out?" Sheryl questioned Sue as she looked at

Sue with creased eyebrows.

Amy, too, frowned at Sue, thinking that now it would be even more difficult to make Peggy leave.

"How can I really take rest?" Sue gave a crooked smile and continued, "Moreover, this is something

between me and her. How can I... just hide behind the two of you and escape from it?"

"That's no big deal for us. You need not to come in between. Just go upstairs," Sheryl replied gesturing

Sue to go back to her room. However, Sue seemed to have made up her mind to confront her mother.

Despite Sheryl's repeated requests for her going back to the room, Sue stayed there, unwilling to move

even for a step. Feeling Sue's resolution, Amy then persuaded Sheryl to cease asking Sue, "Alright.

Since she chose to come down, then let's respect her decision. Don't worry. We will stay here and keep

an eye on her."

After she settled the conversation with Sheryl, Sue turned to Peggy and asked in a cold tone, "Let me

hear what you want to say. Why are you here today?"

Peggy sneered back, "You and this good friend of yours planned together to set a trap for me. Now,

you are asking what am I here for? Don't you think it's just too funny?"

"Set a trap for you?" Sue raised her brows and pouted her lips to express her astonishment at Peggy's

remark. Sue's face broke into a sarcastic laugh as she continued, "You are such a clever woman,

Peggy. How can I make you fall into the trap?"

"You..." Peggy was rendered speechless. It was true that it was none other than Peggy who was

responsible for the situation at hand. She had it coming.

Peggy shouldn't have trusted Sheryl in the first place. She should have been more cautious. After all,

Sheryl was a close friend of Sue. It was obvious that Sheryl would stand by Sue instead of her. It was

indeed stupid of her to believe in Sheryl's words! She regretted getting swayed away by Sheryl's

innocent face.

Besides, she should not have underestimated Sue. But technically speaking, it was hard not to fall into

the trap. She had been controlling Sue all her life. How could she imagine that her prey would turn

around and attack her one day?

"What?" Sue raised her eyebrows and questioned Peggy. "It seems you have nothing to defend

yourself now?" With a disdainful look, Sue continued, "Peggy Li, I know why you have come here

today. Now let me tell you, don't ever imagine that I will pay for you. Do whatever you like."

"I think you haven't learned your lesson last time." Peggy was getting increasingly impatient. Bursting in anger, she began to threaten Sue, "You think I can't do anything to you if you keep hiding here? Okay, give it a try. You will see the consequence. I will beat you to death! Right here, right now! Let me see who stops me!"

Peggy rolled up her sleeves as she spoke and got ready for a fight. Immediately, Sheryl stepped forward.

She spread her arms taking both Sue and Amy at her back. She had to protect both of them -- one, her old granny and the other, an expecting mommy.

"Aunt Peggy." Sheryl glared right into Peggy's eyes with an unwavering look. Slowly, Peggy's hand that she had raised to hit Sue came down. Peggy kept looking at Sheryl feeling helpless. She had no reason to raise her hands on Sheryl. And with Sheryl as a protective wall between her and Sue, she could not even reach out to Sue.

Now she realized Sheryl was not as innocent as she seemed to be. She should not have taken Sheryl's

politeness as her foolishness. Sue could not have defied her like this without Sheryl's support. Rather, Sheryl could be the mastermind behind the whole plot. Sue was her daughter and Peggy knew it very well that she did not have such courage or power to get back at her.

"I just want you to know, that Sue is your daughter and not your moneybag. She is not your property. You have no right to force her to give you anything or to beat her whenever you want," Sheryl stated with a cold and stern face.

Peggy creased her brows and expressed her displeasure at this uninvited intervention from Sheryl. She retorted, "Sheryl, this is between Sue and me. It is our family matter that we can resolve on our own. It's none of your business. I know you are her friend and you want to help her. But remember, I am her mother. And it is my right as a mother to scold her or beat her if I need to. I pampered her a lot when she was a child. Now I understand that I need to discipline her and also use my fist whenever and wherever I need to. There is no one greater than a mother who can decide what is good and what is not for her child. Don't you agree?"

"It seems you will not change your mind no matter what?" Realizing that Peggy was not going to give up, Sheryl sighed and continued, "Aunt Peggy, why don't you just tell us what you want?"

Suddenly there was a tinge of smile on the Peggy's face which had a worried expression all this while.

Upon hearing Sheryl's words, Peggy gazed at her with contempt and replied, "I know you have some power in Y City. You have been very crafty in plotting to force me out of Y City. But I am sorry to disappoint you. That is not to be."

Stealing a glance at Sue, she continued, "Sue, I know that you have always wanted to cut off all ties you have with us. Alright, I will give you the chance now."

Upon hearing this, Sue frowned and stared at her with disbelief. She knew her mother very well. There must be some catch in what she was saying.

"I will set you free. Yes. But you have to agree to my conditions. And I promise, in return I will steer clear from your life and never show my face to you ever again. I will forget that I even have a daughter."

"That's impossible," Sue retorted strongly. "Forget about 500, 000 first. I don't even have 50, 000 in my pocket. Plus, I believe you are aware, that now I have a baby to take care of. That also costs money. If you... If you really insist, then I guess there is no way for us to sort this out on our own. See you in the court then. Let the judge give his verdict on this."

Peggy was completely taken aback by Sue's reaction. The Sue she knew was an obedient girl. Though Sue argued and used harsh words sometimes, but it was never difficult for Peggy to make her give in to her commands.

She kept illtreating her submissive daughter all her life and the poor girl always struggled to make her happy. She believed that Sue would give in to her threat just like before. But she never expected such a strong counter attack from Sue.

"Have you gone mad? Did Sheryl teach you this? You want the judge to solve such a trivial family matter. Don't you have shame? Well if you don't have it, I do. It will be a reason for me to give up my life before watching my own daughter contesting me in the court." Peggy's anger was again triggered. Her face went red as she spoke.

"Now you know it is shameful?" Sue sneered at the word "shame", which was no where to be seen in Peggy's past deeds. "I don't want to do this, either, but I'm left with no choice. It is indeed shameful, as you said, to bring our family matter on court. However, if I allow you to abuse me, I will suffer even more. So, Mom, it is not my choice, but yours."

"You..." Failing to force Sue to give in, she changed her strategy. Now she tried to treat her emotionally

and persuade Sue in a soft way.

Forcing some tears out, Peggy pretended that she was also a victim. "Sue, I have no choice also. Are you... Are you really so cold-hearted to see me suffer?"

Putting up a face that seemed extremely painful, she continued her performance. "I know. I know you are angry at me because I was unfair to you. Yes, it is true that I have only bothered you and loved Allen more than you. But there was a reason behind that. You should sympathize with me.

Last time you just ran away and left Allen to get beaten up. Since then his leg never recovered completely. Even now he can't walk properly. All the companies he applied for just threw him out because of him being a semi-disabled candidate. Till now, he has not been able to find a decent job. I don't know for how long I will be able to take care of him. What will happen to him after I am gone?"

She paused to sigh, and then continued, "He doesn't have a job, so he can't earn money. But I know that you can. So I can only..."

"Just stop your nonsense," Sue jeered at her explanation. "Just admit you only love him and not me!"

"Yes, I admit I love him a little bit more than you," Peggy replied. "But you should also know that it is not

my fault. Before Allen was born, I had three daughters. And what did the daughters bring me? Nothing!

They brought me nothing apart from disrespect, insult and cold attitude from my parents-in-law. Finally

it was only when I had a boy that my status in the family improved. I owed so much to Allen. I... I had

no choice but to love Allen more.

Now luckily Allen found a woman who is willing to marry him, and moreover she is with his baby. You

should know how hard it is for Allen to find a wife, especially with his disabled leg and our humble

family background. Of course I have to do everything I can to make Doris stay. Sue, I know that this

would make it hard for you. I also don't want to trouble you with the money. But... I am just an old

useless woman. Where else can I get the money from if you just turn your back on me like

this?"

Chapter 873 Both Hard And Soft Ways Are Needed

Peggy looked at Sue with pleading eyes and begged, "Child, I know you have suffered a lot. But you

should also think about me, your mother. Please help me. I promise this will be the last time. When this

matter is settled, I won't cause any more trouble for you."

Sue began hesitating as she heard Peggy's words. She didn't know whether to believe her mother or

not.



Luckily, Sheryl was much calmer than Sue. She glimpsed at Peggy and said indifferently, "Aunt, we all know you are facing difficulties, but have you ever thought about your daughter's difficulties?"

Peggy arched a brow when she heard Sheryl's words.

She glanced at Peggy and added, "Fine, I'll call the usury lenders and ask them not to charge the interest. You should return the five hundred thousand. Only this way, can the matter be settled."

She paused for a moment to think and then added, "We can only offer appropriate money for Allen's wedding, but not as much as you asked for. After all, marriage is supposed to be based on love, not money. And it is not Sue's responsibility to pay for Allen's wedding."

"You..." Peggy stammered out of anger. Peggy was annoyed with Sheryl because a moment ago Sue was beginning to sympathize with her and now she was siding with Sheryl.

Peggy frowned ignoring Sheryl and said, "Sue, it's so hard for your brother to find a girl willing to marry him. I can't destroy their wedding plans because of money, otherwise, he will resent me for the rest of my life."

"Mom, you don't have to pretend to be so sad," Sue said with a sigh. If Sheryl hadn't been there to stick

up for her, she would have been deceived by Peggy once again.

Sue looked at Peggy and added, "She is right. Marriage is not based on money. I really appreciate that

Doris is willing to marry Allen and I will do my best to help her in the future if that's what she wants. But,

she shouldn't be asking for so much money as a wedding gift. I can't help but doubt her real intentions.

Besides, all the money that I have earned these years has been sent to you. So how can I give you that

much money now?

There are only two choices for you. You can take the money from the usury lenders to finish the

wedding but they will go to you every day and I must remind you that they are all brutal guys." Sue

paused for a moment and added, "Or, you can return the money back as Sher suggested. As for Allen's

wedding, I'll deal with it. Maybe they should have it in our village because it will cost much less than in

the city."

"No!" Peggy rejected decisively. She looked at Sue extremely annoyed and asked, "Do you mean to tell

me that you won't help in this matter?"

"I want to but I don't have the means to help you," Sue said indifferently.

"Don't try to deceive me. You may not have money, but Anthony has!" Peggy sneered and threatened,

"Anthony is the father of your unborn child so he is obligated to offer some money. If you feel reluctant to ask him for money, I will do it for you. Either way, I won't allow my son's wedding to be held in some village. We won't have it anywhere but here!"

Sue gave a bitter smile. "So it seems that we can't make a compromise, right?"

Peggy glared at Sheryl with ferocious eyes. She hated Sheryl for preventing Sue from agreeing with her requirements.

All of her plans had been destroyed by Sheryl.

She looked at Sue with cold eyes and said, "Sue, will you agree with my request? This is the last time that I am going to ask you."

"I won't agree," Sue rejected without any hesitation.

A cold smile appeared on Peggy's face. "Then don't blame me for what I will do next."

With that she turned and left in a huff. Sue watched as her mother left and felt uneasy by her threatening words.

"What's wrong with you? Why are you still so nervous after she left?" Sheryl asked Sue with great

concern.

"Sher, I feel she won't let go of me that easily." Sue knew Peggy's nature very well. She understood

Peggy wouldn't give up so easily. Sue couldn't help wondering why Peggy had just left without

hesitation.

She instinctively felt something wrong.

"You're overthinking it," Sheryl said reassuringly. "Go upstairs and have a rest now."

"No, Sheryl. I must go out now." Sue guessed that Peggy must be thinking of asking Anthony for

money. So she must stop Anthony before he gave Peggy any money.

She stood up, about to leave when Sheryl held her back. "Are you going to see Anthony now?"

"Yes," Sue admitted frankly. She looked at Sheryl and explained, "Sher, Peggy will ask for money from

Anthony soon, I can't let him..."

"It's okay, I understand," Sheryl interrupted. Sheryl smiled bitterly and said, "I'll give you a ride."

She understood that Sue didn't want to get involved with Anthony, now that they had broken up.

Sue called Anthony and was informed that he was at his company. Sheryl drove Sue there and stopped

in the parking lot. "I will wait for you here. If you meet any trouble in his office, just call me and I'll be

right there."

"Okay, thank you." Sue nodded. She understood that Sheryl didn't want to see Anthony so she didn't urge her to go with her.

It was the first time she had been to Anthony's company.

"Sorry, Madam. May I help you?" the receptionist asked in a polite manner.

"I need to see Anthony," said Sue. The receptionist was a little taken aback when she heard Sue address the boss by his first name.

"Have you made an appointment?" she asked politely.

Sue considered for a moment and realized that she had just called Anthony, which couldn't be counted as an appointment. So she shook her head and said, "I didn't make an appointment, but..."

However she was interrupted by the receptionist before she finished her words. "Sorry, Madam. You are not allowed to enter Mr. Xiao's office if you don't have an appointment with him. You should leave now."

Sue gave a bitter smile. She didn't expect to meet so many difficulties in seeing Anthony.

She exited the building and dialed Anthony's number, telling him that she was at the gate of his company and needed to speak with him. A moment later, the same receptionist came timidly to Sue.

"Excuse me, are you Miss Wang?"

"Yes, I am." Sue nodded her head slightly.

The receptionist's face turned pale out of shock and nerve. She then apologized, "I'm sorry I didn't know you were Mr. Xiao's friend. Please follow me. I'll take you to his office now."

"That's all right, thank you," Sue answered calmly. She didn't blame the receptionist because she understood she was just doing her job.

Chapter 874 Meeting With Laura

As she sent Sue to Anthony's office door, the receptionist politely left Sue to her own business. "Miss Wang, Mr. Xiao is inside. I'll excuse myself now."

"Okay, thank you," Sue offered politely in return. After a deep breath, she knocked on the office door.

"Come in," a passive voice called her inside. When she swung the door open, Anthony was inside, sitting at his desk as he busied himself with work.

"Sue? Why did you come to see me?" When he answered her call earlier, it was quite a surprise. He hadn't expected to hear from her.

He stood up and invited Sue to take a seat in front of him. Being the gracious host, he turned to her and asked what she would like to drink.

"No thanks, I'm good." She lightly shook her head. "I came here to talk to you, not to drink," she explained.

Upon hearing Sue's words, Anthony couldn't help but smile bitterly. He simply prepared her a cup of tea anyway, mostly to keep himself busy. "Well, go ahead. Why were you looking for me?"

"Did my mom... Did she come to see you?" Sue asked the question slowly in careful hesitation.

"No, she didn't." Anthony paused for a moment and looked at her carefully. "What's going on? Just be frank. Don't beat around the bush with me."

With a sharp sigh, Sue agreed. "In that case, I'll just say it. My mom," she started, finally straightly, "she's likely to come to you to ask for money. I just came to tell you that whatever she says, don't believe her. Ignore her if she asks for money. Do you understand?"

"Ask me for money?" Anthony just froze and looked at her, clueless. "What the hell is going on? Why would she come to ask me for money?"

"Just leave it alone," she said. She couldn't even be bothered to explain something that disgusted her.

"Anyway, remember what I said. Don't give her any promises or give her what she asks for. Is that clear?"

Anthony looked at her incredulously. "You have to at least tell me what happened," he asked. "Did they make it hard for you?"

"This is my business," she simply said, albeit faintly. "All you need to do is listen to me. Besides, if you do give her money, I'll hate you for the rest of my life."

Anthony paused and swallowed upon hearing her words. She seemed dead serious today. It left him no choice but to agree. "Okay, I promise you."

Sue's shoulders slumped in relief as if she was keeping them up and tense all day. Hearing his promise from his own mouth, she could finally relax a little. She stood up and said before turning to leave, "Then I'll be going now. Remember what I said."

"Sue," Anthony hurriedly called out to stop her. "Since you're here, how about we eat together? It's about time to eat."



"No thank you," she promptly refused, without even turning her head or giving it a thought. "It's better if

we keep our distance. My mom... If she makes any trouble for you, I apologize to you here. You just

have to keep insisting that you have nothing to do with me. Eventually, she'll get tired and give up."

Anthony sneered at the idea. "Sue, do I really need to do that?"

Ignoring his question, Sue merely walked out of the office without looking back. When she opened the

door, it was a surprise to see Laura on the other side.

The woman smiled immediately and with a friendly voice said, "Sue, it's been a long time since we last

met."

"Yes, Aunt," she greeted back, lacking in the familiarity she used to hold in her demeanor around her.

She was in a hurry to leave, so instead, she said, "Aunt, I'm in the middle of something else. I'm sorry,

I've got to go."

"Come on now, stay here for a while," Laura urged to stop Sue. "I was just talking to Anthony about you

a few days ago. I was thinking about having dinner with your family since they came, but Anthony said

you were busy. I didn't expect to see you here today."

She leaned in to grab a hold of Sue's hands. "When do you think you and your family will be available so we can settle things between you and Anthony? What do you think?"

"Me and Anthony?" The question puzzled her, leaving her doubtful. "What thing?"

"Mom, what are you doing here?" Anthony's voice cut through their interaction and Sue's question.

Laura simply smiled, "I was shopping nearby, so I dropped by to see you. I didn't know Sue was here. I was just talking about inviting her family for a meal."

Anthony frowned at his mother's forwardness. "Mom, we'll talk about it later. Sue is busy right now, so please don't bother her."

"Such a child," Laura suddenly snapped. "What could be more important than marriage? Sue, call your family, quickly. Let's set up a meeting now."

"Aunt, I don't really know what you're talking about," she said carefully as she passed glances between both of them. "Don't you know... that I have already broken up with Anthony?"

Laura went silent for a moment. "Broke up?" she started slowly. She turned to her son and asked, "Is that true?"

No longer able to hide it, Anthony simply sighed and nodded in defeat. "Mom, I've been trying to find a

chance to tell you. But..."

"You..." Laura's dangerous tone cut him off. "Are you still fancying that bitch?" Sue frowned as soon as she heard the woman's words. She looked at Laura and said as politely as she could, "Aunt, please pay attention to your words. Don't get Sheryl involved in this anymore. She's not the kind of person you thought she was."

"Yes, Sue's right." Anthony added, "There's absolutely nothing between Sher and me anymore. Please just leave that whole thing alone."

"Sher, Sher," Laura said mockingly. "What an affectionate nickname. Tell me, how can I believe that there is nothing going on between you two?" Laura grabbed Sue's hand and pulled her close. "Sue, just tell me frankly. Did the brat treat you badly? I'll teach him a lesson if I need to."

"No, Aunt. Thank you." She smiled with bitterness at the thought and retracted her hand cautiously.

"Anthony and I had a peaceful breakup. It had nothing to do with anyone else. It was just between us. So, please don't speak ill of Sher anymore. She is innocent."

Sue gave them both a final look before taking a step back. "If there's nothing else, I have to leave now."

There's something I have to take care of."

"Sue... Sue!" Laura still tried to call out and stop her, but Anthony held her back by the arm. With

knitted brows, he faced his mother seriously. "Mom, please stay out of my business in the future. I

know what I'm doing."

"Don't try me!" Laura said, cold and snappily. "I might not know about others, but I'm your mother. I

know you best. I know you just can't get Sheryl out of your mind."

With a sneer, she pulled her arm away from her son sharply. "You'd better give up on her quick. Take

Sue back, or I'll make you suffer."

On a final note, she went on and chased after Sue.

Chapter 875 All The Aces

Sue rushed to reach the underground car park as Laura followed her.

Seeing Sue coming from the exit of the building, Sheryl opened the car door but shut it quickly the

moment she saw Laura appear from behind.

Despite the fact that she had cleared everything between Anthony and her, Sheryl made up her mind

that she didn't want to have any association with his mother, Laura.

"Sue, wait a second..." Laura hastily ran. As soon as she reached Sue, she pulled her by the arm and

asked, "Tell me exactly what happened. I will help you resolve it."

"Aunt Laura..." Sue stepped back a couple of steps where she felt safe. She shook her hand off and then looked at Laura briefly while saying blandly, "We broke up simply because we felt that we couldn't make a good couple. There was nothing else aside from that."

Staring coldly into Laura's eyes, she hesitated but continued, "Moreover... I'm indeed not good enough for him, right?"

"No, please don't say that Sue," Laura rebutted with a frown. It was not far from her knowledge that

Sue was blaming her. "I admit that I thought of a better girl for Anthony than you. But, after knowing you

more, I began to understand that you are indeed a nice girl for my son. Having decency and having a

clean family background are the two criteria for my daughter-in-law. I believe you have those. As for the

financial aspect, I don't care much about that."

Laura smiled wryly and defended, "If not, why would I stop Sheryl and Anthony?"

A trace of an uncertain smile appeared on Sue's face at the mention of Sheryl. Without directly

answering Laura's question, she switched the topic back to her interest. "Aunt Laura, it is now

impossible for Anthony and me to get back together. I believe that Anthony can find a better girl for himself. And, I know you'll like her. Aunt Laura, I am busy now, so I have to go."

She didn't wait for Laura's response. Instead, she turned around the moment she finished her sentence. Turning a deaf ear while Laura was calling her, she didn't bother looking back.

"Let's go," Sue said to Sheryl when she got into the car. Shooting a glance at Laura, Sheryl asked,

"She is still standing there. Should we just leave?"

"Yes," Sue replied. She was so tired of Anthony and his mother so she didn't want to involve herself with their family anymore. "Anthony and I have come to an end. I won't bother myself talking to his mother."

Sheryl nodded and drove out without giving Laura a glimpse.

Meanwhile, just as Sue left, Anthony received a call from the receptionist. The reception girl was hesitating to speak, "Mr. Xiao, someone is looking for you downstairs."

Anthony frowned and didn't say anything so she continued, "She doesn't have an appointment with you. I told her to leave, but... but she said..."

"What? What did she say?" Annoyed by the situation, he questioned her, "Do you think I am free to meet anyone who just pops up in my place? It's your job to solve that. Why are you not doing your job?"

"No, I..." the receptionist stammered.

"Tell her to just return when she already has an appointment. I don't have much time to meet her."

Normally, Anthony would patiently wait for the receptionist's explanation. However, today was not a good day for him. He was not in the mood to meet anyone because of Sue. He just wanted to be alone.

As he was about to hang up the phone, the receptionist hurried to add, "But she said... She said she is your mother-in-law. Also, she mentioned that if you don't meet her, she will announce some matter to all the people in the company."

"My mother-in-law?" Anthony was startled as he heard those words. Soon, he realized who that person might be after thinking about the reason for Sue's appearance in his office a moment ago. Afterward, he gave his consent, "Okay, bring her up then."

"Okay," the receptionist agreed. She hung up the call and led Peggy to Anthony's office.

Anthony was standing inside his office while impatiently waiting at the door. Upon seeing his guest, he

smiled at Peggy before he ordered his secretary to get her a cup of hot tea. He then asked, "Aunt

Peggy, what brought you here?"

"You may have forgotten, that last time I asked you about the location of your company. I noted that down and took a taxi here. This place was not easy to find. In fact, it took me some time to locate this place." While Peggy was saying those words, her eyes were all over the place, inspecting the office blatantly. "This... This office is really big." The structure and the office setting caught Peggy in awe.

"Hmm, kind of," Anthony replied plainly. Before he had a chance to continue, Peggy raised another question, "Then... are you the owner of this big company?"

"Yes," Anthony confirmed.

"You must be earning a lot of money as the boss of a big company. Is that right?" Peggy's eyes suddenly widened and lighted up at the mention of money.

"Aunt Peggy." Anthony didn't address her question and switched to the topic on her visit. "Why are you here? Is there anything I can do for you?"

Glancing at Peggy, he showed his impatience even though she was Sue's mother. "If there is nothing



urgent for us to discuss, you can leave now. I still have work to do."

"Oh yes! We do have something urgent to discuss," Peggy quickly answered.

Settling her eyes back to Anthony, strangely she couldn't find any words to say.

"Aunt Peggy, is there anything bothering you? Don't hesitate to tell me anything. Besides, it's just the two of us here," Anthony persuaded her.

"Then... Then I will tell you everything now." Peggy put on a smile and started, "Here is the thing. You know that Allen is going to marry Doris soon, right? However, we are short of money. I have come here to ask you, whether... it is possible for you to support us financially with your money." Peggy delivered this inappropriate favor from Anthony.

"So the money... Is it considered as lending? Or donating?" Anthony asked directly.

Peggy was stunned upon hearing his question. She thought that, since Anthony had some affection for Sue, he would not hesitate to give her the money she wanted. As such, she didn't expect that kind question from Anthony.

Shameless, Peggy still continued with a laugh, "We are a family now. What's the difference between lending and donating?"

"I'm sorry? Did you say, 'a family'?" Anthony asked in confusion. "Then... is Sue aware of the fact... that you have come today?"

"Oh, Sue?" Peggy sneered, "Why would I let her know? If ever she learns about it, she will definitely do everything she can to prevent me from coming here."

Anthony looked at Peggy unemotionally and asked, "Aunt Peggy, how... How much do you want?"

"Two million. I want two million," Peggy stated without any hesitation as if she were asking for only a small favor.

She certainly would not let the chance of exploiting Anthony for money slip by. She had to be fast.

Otherwise, she wouldn't be able to get even a cent after Sue told everything to Anthony.

'That disobedient girl thought that she could outplay me with the help of Sheryl, ' she thought. 'How naive she is!'

"Two million?!" Anthony was astonished by this huge number. Staring at Peggy skeptically, he asked,

"Aunt Peggy, are you kidding me?"

"Of course not," answered Peggy. She now had all the aces in hand, so she continued in a very firm

and confident tone, "I have thought about it. Two million is a quite reasonable number. If you want to marry Sue, isn't your duty to treat your mother-in-law as your own mother? What are you stunned about giving me two million? Plus, I have observed your company. Being the owner of such a big company, you should have made a great deal of profit. How difficult it is for you to give me two million? That's not even half of your earnings."

#### Chapter 876 The Bride Price

Anthony looked at Peggy in an indifferent manner. "Even though it's easy for me... why should I give you the money?" Anthony said in a cold voice.

Then he removed his eyes from her and pretended to be busy. He poured some tea for himself and asked, "I think I have made it clear to you that Sue and I are just friends. How come you expect me to marry her? That's impossible! And moreover, we won't even connect with each other any more. So I don't understand why you think it's my duty to give you money." He shrugged his shoulders and let out an indifferent laugh.

He cast a contemptuous glance at Peggy and added, "And even if I really get married to Sue, why should I give you such an exorbitant amount of money? And moreover, even Sue will not approve of me giving money to you. If she comes to know about it, she will be furious, won't she?"

Peggy stared at Anthony with cold eyes and said, "You can't fool my aging eyes so easily Anthony. I

know it has been the dual effort between you and Sue to hide your relationship from me. But I am not stupid. Anybody who has even seen the two of you together can tell that the way you get along with each other is not how 'just friends' as you say you two are."

Peggy let out a sarcastic laugh and sneered, "Moreover, now that Sue is pregnant, you can't hide it any more." "What are you talking?"

Anthony almost jumped out of his seat and blurted. "Is Sue pregnant? How can it be possible?" He stared at Peggy with creased eye brows.

"You should know it better than me," Peggy said with a cold smile. Anthony looked very worried all of a sudden. Peggy watched each and every facial expression on his face very minutely. Then her face broke into a knowing smile. She had no doubt that Sue and Anthony shared an intimate relationship.

Marking the ongoing dilemma in Anthony's mind, Peggy placed her cards tactfully and diligently.

"Anthony, you are going to be a father soon. Hence, you have to get married with Sue. At least for the sake of the child. Isn't it?" Peggy smiled coldly and added, "I can help you to ease out on the idea of

giving this money to me. You can just regard it as the wedding gift for Sue."

"Is Sue really pregnant?" Anthony asked in an unbelievable tone. He could feel his heart beating faster than usual. Though he did not want to believe in what Peggy said, but in one corner of his heart, he could not even deny it completely. He took some deep breaths to calm himself down.

"Of course." Peggy frowned and said in a very polite manner, "I'm not kidding about such a serious matter."

Anthony frowned and thought about the last conversation that he had with Sue when they met a while ago. He wondered why Sue didn't mention to him about her pregnancy.

'Oh my God! Maybe she is planning to abort this baby secretly?' he guessed. The very thought of it sent chill down his spine. He could not let this happen at any cost.

"You can call Sue and ask her whether it's true or not if you don't believe me." Peggy couldn't help but laugh as she saw Anthony's dumbfounded expression. "Can we talk about the matter of money now?" she asked again.

Anthony was completely zapped because of the news Peggy gave him. He remained speechless for a while. After a long while he raised his head and said in a deep yet cold voice, "The situation right now

is beyond my expectation. I need more time to consider it. Besides, I should confirm it with Sue and need more time to prepare money. When all these matters are settled, I will talk to you about the money."

"Okay." Peggy heaved a sigh and nodded with satisfaction. She said, "Don't make me wait for too long, otherwise..."

"Don't worry, I won't," Anthony said indifferently.

He called up Sue immediately as Peggy left. However, Sue didn't answer no matter how many times he dialed.

At last, he had no more patience to just sit in his office and wait for Sue to answer his call. He sprang up of his seat, grabbed his car keys and ran out of the office.

"Where are you going, Mr. Xiao? There is a meeting soon," his secretary yelled at him.

"Cancel the meeting. Don't bother me no matter what happens," Anthony replied impatiently without even looking back. He drove to the Zhao family house immediately.

Thousands of thought filled his mind. He remembered how Sue had refused to take any kind of help

from him. The more he thought about it, the more anxious he became.

By the time Anthony arrived, Sue and Sheryl had just come back. Sitting on the sofa, Sue was staring at the closed phone screen, distracted.

Sheryl put some fruits in front of Sue and asked, "What are you thinking about?"

"Nothing special." Sue shook her head slightly. Then she narrowed her eyes and said to Sheryl,

"Although I have met Anthony and told him how to deal with Peggy, I still feel restless. I instinctively think this matter won't be settled so easily."

"Don't worry. I will help you." Sheryl smiled and said in a lovingly tone, "I will deal with it no matter what.

Now you should just take care of yourself and the unborn baby. You don't have to worry about anything else."

Sue was pacified eventually and was about to go upstairs to take rest when she heard Anthony's voice coming from the doorway. Her heart skipped a beat. She realized that Peggy must have met him for the money and revealed about her pregnancy to him. She stared at Sheryl with helpless eyes.

Even Sheryl was taken aback with such an unexpected visit from Anthony.

Amy said, "You two just stay here. I am going to answer the door." She looked at Sue and gave her a reassuring smile.

As Amy opened the door, she saw that Anthony was almost about to break in. She frowned and gave a surprised look at him. She could see he was getting impatient. Seeing Amy standing in front of him,

Anthony tried to calm down. She looked at him with cold eyes and asked, "What brought you here?"

"Grandma Amy." Anthony took deep breaths to calm down his rage. He felt very embarrassed to have encountered Amy in this way and explained, "I came for..."

"What a coincidence! Even I wanted to see you and teach you a lesson!" Amy interrupted before

Anthony finished his words. Amy sneered and added, "I think my husband has made everything clear to you. So what the hell do you want from us?" She frowned at him with air of disgust as she spoke.

"Grandma Amy, please listen to me," Anthony said nervously. He was so worried about the baby in Sue's womb so he tried his best to explained, "I didn't come for Sheryl. I want to see..."

"I don't care who you came for," Amy interrupted again. Anthony was losing his cool once again but could not be impolite with Amy. Amy cast a cold glance at Anthony and added, "You have done enough harm to both Sheryl and Sue. What else do you want from them now?"



"I..." Anthony couldn't say anything to defend himself but gave a bitter smile. He was feeling helpless.

How could he explain that he never meant harm to anyone! He had come here because he wanted to take responsibility of his unborn child that Sue was carrying.

He could not deny that there was truth in Amy's words. Every trouble that came along the way for both Sheryl and Sue was caused by him. And he should face the consequences of it no matter how terrible it was.

"I want to give you a suggestion." Amy glanced at Anthony and added, "You can only end up doing more harm to them if you come close to them. You have promised Sheryl that you would leave this city in three months, right? So before you leave, don't show up before them. I believe Sue will be fine as long as you keep away from her."

"Oh! What happened?" Anthony had just opened his mouth to reply to Amy when Charles' voice cut through their conversation. Charles had just picked up his two children from their school and came to drop Shirley home.

He didn't expect to see Anthony to be in the Zhao family house. He was surprised beyond words. He

remembered he had warned Anthony not to show up before Sheryl. Clearly Anthony didn't take his words serious. Charles looked at his face with a stern look.

Then he looked down at Clark who was standing there holding Shirley's hand. "Clark, go inside with your sister," Charles said to Clark. Clark followed his father's command and took steps inside the house holding his sister's hand. Anthony's eyes softened as he saw Shirley after such a long time. He just opened his mouth and wanted to say something to Shirley. But she followed Clark to enter the room without sparing even a glance at Anthony. Anthony's eyes became gloomy as he watched Shirley being so indifferent towards him.

Chapter 877 Bring A Message

The bright sunlight bounced off the sterile white walls of the hallway. It was quiet and peaceful, save for a few voices talking by the door.

"Grandma, I will handle it," Charles told Amy. "Shirley told me she's a little hungry," he added.

"Okay. I'll cook for her right now." Amy nodded and went inside the room.

Charles simply took a glance at Anthony and then asked, "What are you doing here?"

"I'm not here for Sheryl," Anthony explained as he felt Charles' hostility towards him.

"I heard Sue is pregnant with my baby. So... I want to visit and talk to her," he continued.

Charles had no idea that Sue was pregnant. However, he had heard some stories about them. He

sneered at Anthony's response and said, "Talk? Talk about what?"

"I..." Anthony paused. He had to admit that he was taken aback by Charles' aggressive questioning.

"Anthony, if I were you, I wouldn't be here. Instead, I would try to help her solve her problems right now.

If you can't do it, then you don't deserve to talk to her," Charles said in a serious tone after a while.

However, this was not the response Anthony seemed to expect.

"Who do you think you are?" Anthony questioned him. He was pissed off by Charles who just tried to lecture him. "What do you know about Sue and me? You know nothing! Don't ever think that you can judge me!" he angrily shot back.

"I don't know much exactly," Charles started. "But at least I know she almost went crazy because of what happened in her family. I know her mother asked for money from her, and her dear brother even beat her. I also promised Sheryl to solve the mess for her. But how about you? What have you done?"

The cold voice of Charles responded icily in return as his eyes regarded Anthony with contempt. He stepped closer to the man across him and added, "I don't want to know your relationship with Sue, but

she is not in the mood to deal with you now. You better leave right away!"

After hearing Charles' accusations, Anthony went deep in thought and suddenly realized that Charles was right. He had done nothing for Sue, whether as her friend or the father of her baby.

"So... Is she alright now? And is the baby all right now?" he asked in an embarrassed voice. Anthony felt guilty after Charles' interrogation. How could he not? He didn't deserve to meet Sue because the accusations against him were true. However, it didn't mean that he would give up the attempt to know how she was doing now.

"I don't know either. I just came here," Charles admitted as he scratched his head. Upon seeing Anthony's vexed expression, he tried to console him by saying, "But I'm sure she will be fine since Sheryl and Amy are taking care of her."

"That is great!" Relief flooded Anthony's response. He looked at his companion in the eye and reassuringly said, "You are right. I don't deserve to meet her right now. But... I will prove that I'm trustworthy through my actions!"

"I hope that you are not just saying that." The thick eyebrows of Charles shot up dubiously as he

commented.

"I'm not just saying that, I promise!" the father of Sue's baby said in a firm tone to dispel Charles'

worries about him. Strangely enough, something melted his heart and made him feel soft and tender

the moment he heard about Sue's pregnancy.

At this moment, he wanted nothing more than to envelope Sue tightly in his arms, even without any

words passing between them.

After the short silence, Anthony's eyes seemingly pleaded to Charles as he said, "Could you... Could

you please bring a message to Sue for me?"

"What message?" he asked.

"Tell her to take care of herself and the baby. Tell her to trust me. I will prove to her through my actions

that I can be a reliable husband and a good father!" Anthony said with all the courage and

determination he could muster up in his voice. He hoped that Charles would at least have faith in him.

"Are you sure? Have you made up your mind?" Charles' eyes went wide as he asked in amazement.

He didn't expect that Anthony would give up Sheryl so easily since he used to love her so much.

"Absolutely yes!" A hopeful Anthony nodded enthusiastically. "I was too stubborn in the past, but now

I'm a father. I have to take responsibility for Sue and our child," he added.

"No problem. I will tell her every word you said," Charles nodded and assured him. "However... I can't promise you anything. I'm not sure whether she is willing to accept it or not," he continued.

"Don't worry about it. I'm grateful as long as you can deliver my words. Thank you!" The hopeful eyes of Anthony glimmered as he finished saying everything he wanted to express. He thanked Charles once again for all his help, and then took his leave.

He walked out the doors and went directly to his car. Meanwhile, Charles just stood there and watched him until he had driven away. When Anthony's car had disappeared into the distance, he returned to the house.

The house was a bit too cold because of the strong air-conditioning. Shirley lay next to Sue and observed her belly with inquisitive eyes. She pointed at her flat stomach and asked in a curious voice,

"Auntie Sue, do you really have a little baby in your belly?"

"Yes, there is a little baby." The pregnant lady nodded and smiled gently. Sue couldn't help but imagine how the baby would look like. She thought that it would be great if the baby was a cute girl like Shirley.

'What if it is a boy?' She felt herself shiver inwardly. Her eyes darted to Clark who looked like a grown up.

'No! No! No!' She tried to convince herself that even if it was a boy, he wouldn't be as precocious as Clark, because neither she nor Anthony were as intelligent as Clark's parents.

"Well... Is it a little sister or little brother?" Shirley's big, bright eyes sparkled as she continued to ask.

In return, Sue smiled and returned the question to her, "Shirley, do you prefer a little sister or a little brother?"

The little girl thought about it for a while. Then, her eyes lit up which meant she made up her mind. "I

want a little sister!" she exclaimed. She then looked at Sheryl who sat on a nearby chair and asked,

"Sheryl, can I share my beautiful clothes with the little sister?"

"Of course you can!" Sheryl replied with a smile.

Their little conversation was slightly interrupted when the door opened, and revealed Charles. "How is it going? Where is Anthony?" Sheryl asked when he stepped inside the room.

The man walked closer to them and sat beside Sheryl. "He left," he said in response.

Sue's eyes sank slightly when she heard Charles' answer. Even though it was the answer she

expected, she still felt disappointed when she heard the words herself. Then again, she refused to meet him and she pushed him away.

'He really doesn't care about me, right?' Sue couldn't help but ask herself.

"Sue!" Her train of thought was cut off when Charles abruptly called her attention. "Anthony asked me to bring a message to you," he continued.

"What?" Now, Sue was stunned. She didn't expect to hear that.

"He wants you to take care of yourself and the baby. He wants you to trust him. He will prove to you through his actions that he can be a reliable husband and good father," Charles repeated what Anthony had told him.

"Did he really say that?" Sheryl said in a surprised voice who stood beside him.

"Yes, he did." Charles nodded. Sheryl immediately turned around to look at Sue for her reaction, wanting to share her excitement with the mother-to-be. However, there was no hint of any excitement or joy on Sue's calm face. She just remained passive like before. Upon seeing her neutral expression, Sheryl worriedly asked, "What's wrong? Sue? Isn't this what you are waiting for? Why do you look



unhappy?"

"I..." The sentence was cut off as Sue hesitated. She instead forced a smile on her face and tried to change topics.

"Nothing. Don't worry about me," she smiled. She turned to Shirley, took her small hands in her own and asked, "Shirley, can you show me your beautiful clothes?"

The little girl's eyes sparkled with excitement at the mention of sharing her clothes. "Wow! Okay!" she exclaimed. She was definitely thrilled to share her beautiful clothes with Sue's little baby. Her small hands grasped Sue's and she pulled her up to go outside the room. The door closed softly and they ran upstairs as their footsteps echoed down the hall. Their recklessness worried Sheryl to no end, especially since Sue was pregnant and Shirley was a little girl. "Walk slowly! Mind your step!" she yelled after them.

She knew that Sue wanted to leave so she and Charles could have some privacy together.

"See! Once you are here, Sue is scared away!" Sheryl looked up at Charles and teased him, her eyes filling with mirth.

"Humph! I'm not finished with you!" Charles said in an aggravated voice and pretended to be angry at

her. His voice seemed even more demanding when he asked, "Tell me, why were you so happy when you heard Anthony's statement!"

"I..." Sheryl stammered, her face flushed red in embarrassment. "I'm happy for Sue," she finally answered in a low voice.

"Did you see she was happy? Why were you happy for her while in fact she was not happy?" At her response, Charles appeared to get even angrier.

"What? Are you mad at me?" Sheryl asked and tried to comfort him with a hug, as she stared at his angry but still handsome face.

"Mad? Of course not!" Charles simply scoffed, denying the accusation.

"Take it easy. I can explain," Sheryl said carefully. The only thing she could do now was to tread cautiously with her next words in order to appease him. "I just thought that Anthony finally grows up and is willing to take responsibility. I felt happy for Sue. She has been waiting for this day for too long. I didn't think about others, only Sue. Don't be mad at me!" Sheryl reasoned and looked at him with pleading eyes.

Charles' brows shot up in curiosity when he saw her anxious face. "Really?" he asked her in a teasing voice.

"Of course it's true!" Sheryl's voice was solemn as she spoke out sincerely. She didn't realize that Charles was only making fun of her until she saw his wicked smirk.

"You! How can you do that? You're playing with me again! I'll punish you!" Her eyes widened as she accused him. Sheryl pounced on Charles and pushed him back on the sofa, with his body trapped under hers. However, in the next moment she was quickly flipped and pinned down by Charles. This time, he was the one on top of her.

Their eyes locked together for a while before Charles slowly leaned down. Sheryl saw his face inching closer and closer to her own, until she could almost feel his breath on her lips. Her heart pounded so fast that it could almost come out of her rib cage.

Chapter 878 Please Pay Attention To Surroundings

"What... what do you want to do?" There was a sudden pink glow on Sheryl's cheeks and sparkle in her eyes. She could not stare into Charles' eyes consistently. She lowered her eyes, feeling shy and nervous at the same time. She then gave him a soft nudge and spoke, lowering her voice, "Just stop it now. Stand up, okay?"

"Sher, you are so beautiful," Charles just ignored her words as he spoke in a deep voice and seized her hands. He kept flirting with her by softly brushed her palm with his fingers and looked into her eyes lovingly.

Sheryl blushed again and lowered her eyes hastily. She then glanced at Charles and whispered softly,

"That's enough. Grandma will come out soon."

"So what..." Charles answered with a shrug, keeping his gaze fixed into her eyes. Sheryl tried to shove Charles back. But he even didn't budge. His entire body was pressed against her like a huge mountain.

Secretly, Sheryl loved the feel of his body against hers. Hence all her resisting gestures fell flat very quickly and she found herself giving in to Charles very soon.

Charles placed his hand on Sheryl's head and gently smoothed her hairs back and spoke in a soft voice, "We are a legally married couple. Why couldn't we canoodle with each other?"

"Who is your legal wife? I don't think it's me," Sheryl replied in a sour voice. "I think it's Autumn who is actually your legal wife. Please don't forget that I am Sheryl," Sheryl unconsciously challenged Charles.

She stole her eyes, giving a naughty smile.

Her words irked Charles. He narrowed his eyes out of rage and stared at Sheryl, "Sher, are you... are you challenging me now?"

But Sheryl maintained her impish smile at the corner of her lips without saying anything. She lowered her head slightly.

Charles could not hold it any longer. Immediately, he pinned her hands over her head and fixed her body under him. Suddenly, Sheryl realized that she had made him angry. But before she could open her mouth to beg for mercy, he immediately lowered his head and blocked her mouth with a passionate kiss.

Then he gently lifted her pretty face and kisses landed on her head, eyes and nose. Finally, he couldn't hold his emotions and kissed her mouth. He had been dreaming of this moment and now he felt fulfilled as he could love her the way he wanted to.

"Mm..." Sheryl's voice was blocked by his kiss. In the beginning, Sheryl felt that it was not an appropriate time and place. But the emotions and feelings brought by the kiss were so overwhelming that she couldn't help throwing her arms around his neck.

Charles held Sheryl tightly, ignoring her slight resistances. He fixed her tightly in his hug and kissed her

fondly. Gradually she stopped struggling and stared dazedly at Charles who had already closed his

eyes and enjoyed their kiss. His face so close and his eyes closed in a deep and passionate kiss.

Looking at his closed eyes, Sheryl didn't even realize that she also closed her eyes and deepened this

kiss.

"Hem..." An apologetic cough interrupted their blissful moment.

Sheryl came back to her senses and immediately shove Charles away.

She then stood awkwardly with blushed face. She was so embarrassed that she wanted to hide herself

somewhere.

"Aunt... Auntie, how come you have come back so early?" Sheryl asked Abby in an embarrassing

voice, stealing her eyes from Andy and Abby.

Abby and Andy just stood beside Sheryl and said in a joking voice, "If we didn't come back early, you

would have already made a pornographic movie."

Hearing this, Sheryl turned more red with embarrassment. She lowered her head in wanting to avoid

their eyes. She could not find words for a counter reply.

"No... it is nothing like that. It's not what you have imagined..." Sheryl wanted to deny. But considering what they saw, Sheryl really did not know how to explain.

"Fine, fine. I understand. You don't need to explain," Abby replied softly with a smile. "You have been separated for such a long time. It is normal that you can't resist canoodling just like water drops on burning rocks. We truly understand," Abby continued with a wink.

Seeing Sheryl's more and more blushed face, Abby couldn't help laughing and kept on pulling her leg.

"But I also want to remind you that you still should pay attention to surroundings," she continued trying to be stern. "After all, this is a public place and we also have some kids here. What do you think of it?"

"Auntie, please don't talk like this any more." The more Abby spoke, the more embarrassed she was.

However, Charles was absolutely unmoved by Abby's words. He just stood beside Sheryl without the slightest mark of embarrassment on his face.

Sheryl glimpsed at Abby and managed to explain, "It is not what you think of..."

Seeing Abby's and Andy's bantering expressions, Sheryl was a little annoyed and suddenly smacked Charles on his shoulder, "Give them a reasonable explanation."

But Charles had a cool expression on his face. He just put an arm around Sheryl's shoulder and stated

in a faint voice, "Fine. Next time I will find a private place. You won't see our affairs any more."

Sheryl felt like being hit by whip as she heard Charles' words. She glared at him immediately. Yet, there was no mark of shame on his face. She felt that her only resort was to just run away and hide somewhere. Abby was shaking with laughter. Andy, standing beside Abby, patted her and said smilingly, "Fine. You have laughed a lot. Just give them some space now and don't tease her any more, okay?"

"Okay, okay. I won't laugh..." Abby nodded but burst into laughter the next moment. Then she tried to stop her laughter once again and tried to make a serious face. Although Abby promised not to laugh, her eyes were still full of amusement. Sheryl had no choice but stare at Abby helplessly and speechlessly.

She bitterly glared at Charles and even wanted to beat him.

But even if she beat him now, it couldn't make up for anything. She had already felt so humiliated in front of her uncle and aunt.

"What are you all doing there? The dinner is already served," Amy came out and inquired curiously.



Amy was carrying the dishes from the kitchen and saw the four of them standing in front of each other.

"Grandma, I will help you to set the table." Sheryl finally found an excuse to leave the place. She just vanished out of that place in no time and went into the kitchen.

Watching Sheryl run away, Abby couldn't hold her emotions any more and burst into laugh.

Once out of the prying eye of Abby, Sheryl could not help thinking about the long kiss. It seemed that she was still in a trance. Charles' face with his eyes closed resting on her face kept looming in front of her eyes and brought a soft smile on her lips. Amy marked that Sheryl was unmindful and asked,

"Sher, what are you thinking of?"

"Nothing. Nothing at all," Sheryl pulled herself out of her lovelorn state and shook her head as she replied to Amy. Then she took the dishes out with Amy. After that, she went upstairs to call Sue for the dinner.

Since Clark was there with Shirley, Sheryl didn't have to worry about her. As she entered Sue's room, she found she lying on the bed. It seemed that she is in a deep slumber.

The air conditioner was on which made the temperature inside the room cool. Sheryl silently took a blanket that was lying on the sofa and covered Sue with it to make her comfortable. The moment,

Sheryl put the blanket on Sue, she woke up.

"Do you fall asleep?" Sheryl inquired in a soft voice.

"Yes," Sue spoke in a sleepy voice and nodded her head slightly. Sue turned towards Sheryl and said,

"I don't know why, these days, I always feel extremely tired and fall asleep easily." She then sat up on the bed and rubbed her eyes with her hands.

Sheryl placed her hand on her shoulder and replied with a smiling face, "It is normal during your early pregnancy. I felt the same way when I was pregnant. Come, let's go for dinner. Everyone is waiting for us."

"No, thanks," Sue shook her head and declined. "I have no appetite to eat anything. Leave me alone.

Please go and enjoy your dinner," Sue continued.

"Sue..." Sheryl said with furrowed brows. She sounded stern this time. She paused for a while and

spoke again with a compassionate voice, "I understand the last few days have been extremely

tormenting for you. But you can't allow them to affect yourself. You still need to take care of yourself.

Don't push yourself so hard. No matter what happened, your only priority right now is your baby."

She touched Sue's belly softly and continued, "You need to give up all of your previous eating habits.

You should work and rest in a healthy and regular manner. You can starve yourself but not your kid."

Sheryl smiled and keeping persuading her, "So how about we go downstairs and... eat something?

Even if you don't have an appetite, you have to eat properly for your kid's sake. What do you think of it?"

"Fine." Sue finally nodded her head and accept Sheryl's suggestions.

Just when Sheryl and Sue came downstairs, Shirley and Clark were already seated on the dining table.

Charles had left the seat beside him for Sheryl. But Sheryl was busy taking care of Sue. All her attention was on Sue. In fact she herself ate very scantily.

Abby knew what Sue had done to Sheryl before. Although Sue's previous actions didn't bring too much harm to Sheryl, but Abby still felt slightly uncomfortable seeing Sheryl treat Sue so kindly.

Chapter 879 Changing The Name

Abby put down the fork and said to Sheryl, "Sher, you're not taking anything. Stop being so concerned about others. You should eat too."

"Yes, I will." Sheryl nodded her head in agreement.

"I am full," replied Sue wanting to leave since she sensed some hostility from Abby's side. This made

Sue want to leave as soon as possible. "Sher, I am going upstairs. Take your time and enjoy the meal."

"Okay. Don't be in a hurry. Be careful and watch out for the stairs." Sheryl cared a great deal about Sue and didn't want her to trip or fall.

When Sue left the dining room, Abby said quietly to Sheryl, "Sher, I don't mind if you allow her to stay here, but..."

Abby frowned a little bit and continued, "I know you care about her and stuff. But you know what she has done to you in the past. Don't you feel uncomfortable with her staying here?"

Abby breathed a sigh and went on to say, "Are you not afraid that... she will turn her back on you and plot against you in the future?"

"Aunt Abby, I am certain that Sue is not that kind of a person." Sheryl smiled and there was no anger on her face. She knew that Abby was just concerned about her. Even though Abby's words were rude, her intention seemed pure. "It's just that her mood was off earlier. But she is a good girl and will not do that again."

"Sher, listen to me," Abby pleaded. Hearing about Sheryl's belief in Sue, she couldn't help but frown.

Being determined, she continued, "You have a very kind heart and trust people blindly. Let's take Leila for example. She treated you unkindly. Don't you remember? You still chose to forgive them."

Abby sighed again and continued, "People say that a leopard never changes its spots. Similarly, it is hard to change a person's nature. How can you still believe Sue?"

"Because I understand her," answered Sheryl without taking her eyes off her meal.

"You..." Abby was somewhat agitated by Sheryl's naive words. She took a quick glance at Charles and said, "You don't care about this, do you?"

"Whatever her decision is, I will respect and support her," Charles said without a hint of hesitation. He cared for her, so he swore to stand by her through thick and thin.

"You two..." Abby looked at them and shook her head in disbelief. "I am so pissed right now."

Anger filled her eyes as she kept on eyeing both Charles and Sheryl. "You both make me look like a nosy woman. It's like I am interfering in other's business. Well, alright then. Since it's your business, go ahead and do whatever you want. I will keep myself out of it."

Seeing that Abby was annoyed, Andy, who was by her side, tried to console her, "Look, you are so kind to care about Sheryl. Nobody thinks of you as a nosy woman. Now leave these negative thoughts

behind and let's just enjoy this good meal."

"I am done with the meal," said Abby angrily.

"Aunt Abby..." Sheryl said, not knowing how to console her. She knew that Abby cared about her yet she wasn't willing to live her life according to her terms. No matter what others said to her, she would not change her mind based on others' opinion.

Leaving her chair, she stood up and walked to the side of Abby. Slowly, she took hold of her aunt's hands and said, "Please excuse me for being so blunt. I know what you are saying is for my own benefit. You have to understand that Sue is not like Leila."

"I don't even know what to say to you anymore," said Abby. She glanced around and caught Andy's eyes, which begged her to stop this fight. She hesitated for a moment, and finally sat back. "Well, since you have made up your decision, I won't bother you anymore. But remember my words and be careful.

Don't be fooled by others again."

"Yes, I will take care, Aunt." Sheryl smiled and was relieved when Abby gave up persuading her.

After supper, Sheryl sent Charles and Clark out of the house. When they got out of the door, Charles

turned his head and asked Sheryl, "Sher, do I still need to help Sue with her issue?"

For a moment, Sheryl looked dumbfounded but then his words slowly started to make sense. She understood what Charles intended to say. Now that Anthony had agreed to solve it, there was indeed no need for Sheryl and Charles to get involved.

Taking a deep sigh, she smiled and then said, "Let them handle it for the time being. We'll see what he can do."

"I just hope there won't be any delay. My wish is for him to get done with it as soon as possible."

Charles put his face close to Sheryl's and continued with a laughter, "So that I can take my wife home."

"Go away," Sheryl said with shyness. Hearing his words, Sheryl couldn't help but blush like a school girl.

Charles admired Sheryl's blushing face under the street lamp. Watching this, he felt attracted by her beauty. Everything seemed bright and her sparkling eyes stood out. Unable to resist, he walked forward, kissed Sheryl on the cheek, and said, "Now go and have some rest. I will come to take Shirley to school tomorrow morning."

"Okay," replied Sheryl and nodded her head. Since Shirley went to school, Sheryl had a lot of spare

time in her hands. Every day, Charles came to pick up the child and sent her to school. Later, he picked her up from school and sent her back. Charles seemed extremely happy about this job since it gave him an excuse to meet Sheryl.

Seeing that Charles had driven away, Sheryl walked inside the house. Amy and Abby were sitting on the sofa while they spoke in low voice. When Amy noticed that Sheryl was back, she called to her and asked, "Has Charles left?"

"Yes." Sheryl nodded slightly. "Grandma, I'm going upstairs now."

"Wait a moment," Amy called. She patted the seat beside her and said to Sheryl, "Come and sit down with me. I have something important to talk."

Now Sheryl was a little bit shocked but she went and sat next to Amy without any hesitation. Confused, she looked at Amy and asked, "Grandma, what's the matter?"

"I had a discussion with your grandpa two days ago and I thought... we need to get this done as soon as possible," said Amy in a calm manner.

"May I know what the important matter is?" asked Sheryl with dubious expression.



"It's your name." Once Amy finished her words, Sheryl was stunned again.

Although the name "Sheryl" was picked by herself at random, she was very used to it by now. Amy now mentioned it all of a sudden and she felt a weird feeling inside her heart.

Having noticed Sheryl's discomfort, Amy added, "Sher, I know you're not feeling well, but you need to remember you're a member of the Zhao family. My intention is for you to live a peaceful and stable life with us. We are a family, Sher. I want everyone to know, my granddaughter is still alive and I have two lovely great grandchildren. This is all I want. I just want you to live with your real name and be happy.

Would you satisfy me and grant me this small request?"

"Sher, please say yes." Abby, sitting on the other side, asked Sheryl to agree to this idea. "Since you lost your memory before, we could not do anything. But now you have restored your memory, I think it is better to change your name back. After all, you're a member of the family and the original name was given to you by your father, wasn't it?"

"Grandma, I will need some time to think about it." Sheryl seemed to be a little overwhelmed. Looking at Amy, she could not decide what to say. She knew it would be rude to turn down the request at once.

But at the same time, something stopped her from agreeing. Hence she decided to ask for some time.

Amy nodded her head gently and said to Sheryl, pleasantly and sincerely, "I want to see you live a happy life. If you think changing the name is not something you want to do then you are free to refuse. I am completely okay with that."

"Grandma, I will think about it. Thank you for being so patient with me." Sheryl smiled at Amy and went on, "It's just that I am a little shocked. I haven't had the time to think it over. Time is all I need."

Chapter 880 Hard To Choose

"That's good to know." Amy finally took a weight off her mind and said to Sheryl with concern, "By the way, you should seriously consider the things between you and Charles. It's been a long time since you separated from each other. It must be hard for you both. So if both of you have made up your mind to be together, then why not make it as soon as possible?"

"Come on, mom! It's none of your business. Both of them are grown ups." Abby gave a hearty laugh to reassure Amy that she did not need to worry about Sheryl and Charles. Then she added, "Moreover, they are parents of two lovely kids. I am sure they take care of their own things."

"Really?" Amy was rather taken aback by Abby's words. She turned towards Abby with curious eyes.

Sheryl blushed at the thought of how eagerly everybody in her family wanted her to get back with

Charles. But the very thought of it just made her feel like running away. She stood up trying to calm down, but seemed to be of no avail. All she could do was just to stammer, "If... if this is what you want to discuss with me now, then I think I am really tired and would like to go to bed."

Sheryl just rushed into her room without turning back to look at Abby and Amy even for once. Amy and Abby shared a glance with each other and broke into a smile. Sheryl decided to take a shower to calm herself down. As soon as she finished her shower, she received a phone call. As she answered the call, it was Isla on the other side, her voice bustling with joy and excitement, "I knew you would make it! Sher, Congratulations!"

The pitch of Isla's voice was so high that Sheryl had to hold her phone away from her ears in order to avoid the risk of becoming deaf. She had no idea why Isla was so excited.

"I knew you would make it!" Her voice got more and more loud and full of excitement as she kept repeating herself. After a while she just realized that it was she who kept on talking while there was a complete silence on the other side. Just to confirm that the line was still connected, she asked, "Sher, are you there? Are you listening to me?"

"I am," Sheryl replied in a nonchalant voice.

"Then why are you not replying to me? Aren't you excited?" Isla wondered.

"My dear Isla, since I picked up my phone, it is you who have been shouting at the top of your voice and congratulating me all this while. You didn't even bother to tell me the reason behind your excitement. I thought once your moment of exhilaration passed, I would take a chance to ask what it is that you were so desperate to share with me. So, may I ask now? What makes you so excited?" Sheryl felt a little speechless at first and now she finally got a chance to speak.

"Ohhh, I almost forgot to tell you. I was just too exhilarated. Let me tell you the most important thing."

Isla took some deep breaths to calm herself down before she spoke. "The project you delivered got permitted!"

"Really! Are you sure?" Suddenly, there was a spring in Sheryl's voice as she spoke. All this while, Sheryl was in some sort of a daze. First, the deep passionate kiss with Charles, then being caught by Abby and at the end, Amy raising the topic of her getting back with Charles. Sheryl felt as if her voice had gotten lost somewhere. The news from Isla acted like a much needed force to pull her back to herself. At the onslaught, Sheryl found the news a little unbelievable. Her lips curled up unconsciously

when she heard Isla. Then slowly she could feel the sense of accomplishment. Sheryl was so glad to hear the news because she loved this job. Though she barely revealed it, but she felt a deep satisfaction in working on projects for Cloud Advertising Company. She never felt the same way while working for the BM Corporation.

"Certainly, of course." Isla was still very excited and praised, "I am so happy, Sheryl! I knew you would make it!"

Sheryl could not help smiling and asked, "Is there anything else that you want to tell me about?"

"Yes. There is another thing." Isla cooled herself down and explained, "Here it is. Our partner company demands a meeting with us to discuss in details about the project. I agreed with that on your behalf and the meeting has been set for tomorrow. So you have to make yourself available for the meeting tomorrow."

"Do I have to come?" Sheryl became anxious all of a sudden. "Can you just find someone else to attend the meeting on my behalf, or maybe you could attend the meeting alone?" Sheryl frowned as she spoke. This was really a hard choice to make. After all, she was still under the employment contract with BM Corporation that would refrain her to get actively involved in a project for any other

company. She could only help Isla secretly. If she went for a meeting, she would be exposed.

"Sher, you know I don't want to put you in trouble." She gave her a wry laughter and continued, "If I had any other option, I would never ask you to come with me. But the client insisted that you should attend the meeting in person, otherwise, there will be no deal! And more importantly, Sher, are you willing to allow this project to end up in vain? You had stayed up the whole night working on it."

"But..." Sheryl's mind was in a complete mess now. She didn't know how to make a choice between her current professional commitment and her dream project at Cloud Advertising Company.

"You are in a dilemma, and I can totally understand that." Isla paused for a while and then again continued, "The meeting has been scheduled in our office where only the staff from both the companies will be present. No outsider will even come to know about your presence. I can assure you of that!"

Sheryl was more than eager to join the meeting. But she found it difficult to say 'Yes' to Isla right away.

She kept hesitating and at last begged, "Can you just give me a moment please? I need to think it over."

"What do you have to think about? This is urgent and the company belongs to you." Isla let out a

helpless sigh and continued, "OK, you think over it. But Sher, you'd better hurry up. Time is running out.

We have to confirm to them at the earliest."

"Got it." Sheryl hung up the phone, walked over to the swing near the window and sat on it, in a trance.

Her mind was completely blank. How could she actively take part in any project under Cloud

Advertising Company while being under the employment contract with BM Corporation? Even attending

the meeting secretly would mean a breach of contract.

Sue shared the same room with Sheryl. She was watching over as Sheryl sat in the same posture in

the same place with a vague look. Sue wanted to speak to Sheryl but she was unsure whether it was a

suitable time to say anything. However, after a while of hesitation, she decided to break the silence.

She asked, "Are you okay? Can you tell me what you are so worried about?"

When Sue was in trouble, eager for a place to stay, Sheryl was the one to give her a hand. She even

shared her own room with Sue. Now that Sheryl seemed to be in trouble, Sue couldn't just watch her

without taking any action.

Besides, Sue was not aware of the dilemma in Sheryl's mind. It could also be concerning Sue sharing

her room. Sue had no idea about what was bothering Sheryl. All she knew was that she really wanted

to do something helpful to relieve Sheryl, instead of just standing by.

"Nothing much." Sheryl looked surprised to hear Sue's voice. She immediately turned towards her and asked her with a smile, "Why don't you go to sleep? I thought you were asleep when I came in."

"I almost fell asleep, but then I felt a little worried about you when you looked worried after hanging up.

Tell me, what happened to you?" Sue got out of the bed and took a step forward towards the swing.

She grabbed Sheryl by her hand with a caring smile on her face.

"You just... can't understand. Just leave me alone," Sheryl answered her in a helpless tone. She was clearly not in the mood to share her concern with Sue.

"Just tell me. Maybe I can find a way out for you." Sue didn't give up. She kept smiling and tried to make Sheryl open her heart. So she continued to inquire with patience, "It is said that sometimes the outsider can view a situation from a fresh perspective that you might be missing. When you are trapped in a situation, you may think it is really hard for you to solve it. However, it may be very easy to me, because I am the outsider."

Sue's words sounded persuasive. Sheryl looked at Sue for a while, and let out a deep sigh.



She said, "I am not being able to make the choice. I don't know whether I should go back to Cloud Advertising Company or continuing to stay in BM Corporation."

"Have you found a solution in your mind?" Sue fell into a deep thought for a while and asked Sheryl.

Sheryl certainly didn't have a solution, so she shook her head. "I really don't know. I signed an agreement with BM Corporation a short while ago. If I choose to leave my job at this moment, I will have to pay a huge fine for breaking the contact. However, as to Cloud Advertising Company... Sue, how can I make the right choice?"

Sue held Sheryl's hand and replied, "Actually, it is very simple."

She gave Sheryl a convincing smile and spoke in a slow and calm voice, "When you spoke about your thought on your job in BM Corporation, you just mentioned the penalty. Evidently, that is the only thing that you care about. Besides that, there is nothing else in that job which seems to appeal to you.

Apparently, it proves that deep down, you just took this job just to make a living for yourself and your daughter. But I assume you have no interest in it at all. Am I right?"

Sheryl nodded her head with agreement and admitted, "Indeed, I can never think of myself as a model for the rest of my life. And you know that I am in no way better than the young models in terms of age.

My career as a professional model has come to an end right away. If it weren't for Shirley, I wouldn't have been doing this kind of work for so many years. So..."

"That's it." Sue had only expected this sort of reply from Sheryl. It was true that sometimes you need an external voice to tell you the things that you already knew to give you a push in the right direction. In this case, it was Sue's voice for Sheryl. She said, "However, I observed your expressions when you mentioned the Cloud Advertising Company. It tells me that you love the job. I even saw that a sense of achievement and enjoyment just flashed across your eyes just now. You really love it, don't you?"

"I guess so." Sheryl uttered the words slowly as if she was clearing the mirror of her mind to see her own face clearly. She nodded again, looked Sue in the eye and added, "I have been working in that company since I graduated from college. In the beginning, I didn't know anything, had to follow my superior's orders and worked very hard every day, learning from my mistakes. In a word, I was really nothing then. But the more efforts I have made, the more experience I have gathered. At present, I am really good at it and have even earned a credibility in the market. I may not be famous but I have good repute for my work. Yes, I love my job in Cloud Advertising Company much more than any words can

ever explain. In my heart, I still remember how I burned the midnight oil to finish every task. How I felt alive when I submitted my projects and watched them turned into full-fledged business deals one after another that helped the company grow block to block. That sense of achievement! Can you imagine that?"