

Wedded Bride 881

Chapter 881 Giving Back

"The answer is so obvious that I don't even need to say it out loud," Sue remarked. She smiled

encouragingly toward Sheryl, relieved that they had finally sorted it out.

However, Sheryl's frown remained glued to her forehead. With a defeated glance, she disagreed, "That

may be what I want Sue, but the reality is more complicated. Uh! Why did I sign that annoying contract

with BM Corporation?"

A light bulb went off in Sue's mind and she asked Sheryl to confirm her realization, "So, you are just

concerned about all the money you owe them if you break your contract early?" She kept her eyes

locked onto Sheryl's waiting for her reply.

"Yes," Sheryl confirmed with a demoralized tone. It was obvious she had lost all hope.

Sue hesitated to let Sheryl know her idea, afraid that she would find it insulting or annoying. After a few

silent moments, she finally mustered the courage to advise her, "Sher, maybe it's not my place to tell

you this, but... I think Charles would be more than happy to pay for you."

"You know I am not that kind of person," asserted Sheryl in rejection of her advice. That was the

reaction Sue expected anyway, so she didn't take it personally.

She took a few more moments to think of how to best put it.

Sue was aware that Sheryl was not that type of woman who would rely on a man to rescue her. She had no princess aspirations. In fact, she was an independent, confident woman who would not compromise her values regardless of the circumstances. Sue wanted to help her out somehow, to pay her back for everything Sheryl had done for her.

Her mind began taking detours onto memory lane, where she recalled some of the bad things she had done to Sheryl; all the troubles, the tears put even more pressure on her.

"But Sher..." she tried persuading her. In Sue's mind, this was the only way to help Sheryl out. "Charles is the closest person to you," she continued.

"Even so, I still don't want his money," Sheryl argued. She was getting irritated by Sue's persistence.

So she had to set the record straight once and for all. "This is my own problem. I'll fix it on my own. I won't trouble anyone else."

Sue let out a deep breath and calmly talked to Sheryl, "I have always felt that you have so much passion for your work for Cloud Advertising Company. Even when you work overtime, you are still so

energetic and excited, especially when you get a difficult task assigned. Remember the time you prepared breakfast for me when I was in the hospital? You didn't sleep the entire night before. Though you looked tired physically, you were so alive and positive that morning. Your passion, your zeal, and your dedication came out in everything you did. You are born to follow your dreams. You can't be constricted by logistics and paperwork. As for BM Corporation, why don't you just cross that bridge when you get there?"

Sheryl was speechless for a minute. Seeing that she was getting through to her, Sue continued,

"Remember what you told me? If you find a person you like or a thing that you enjoy, seize it and don't let it slip by. These are your words. Now the chance is right in front of your eyes. Why don't you seize it?"

"I..." mumbled Sheryl. Sue's hope was contagious; it was starting to spread through Sheryl's veins too.

She was right and it was finally clear for Sheryl as well. Nodding, she replied, "Yes, that's true! I have to do what I feel is right."

Being courageous, brave, and bold was her prerogative.

That was what she had been doing from the moment she stepped her feet in Y City. Once she regained

her memories and her life, she began putting back together all the scattered pieces and this decision was one of those pieces.

Along her way, there was love, work and identity change. But all these had been her past, which she couldn't do anything about. Now she had the chance to decide for herself, so she would do it.

"Sue, thank you so much. If not for you, I may still be trapped by my own insecurities," Sheryl gratefully stated. She was starting to regain her excitement about the future. It felt like a veil was lifted from her eyes.

Smiling, Sue replied, "Thank me for what? I should be the one to say 'thank you'. What you have done for me... I really don't know how to pay you back."

"I did not help you for your appreciation," Sheryl explained. She then rushed to send Isla a message saying that she would attend the upcoming meeting.

After Sheryl thought everything through, her mood changed to a more relaxed, optimistic one. It was as if a heavy weight were taken off her chest. She wanted to ask Holley for a day off but was stopped by Sue.

"It's already late. She is probably asleep now. I'm going to the company to apply for a leave of absence myself. I can help you apply too," Sue said encouragingly. She was happy to be able to help her in any way.

"Alright, thanks," replied Sheryl in agreement. It was getting quite late, so they decided to catch some sleep. Once Sheryl closed her eyes, however, she couldn't help but think about the meeting all night long; so she had no chance of falling asleep. The next morning, she got up with some deep, dark circles around her eyes, betraying her anxiety. She had no choice but to cover them up with some makeup as best as she could.

"Sher, good luck!" Sue cheered her up. After walking Sheryl to the door, she started getting herself ready for work. It was then when she realized that only Abby was left in the living room.

Amy came in and invited Sue to have breakfast with them, but Sue didn't want to stay in the same room with Abby; so she declined the invitation politely, "Thank you, Grandma Amy. I don't want it now. I'll have some food on my way to work."

"How can you do that!" Amy exclaimed. "The food outside is not as healthy and nutritious as home-cooked food. Don't forget that you are pregnant now. You must take care of the baby and refrain from

eating any junk food."

"But," Sue began arguing.

However Amy did not give her a chance to continue, "Stop saying 'but'; come." Holding Sue's hands, she pulled her down on the chair and insisted, "I have already prepared your breakfast. Just eat some before you go."

Sue couldn't keep refusing Amy's repeated invitations, so she had to accept eventually. Thinking of how to get rid of Abby as soon as possible, she decided to rush. After just a few bites, she stood up and was ready to go. Unfortunately, Abby got up at the same time too. She got her purse ready and mentioned, "I am done as well. Miss Wang, are you going to the company? If so, I am driving in the same direction. I can give you a ride."

"No need," Sue speedily refused. "Thank you, Miss Zhao. I appreciate it but I am used to taking the subway. It is quite convenient for me.

So I will just go there on my own." Glancing at Sue's belly, Abby insisted, "You are pregnant. It is rather crowded on the subway, which may affect your wellbeing. It's okay. I have no problem dropping you off

at work."

"Yeah, exactly," Amy commented as well. With a concerned look on her face, she added, "The most important thing right now is your baby. Just go and sit in Abby's car. It is in the same direction anyway."

Amy then turned to Abby and reminded her, "Please drive slowly. Make sure Sue reaches her company safely. Okay?"

"For sure," stated Abby. Without any more debate, she addressed Sue, "Let's go."

Sue had no choice but to follow Abby to her car.

After getting inside the car, she remained silent as she knew that Abby invited her for a reason. Sue felt she had something to tell her, so she just waited patiently.

Indeed, her feeling was right. As soon as Abby drove out of the parking area, she started speaking,

"Miss Wang, you are a very close friend of Sher's, right?"

"Yes," Sue confirmed. Wanting to further clarify, she added, "We have been good friends since we lived overseas. It has been quite a lot of years."

"Really?" Abby asked skeptically. With her eyebrows cocked, she went on inquiring, "But why do I feel that the relationship between you and her is not as strong as you are making it seem?"

Sue tilted her head inching closer to Abby and asked, "Miss Zhao, what are you implying? Please be straightforward. There is no need to hide."

Abby took advantage of the moment and, without hesitation, started threatening Sue, "Alright, since you gave me the green light, I will spell it out for you. I don't know what exactly you want from Sher, but I have to warn you. If you dare hurt her again, I will make sure you pay for it."

Hearing Abby's threat, Sue looked down and tried to hide her sarcastic smile. She had that coming.

She then looked back at Abby and addressed her concerns. "Miss Zhao, I understand where you are coming from. I have done a lot of wrong things in the past but please, trust me when I say that I really have no intention of hurting Sheryl. I just want to pay her back for everything she has done for me and help her as much as I can. I am not a monster to still want to hurt her after everything that has happened."

Sue took a moment to regain her composure, as she was starting to take Abby's words to heart, and then reiterated, "I know better than anyone else how much Sher has done for me. All I want to do is repay her kindness. I really appreciate her presence in my life. How can you think that I am still trying to

hurt her?"

Reluctant, Abby replied, "I don't know. Despite everything you're saying, I still can't trust you. After all, you have proven you can't be trusted. Actions speak louder than words, and yours have certainly resonated far."

Chapter 882 Asking For A Leave

There was a slight hurt look on Sue's face when she found out that Abby was allowed to assume that she had some dirty tricks up her sleeve. If there was anything that the innocent woman hated, it was being judged and misunderstood.

"Whatever it is that you think about me, go ahead and think it. But, you have to know that I have a clean intention and I have no business hurting Sheryl. I don't plan to bring her harm. I promise," Sue generously explained with eyes that did not lie.

"I sure do hope so," Abby replied in a passive-aggressive tone, implying that she did not believe a single thing Sue was saying. "Don't forget that Sher trusts you more than anyone, but I don't; I'll be watching you all the time. If you even try to hurt her, I will know. I suggest you figure out how you'll get through the consequences now," the misled woman threatened the wrongly accused one.

Usually, Abby's approach would easily create a fuss; people would immediately get mad and be all

defensive about it.

However, Sue did not feel even the slightest of spite for the woman before her -- she did do something in the past to harm her friendship with Sheryl and she understood that whatever Abby was doing was out of concern for Sheryl.

If she were Abby, she'd probably do the same thing for Sheryl.

"Okay, I'll keep that in mind," Sue assured the confrontational woman, making sure that she understood that the situation was being handled maturely.

Abby didn't say anything more once she heard what she wanted to hear. After dropping Sue off at the gate of BM Corporation, she quickly drove away. The mature woman who was proud of how she handled the confrontation gave herself a pat on the back before heading straight to Holley's office.

Knock! Knock! "Come in!"

After Holley told her to come in, Sue pushed the door open and gently invited herself inside Holley's office, keeping her manners and professionalism. Holley, who was on the phone, motioned for her guest to take a seat before ending her call. "Yeah, I see what you're saying. I'm sorry, but can I get

back to you later? I have something urgent to deal with right now. Okay, thank you. Bye," the corporate woman said.

After dropping the call, the woman walked up to Sue and gave her a big, welcoming smile. "My secretary just brought in some freshly squeezed orange juice. Would you like some?" Holley offered enthusiastically.

"No, thank you, Miss Ye," the shy woman refused politely. She somehow had an intuition that this seemingly kind and careful Holley had more secrets than she let off.

It was strange to Sue that Holley always carried around a big, bright smile on her face. For some reason, Sue could not feel the sincerity of the woman's enthusiasm.

"I've heard so much about you and your family," Holley uttered in an almost-angry voice, sympathizing with Sue. "Sorry, I have been so busy focusing on the company's welfare recently. I should haven talked and taken care of you sooner," the businesswoman continued with a look of remorse on her face.

"Surely you meant well, Miss Ye," Sue responded in a polite, but distant manner. "You are my boss. It is unprofessional to bother you about my family issues," the poor woman explained, slightly telling her

boss off to mind her own business.

"Sue, for God's sake, don't you say that again. It's not like we're strangers to each other," the boss cried out, looking at the woman behind her office desk helplessly, obviously pretending to be affected and hurt. "You're my friend, Sue. Don't ever think twice about that," Holley continued to be pretentious and it was beginning to make Sue feel uneasy.

"Miss Ye, I appreciate your thoughtfulness, but you have to remember that I am just a mere unknown model. I can't possibly be your friend," the uncomfortable woman said faintly, dragging herself to pretend not to know the ploy of the woman who thought of nothing else but business.

The sigh of resignation escaped the corporate lord, as she felt how Sue was subtly pushing her away.

Keeping her distance, Holley refuted, "Well, I may not be your friend, but I'm still your boss." Then she aggressively demanded, "So feel free to ask me for help whenever you're in a tough spot. It's my responsibility." In order to make her words to go in accordance with her social status, a boss must connect with the employee. This way, she could also avoid making Sue suspicious of her hidden motives. For Holley, it was like hitting two birds with one stone. However, Sue was not stupid no matter

how hard her boss tried to relate to her personal life in work. "Besides, you nearly missed the show.

That greatly affects your records in work, you know," the boss said, trying to equally justify her kindness.

The moment Holley finished talking, Sue fell into a pit of embarrassment. She could not hide the guilt plastered onto her face. Her boss let out a small sigh of relief and added, "I can have your mother and brother evicted from your apartment right now if you want me to."

"There is no need for that, Miss Ye," Sue once again refused a generous offer. "I can handle them myself," the prideful woman said.

Sue's apparent estrangement bothered the woman in her business coat. "Then..." Holley hesitated and asked, "What did you come to see me for?"

"I'm here for two things," Sue quickly answered, knowing real well what her original intentions were.

"First, I came to say that Sheryl could not come to work today because she had something urgent to do. She was going to call you about the big news she got last night, but it was late and she did not want to interrupt your sleep, so she asked me to ask you for a leave today."

Upon hearing Sheryl's sudden request for a leave, Holley furrowed her brows and said, "Hmp! Sheryl

has been over-using her privileges. How rude is it to ask someone else to ask for a leave for her?"

The woman whined and added, "Since her comeback from Shining Company, she has become a completely different person. They really fed up her ego, huh?"

She must be getting a little carried away, and have forgotten who she really is. She must be thinking that if Charles has a crush on her, she could do anything she pleases as if she has stepped out with her career in the world. This is ridiculous!"

"It's not that easy to get into a rich and powerful family. Love? Nonsense! If a couple does not come from families who possess equal statuses, they will come to create a conflict sooner or later," the boss vented out.

"Miss Ye," Sue said when her boss was finally finished leaving herself out of breath from talking. It was finally Sue's turn to talk. "As far as I'm concerned, your family and Mr. Han's family aren't equal in status either, but Mr. Han is still always so nice to you and even trusts you with the whole company. Aren't you happy?" Sue asked with a look of mocking innocence on her face.

"So why would Sheryl have to suffer for the same exact thing?" she continued to question Holley. The

innocent look on Sue's face suddenly shifted into a cold smile.

She knew that the point she was making was embarrassing her boss. "Well..." Holley forced an awkward and strange smile. At a loss for words, the woman turned and sat down on her big leather seat. After a moment of silence, she finally turned to Sue as if she had finished scheming something vengeful. "Didn't you say you were here for two things? What's the other one?" the boss began the conversation.

"Oh, I want to take some time off work, too," Sue answered blatantly.

"Some time? How long of a time are we talking?" the stressed out boss asked. Holley was now frowning. The idea that two of her employees were leaving little to no sentiment for their work was devastating to her.

"A year," Sue said faintly as though she weren't asking for too much.

"What?!" Holley said in utter disbelief. Her eyes widened in surprise as she stared at Sue. "Are you kidding me? You're taking a year off? How long is your contract period?" the boss bombarded her model with questions.

"I know it's difficult for you to grant me this request, Miss Ye, but I have no other choice," Sue explained

with a bitter smile on her face. "I'm pregnant and I want to devote more time for this upcoming baby," she added.

"You're pregnant?" the boss asked, hoping for a reiteration. Holley was taken aback by the sudden news. After a brief pause, she inquired, "Is the father Anthony?"

"Yes," Sue answered honestly. She hesitated for a while and eventually went on saying, "The time of the contract can be extended for another year. Surely, in my case, it is impossible for me to walk in high heels while carrying another human being in my belly, isn't it?"

"Yes, you're right. The health of you and your baby is now paramount," Holley agreed and echoed Sue's idea. If the truth were to be told, Holley tensed up in excitement when she learned that Sue was carrying Anthony's baby. She immediately decided on Sue's request, saying, "Tell the personnel department that I've given you the permission to take a year off."

"Thank you very much, Miss Ye." Sue's face lit up in joy of the approved request. It was not all the time that authorities gave her what she asked. "If there's nothing more you require of me, I'll head to the personnel department," said the happy soon-to-be mother.

"Hold on, Sue," Holly said, robbing Sue of her celebration. "How are you and Anthony doing?" the boss interfered.

"Miss Ye, I don't think that has anything to do with our professional relationship," Sue blurted out in a stern voice with her face growing cold. "I don't know what you're planning to do, but I'm telling you, if you try to undermine Sheryl, I'm not letting you get away with it," Sue threatened her boss fiercely for her friend before storming off.

Chapter 883 The Visit

"Look at you. What are you talking about?" Holley said with a dry smile and a hint of nervousness in her voice. She never expected her innermost thoughts to be pointed out by Sue so frankly. It made her uneasy to have her secrets thrown right back in her face because she wasn't going to admit having such malicious ideas. She felt embarrassment creep up her neck, and it pushed her to defend herself, "How could you suggest that? With all the laws and regulations in place, how could I even think to do anything illegal just to bring Sheryl harm. Take this with a pinch of salt. I was only curious."

Sue didn't respond but instead stared at Holley with a cold expression. Such an explanation was far from satisfactory for Sue, of course. Given the other's reaction, Sue thought she wouldn't get anything out of her at the time. Sue decided not to waste more time and to end the conversation. "If that's all, I'll

go now."

Without another beat, she turned around and walked away. Being dismissed like that, however, triggered anger in Holley.

She thought about all she had done to try to ruin the relationship between Sheryl and Sue. She almost succeeded, but much to her dismay, it seemed that she missed something while executing her plan, and the two were brought back together once again.

And after all that, Sue, who was supposed to play a crucial role in Holley's plan, didn't seem to have any interest in helping her plot against Sheryl. It was time for new plans then.

Meanwhile, Sue was oblivious to the even greater thunderstorm waiting for her at home.

Back home from Anthony's office, Peggy was delighted. It seemed that things were going in her favor, and she had a strong feeling that the money she had been after would end up in her pocket very soon.

As soon as Allen saw her arrive home, he rushed to her anxiously. "Mom, how did it go? Did the bitch agree to pay us the money?"

Peggy scoffed, "Since when did we depend on that useless woman to pay back the money we

deserve?" With a cold face, she announced proudly, "I've found a much better solution. Just wait and see. This time, we will not only pay back what we owe, but also get a great deal back."

Allen's eyes widened with excitement. "Really?" His exhilaration shot up as he heard his mother reveal the new solution. Still staring at her eagerly, he asked, "Mom, how much can we get?"

"You shouldn't concern yourself with that," she retorted impatiently. "If ever your clever wife finds out, she'll stick her big nose in and demand a portion of it."

"Mom, Doris won't do that. She's not that kind of person," Allen stood by and defended his wife. "Are you referring to the sum to pay to her family? It was you who agreed to pay her, right?"

"Yes, it was me," she admitted reluctantly. "But it's for my dearest grandson. If she ever dares to give birth to a girl, she won't be receiving any more kindness from me."

"Mom..."

Allen started, wanting to speak more on Doris' behalf but he hesitated and Peggy interrupted him impatiently. "Alright, rest assured. This money that's coming in is going to be yours and hers. But you'd better tell her not to be impatient. Tell her to wait. The more she wants it, the longer I will wait to give it to her. I'm curious to see what she would do about it," Peggy said casually, but her tone was like that of

a warning. She had already sensed that her authority in the family was diminishing because of Doris' presence, especially her hold on Allen. To ensure her status in the family, she decided to give Doris a lesson -- make her remember who the person with the real power in the family was.

Having no choice, when Allen went back to his room, he told Doris what his mother had said. As he expected, she didn't take it well. In an attempt to ease her discontent and anger, he attempted to stress to her the good side to things, "Doris, rest assured. I'm the only person in the world that my mom loves.

After she gets the money, she will definitely hand it over to me, and what belongs to me belongs to you, right?"

After hesitating again, he continued, "Please just bear with it for a while longer, okay?"

"Bear with it... bear with it..." Doris repeated in frustration. "How long do you want me to bear with it?"

she questioned Allen in anger. "Why do I have to marry a coward like you?"

"Don't be angry, please don't be angry," Allen pleaded. Even as he was harshly rebuked, Allen put on a smile and reminded her to mind her body. It wasn't good for her to be stressed at such a time.

He seemed to be unconcerned by her words, igniting Doris' anger even further. There was no way to

properly vent her roaring emotions, and she was at a loss for what to do.

All the while, Peggy could hear their quarrel from outside the room. She knew that Doris would complain to Allen about the arrangement, but she paid it no mind. She was the one in control of the family anyway, not Doris. Peggy merely scoffed at the little episode and headed to the kitchen to prepare the meal.

Just as she put on her apron, she heard someone knock at the door.

With her apron on, she went to see who it was. It was someone she didn't recognize -- a well-dressed lady with heavy make-up on stood in front of her. The moment she saw Peggy, her expression turned passionate. With a warm grin, she greeted Peggy, "Hello, are you Sue's mother?"

"Yes. And you are?" Peggy asked in return with knitted brows. The random visit gave her an uneasy feeling.

"I've come to see you," explained the woman. Laura was too anxious to sleep the previous night. The fact that Anthony and Sue had broken up still did not sit well with her.

Afraid of more uncertainties and distance developing between the young former couple, she was up the whole night thinking of what she could possibly do get things in order. She came to the conclusion that

meeting Sue's family would help her settle the matter between them.

"I've brought you some bird's nests and ginseng as gifts. I hope you like them," Laura said graciously as she handed the packages to Peggy.

"Sorry, but you haven't told me who you are," Peggy said instead of taking the gifts. She looked at the stranger with caution -- she had no clue who the woman could possibly be.

"Sorry, I was just so excited that I forgot to introduce myself." Laura smiled a little too brightly and gave a proper introduction, "I'm Anthony's mother. You can call me Mrs. Xiao."

"Oh, so you're Mrs. Xiao..." Peggy's eyes brightened when she realized that it was Anthony's mother -- how opportune, she thought it was. She warmly welcomed her guest into the house and said, "The gifts you brought are so expensive... I couldn't possibly..."

"Don't worry about that. Please take them," Laura insisted generously. With that, Peggy didn't say anymore and happily took the packages from Laura's hands. Inside, the house was messy, with clothes and other things scattered about, except for the sofa, which turned out to be the only decent place for a guest to sit.

"Please come. Take a seat." Peggy led Laura to the sofa, pushing off anything scattered on it. "I'm sorry that it's a bit messy. It's been rather busy around here. I haven't found time to clear everything up yet. I hope it's not too bothersome."

"Of course not," Laura said politely. Even she was embarrassed to say that as well, as the messiness was way beyond "a bit messy". Out of courtesy, she had to hide her dissatisfaction.

"Mom, who was that?" Allen asked as he came out of the room. He paused when he saw the lady, all dolled up, sitting in the middle of their messy living room. He took a moment to inspect her.

Laura was expecting to see Sue there, but much to her disappointment, it was only the rest of the family at home. "Mrs. Wang, may I know if Sue is home?" the guest asked.

"This isn't her home," Allen retorted in annoyance.

"Mind your words," Peggy shushed her son, unhappy about his rude attitude. She put a hand on his shoulder and subtly squeezed in warning, making sure he would watch his mouth in front of their guest.

She turned to Laura and explained, "You see, this is a rather small house. It would be too crowded for four of us to squeeze in here, so Sue has moved out to live at her friend's place for the time being.

She's such a nice girl. Now three of us are residing in this house."

"I see." Laura simply nodded.

"Why are you still standing there? Call your sister and tell her to come eat with us later," Peggy ordered

Allen sharply.

"Okay, okay. I'll call her now," he agreed and excused himself to reach Sue.

When Sue first heard the request, she thought it was ridiculous and refused outright. However, when

she heard that Laura would be there, she changed her mind and rushed to take a taxi home.

Back at the house, Peggy still wore a welcoming smile. "I was just talking to Sue about you the other

day. We were planning to visit you sometime, but we didn't expect you to come by so soon. I'm sorry for

your trouble coming over. I should've visited you first."

"Please don't say that. I wanted to come visit," Laura returned with a big smile.

"Yes, we are a family anyway. I suppose it doesn't matter," Peggy said with a smile of her own.

It was still puzzling, though. Even as she racked her brain, Peggy couldn't figure out why the woman

would visit them. It seemed as though Laura had no intention of getting to the point anytime soon, so

Peggy let her impatience surface.

"I'm still not sure why you've come, though," she probed.

After pausing for a moment, Laura sighed deeply. "You've probably guessed... that I've come to discuss the matter between our children."

Wearing a wry smile, Laura continued, "Anthony has always been a good son. He knows how to handle his own life, and I don't have to worry about him so much, ever since he was a child. It's just this... his marriage, that I can't help but worry about."

Having realized that Laura wanted to discuss the marriage with her, Peggy let herself relax and the tension in her shoulders eased. "Please don't say that. I've seen Anthony. He is a great and mature son indeed. I think he is a good boy."

Chapter 884 Laura's Surprised Visit

"Really?" A happy smile lit up Laura's face when she heard Peggy praising Anthony.

Through the years, she prided herself for having Anthony as her son. She always felt that Anthony was so outstanding and so perfect that no ordinary woman could easily match him. That was why if other people openly expressed admiration towards her son, her heart was unfailingly brimming with overwhelming happiness.

"Of course," Peggy happily replied wearing a smile on her face. "When I first saw Anthony, I believed

he is such an outstanding man, indeed a far cry from my son, Allen. He looks strikingly impressive.

Honestly, my daughter Sue is so lucky that she can be with your extraordinary son. I don't worry about my daughter any more when she became Anthony's girlfriend," Peggy kept buttering Laura up.

Laura put on a big smile and pretended to be humble. "You are flattering me. My son is not so much good as you say. He is just worse off than some but better off than many."

Then Peggy stared at Laura and spoke out her confusion. "In-laws, what are you coming here for today..."

Hearing Peggy's question, Laura gave a wry smile and tentatively answered, "I come here because... I

heard that they broke up with each other. Well, is that true? I want to know what on earth happened. All

I know is that they're getting along just fine. Why did they suddenly break up? It is really quite confusing."

Peggy replied in a reassuring voice, "They just fall out with each other over something. I think they didn't break up at all. Don't worry." She then added, "But as you said, these two are young and always impulsive. They are more inclined to be aggressive when it comes to their misunderstanding. They

don't know yet how to take family responsibilities at all. I guess, they should learn how to be calm or they should mellow out to work things out."

"Yes, that's true..." Laura said as she readily agreed with a deep sigh. "I came here today to ask Sue about what happened. If they don't have any intention to break up, why don't we just make arrangements for their marriage as soon as possible? A long delay means trouble. What do you think of it?" Laura explicitly suggested in a tone laced with excitement.

"I definitely agree," Peggy enthusiastically said while grinning. "Sue is my only daughter. I will truly be happy if she can get married to her Mr. Right and get accepted to your respectable family." Peggy nodded her head.

"Fine, we have made a deal. Actually, I really like Sue. She is not impulsive like other girls. And she also has good manners," Laura praised Sue with a happy smile on her face.

"Oh! That's right. My daughter is a good girl," Peggy answered in a happy voice as she beamed at Laura. Peggy and Laura had been chatting for a while when Sue was rushing back home. Surprised to see Laura sitting on the sofa, she stopped where she was standing. She then furrowed her brows and

asked in disbelief, "Aunt, why... why are you here?"

"I had called you up, but you didn't answer my call. I couldn't help worrying about you, so I decided to come here to see you. By the way, I also want to visit your family. So here I am. And I think you will be glad to welcome me here, won't you?" Laura blissfully replied with great joy etched in her face.

Long before Sue could speak, Peggy had already chimed in excitedly, "Of course you are most welcomed here. And we are so happy that you have come."

Peggy then strutted her way towards Sue and whispered earnestly to her in a discreet manner, "Just cheer up. How could you show a poker face to your future mother-in-law?" Then she started to threaten Sue, "I am warning you, I will teach you a harsh lesson if you try to drive Laura away."

With a sarcastic smile, Peggy continued in a low voice, "If you still want to keep your baby, just behave yourself well and treat Laura properly. If you refuse to obey my words, I will beat you up until you suffer a miscarriage. Mark my words, you can try if you don't believe me."

Sue glared at Peggy in utter disbelief. She had never imagined that her mother would say such vicious words.

"Why are you still standing there? Just come here and accompany your future mother-in-law," Peggy

pulled Sue as she urged her amiably as if nothing happened between them a moment ago. She was still all smile at Laura when she instructed Sue, "You just entertain her here. And I'll go to the kitchen first to cook our dinner."

Then she glanced back at Laura, still wearing that big smile and insisted kindly, "Mrs. Xiao, stay here for a little while and then have a meal with us. We can sort out other details during dinner time. What do you think of it?"

"That's right. Sounds good to me," Laura nodded her head and replied appreciatively.

Soon after Peggy left for the kitchen, Laura tenderly held Sue's hand and pulled Sue at her side. Then she asked in a soft voice, "What's the matter with you? Your face looks pale. Are you alright?"

"I am fine," replied Sue. She forced a half smile. Then she made up an excuse, "Maybe I didn't get good nights of sleep these days. So I feel a little tired."

Laura started nagging after hearing Sue's conditions, "Why are you so silly? You should tell me that there is no more spare room for you to live with your family. I think you should know that Anthony's house can accommodate you as it has many empty rooms. You can choose any room you like. And in

this way, you can also strengthen your relationship with Anthony. What do you think of it?" She stared intently at Sue and added, "You have confidently promised me that you will win Anthony's heart. But why did you suddenly give it up?"

"Aunt..." Sue felt embarrassed and was tongue-tied. She didn't quite know how to explain. After finally having her thoughts collected in her mind, she then gathered her courage and opened her mouth, "The current situations that we are in, are totally unlike the previous ones. We truly broke up with each other.

We really have gone our separate ways. You need not..."

Sue's words were cut-off. She felt awkward with Laura's insistent behavior. Now she began to understand Sheryl's feelings.

It was definitely annoying to be harassed by such a stubborn woman.

"Why? Why did you break up? Could you just end your relationship without any reason at all? It really doesn't make sense to me." Laura watched Sue closely and threw her a lot of questions at one go.

"I..." Sue was absolutely dumbfounded and was at a loss that she didn't know how to answer.

"I think you also don't have an answer, right?" Laura said with a sardonic smile. Then she prompted,

"Your silence shows that you still have a place for Anthony in your heart. It only means that you still love him. Then why do you insist on leaving him?"

"Aunt, please stop asking me," Sue replied with a wry smile. Her tone sounded apologetic. "There are some personality conflicts between Anthony and me. We will not be able to make it work even if we stay together. So it's better to end our relationship. As such..."

"What you said is just an excuse, a lame excuse," Laura abruptly interrupted Sue's words. Laura was now looking at Sue with an aloof expression on her face. She felt a slight disappointment towards her. Laura did not stop persuading Sue until her jaws ached. Sue, on the other hand, remained adamant and chose not to divulge the reason. With this, Laura was becoming unhappy about Sue's attitude.

"I have called Anthony up. He must be on the way here. Sue, love is not an easy thing. Now that you chose to be together with each other, you should be responsible for your relationship. You couldn't just break up so impulsively. It's unfair to both of you," Laura bitterly said as she helplessly stared at Sue.

Laura did not stop there. She seemed not willing to give up as she continued, "Today, I will seize this opportunity. We will talk with your family about your relationship. If you can manage to speak out a justifiable reason, then I will agree with you to end your relationship. But if your reason couldn't

convince me..."

Laura paused for a moment as if to organize her thoughts and words, "If your reason fails to convince me, you have better get married as soon as possible. I still want to be a grandmother soon."

"Aunt, I..." Sue still wanted to make herself understood. But Laura didn't give her a chance to finish her words and immediately interrupted her, "Fine, you don't need to say anything now. When Anthony arrives, we will talk again."

Laura stayed silent after blurting out her last words. She was cold and aloof and not satisfied with the way Sue was behaving. So she began to ignore her.

Realizing that Laura completely disregarded her, Sue knew that she wouldn't listen to her even if she continued to give some explanations, so she just sighed in total resignation.

And the only thing that mattered to her now was her expectation that Anthony would take her side when he arrived later.

Chapter 885 Quit Smoking

When Anthony knocked on the door, Sue didn't waste any time and opened it hastily.

"Tell me what happened. Why did my mom come here?" Anthony asked with a frown as soon as he

saw Sue.

"I don't know either. Please take your mom back home shortly. If she stays here, things will go wrong sooner or later." With an agitated look on her face, Sue shook her head slightly and smiled bitterly.

As Anthony was walking inside to talk to Laura, he was swiftly dragged by Sue. She spoke to him in a serious tone, "Anthony, remember what I have told you. No matter what happens, you have to claim that we are not romantically involved with each other. This is the best thing you can do. So, please!

Please help me."

"Is that what you really want me to say?" Anthony asked her deliberately.

Sue suddenly felt dumbfounded in front of his dark eyes as he stared at her quietly and intently. But behind his eyes was an eagerness to tell her something. She felt like she would sink into them. Able to quickly regain her composure, she took a deep breath and replied, "Yes, that's exactly what I want you to say."

Anthony coldly pulled his hand away from her. He then looked away and said, "I'll do what I think is right."

Anthony approached his mother, Laura, and asked her, "Mom, why did you come here? Why didn't you

tell me about it before?"

"Humph! Why son? Would you allow me to come here if I told you?" Laura replied sharply.

Anthony grinned. He then tried to persuade her, "Since you have already visited here, can we leave now?"

Anthony tried his very best to convince Laura. "Mom, don't worry about it. I'll handle the things between

Sue and me properly. You will be satisfied with the conclusion I'll make. I promise!"

"No!" As Anthony tried to pull her out, Laura threw off his hands. Wearing an upset face, she asked coldly, "Haven't you solved it yet? Are you going to push me out? Now, I'm telling you. If you don't give me an answer today, I won't leave!"

"Mom..." Anthony grimaced. "Why? What is the answer you want? Just tell me and I'll give it to you right now!"

"Don't ever think of fooling me!" Laura could not contain her madness as she intensely glared at Anthony. "Since we are both here today, you and Sue should tell us how you are going to solve it! You need to tell us clearly your plan in the future. Are you going to get married or not? It's a simple yes or

no answer! What's so difficult with that? You have to give us an answer!"

"Mom..." Anthony pleaded. He was also annoyed by her aggressive questions. That was why he complained to her impatiently, "Didn't you promise that I could make my own decisions? Why do you interfere and force me now?"

"Huh?! Make your own decisions? If I let you do that every time, you will still be with that woman now!"

Laura sneered. She then threatened Anthony, "Anyway, if you don't settle your relationship with Sue right now, I won't leave!"

Laura's stubborn attitude made both Anthony and Sue irritated. They felt helpless, especially that they did not know how to change her mind.

"What happened?" Peggy rushed out from the kitchen when she heard the quarrel outside. She saw the three of them grumpily standing there so she came towards Sue and yelled angrily, "Was it you?

What did you do that displeased Anthony and your mother-in-law?"

"No! No! Don't be mistaken!" Laura replied with a smile. "I was just lecturing my son. He wanted me to leave once he arrived here."

"What?" Peggy turned to Anthony and asked in a surprised tone, "How can you do this? We'll be a family sooner or later. Isn't it great for us to have a meal together?"

Peggy was very hospitable. She continued to convince Anthony, "Stay here for lunch. If you have something to discuss, let's talk about it while enjoying our food."

Peggy was very happy so she couldn't help herself but smile like a flower. She delightfully looked at Anthony and Laura. She then offered, "Please enjoy some tea. The meal will be ready soon. Sue, come inside to help me."

Sue, though unwilling, was forced to follow her. Once they entered the kitchen, Peggy closed the door and slapped her in the face.

Sue wasn't surprised as she had already expected that from her mother. She touched her right face while staring at Peggy's angry face and sneered, "Is it enough? Are you happy now?" As Sue spoke, she turned the other side of her face to Peggy, encouraging her, "Come on! Give me another spank! Do it if you have guts!"

Peggy only gave Sue a slap as a warning and she couldn't overdo it. Otherwise, she might ruin the important occasion they had as other people may learn about what she did.

Sue mocked, "What? Don't you want to do it again?"

She coldheartedly stared at Peggy's angry face and continued, "I know what you are thinking. You are afraid that Anthony and Laura would know how you treated me. What if they learn that you almost caused my miscarriage? All your beautiful dreams will vanish, won't they?"

Peggy frowned and looked at Sue through her hateful eyes. Peggy sneered, "Don't think that I'm not aware of your little dirty tricks! You didn't want me to demand money from Anthony, so you broke up with him urgently, right?"

Peggy sneered conceitedly. She then threatened, "I'm telling you, if I can't get the money, you'll be sorry! Don't think that you can escape from me! You know what I'm capable of!"

She approached Sue wickedly. "If you dare mess up with my business, I won't spare you!"

Sue was not afraid of her and sneered, "What if I do?"

"You..." Peggy was infuriated by her provocation and raised up her hand again. However this time, she forced herself to put it down and threatened in a deep voice, "Be mindful of your behavior!"

Sue knew that Peggy didn't dare to do anything to her right now. She snorted and walked out.

When she came out of the kitchen, Anthony and Laura were still arguing. She felt tired of the chaos and walked through them to the balcony. She wanted to breathe some fresh air and seek for a moment of peace. Anthony followed her immediately.

As she reached the balcony, Sue looked down only to see bustling crowd on the street, which made her even more fretful.

Anthony tried to soothe her by patting her on the shoulder. "Don't worry. The right time will make everything fine."

Sue snorted, ignoring his comfort. She asked him, "Give me a cigarette!"

She was not a heavy smoker. But when she was in a bad mood she would want to try one. She knew that Anthony was a smoker who always carried tobacco and lighters with him.

Surprisingly, Anthony shook his head as he didn't want her to do it.

"Why is that?" Sue didn't believe him. She went through his pockets carefully. However, she didn't find any.

"You... Did you quit smoking?" Sue found it difficult to believe the scenario.

"Hmm, almost!" Yesterday, when he learned that Sue was pregnant, he decided to quit smoking. He

looked at Sue and told her, "You are pregnant now. For the sake of your health and the baby's, don't dare smoke no matter how sad and depressed you are."

Chapter 886 How Much Sue Cost

"How come you..." Sue seemed to have been startled as Anthony asked her about her pregnancy.

She had thought that she had covered it well and no one would come to know that she was pregnant.

However, then she remembered that Peggy took her pregnancy as her trump card. How could she not play it?

She smiled bitterly and said to Anthony, "She seemed to have told you about that."

"Yes." Anthony nodded his head in affirmation.

Sue sneered and continued, "So? How much does she want this time?"

"Two hundred millions," Anthony replied in a casual tone.

"Two hundred millions!" Sue uttered each word slowly with amazement in her voice. She let out a bitter smile and said, "I'm worth a lot in her mind."

Sue pretended to be unmoved by the fact but deep inside she felt defeated as Peggy finally found a way to involve Anthony into this muck that she had so ardently tried to avoid. Even Anthony could

sense that her heart was in pain.

He really wanted to reach out and take her in his arms to comfort her, but he stopped himself.

After a moment of silence, he looked at Sue with creased eyebrows and asked, "Why didn't you tell me about it?"

"Tell you?" Sue looked back at Anthony with a sterner frown. Sue sneered and said, "Is there any necessary to tell you? Can you put it back for me?"

Anthony frowned tightly and continued inquiring her, "Don't you really want the child so badly?"

"How about you?" Sue raised her eyebrows and asked, "Do you want this child?"

"Of course I do." Anthony spoke earnestly. "Sue, I admit that I was in love with Sheryl when I was with you. I even felt that I was staying with you just to vent my feelings."

"Cut it now! Will you stop it?" Repetition of the same words tired Sue. She turned her face away.

She believed in each and every word that Anthony spoke. But she was resolute to stay away from him lest Peggy take advantage of their relationship. She had no other way than to refuse him over and over again.

"Sue, please let me finish my words first." Anthony held Sue. She turned her face downwards to avoid

eye contact with him.

He looked at Sue earnestly and continued, "I have been feeling guilty for you and trying to make up for you since yesterday. Then your mother broke the news of your pregnancy to me. Trust me, I never imagined I would be so happy on having a child. I felt as if I was on the ninth cloud."

Anthony looked at Sue, added, "I admit, I always thought that I was in love with Sheryl. But after you refused my offer to compensate, I felt that it was not Sheryl. In fact it was you. Much before I could assess my love for you had long surpassed Sheryl's. Rather, it was you whom I loved. I did not realize this when you were there with me. Trust me Sue. Just for once."

Anthony held her hand and looked at her affectionately as he said, "I had come to see you yesterday only to tell this to you. I want you to know that I will be a good husband and a good father. Sue, let's raise the child together. Please give me a chance, Sue. Just for once."

Sue was truly moved by Anthony's words. If she had heard this prior to her pregnancy, she would have been convinced, She would perhaps be so excited that she would hug him and tell him that she was willing to be with him.

But after Anthony coming to know about her pregnancy, his confession for his love towards Sue, sounded like more of a compensation perhaps because he felt that the child was his responsibility.

She sneered and shook off his hand, "What's that supposed to mean? Confession of your love to me?"

"Yes, Sue, I'm confessing my love to you." Anthony remained calm. He could understand her grievances towards him. He had made up his mind to get her back with him no matter what. "Sue, please forgive me for telling this to you so late, but I believe it's not too late yet. Let's start everything all over again," Anthony said.

"No." Sue spoke in a stern voice. "Anthony, I know you are saying all this because you feel responsible for the baby. It's only because I'm pregnant with your child. You don't love me. And I have told you long back that I don't need any kind of compensation from you."

Sue smiled bitterly and continued, "It doesn't matter, Anthony. I have accepted the fact that you don't love me long ago. You don't need to comfort me by saying all this. I don't hold you responsible for anything."

"No, I am not comforting you. I'm seriously." Anthony held Sue's hands tightly and said, "Sue, I'm quite sure that I'm in love with you right now, not Sheryl."

"Anthony, just stop repeating this in front of me." Sue interrupted Anthony's words impatiently. "I don't want to hear the words you just said. Please don't say it any more."

Sue then stroked her stomach. A soft gentleness flickered on her face. Immediately, she turned to

Anthony coldly and said, "The child is mine. Only mine. I will give birth to him and raise him up. He has nothing to do with you. No matter what happens, I will bear the consequences if any. Please don't be puzzled by this. At the same time I will not be bothered with whom you choose to get married."

Sue looked at Anthony coldly and said, "Please excuse me for now. I'll have to take my leave now."

Anthony wanted to stop her but failed to counter her cold and stern behavior. He watched her receding figure and she walked steadily towards the living room.

Sue walked into the living room and found Laura waiting for her. As soon as she entered, Laura asked hurriedly, "How was it? Did you speak with each other? Have you cleared the misunderstanding amongst yourself?"

"There's no misunderstanding between us, Aunt Laura." Sue spoke in a cold and nonchalant voice,

"The relationship between me and Anthony has ended completely. Auntie, I request you not to come to

my apartment like this any more."

"What?" Laura's eyes literally popped out as she asked. "What were you talking about, Sue?" Laura was completely taken aback by Sue's words.

She stared at Sue amazed. Laura just could not match her earlier behavior with her when she was extra polite with this harsh word that she had just uttered. Sue maintained a stern look on her face and refused to even look at Laura. Laura was rendered speechless. After a moment of silence, Sue looked straight at Laura and said, "I have just told you that it's all over between me and Anthony. Please don't bother me any more. Do I make myself clear?"

"You... Fine." Laura recovered from the state of shock and was furious for being insulted like this. She picked up her purse and stood up. She spoke in an enraged voice, "I must be crazy coming here to get humiliated like this. Don't worry. From now on, I will not bother you anymore." Sue stood with her arms crossed over one another and her face turned away as if Laura's words had the least impact on her.

Laura was about to storm out the apartment when Peggy rushed out and stopped her. She held Laura's hand and said, "What happened, Dear? We were supposed to have a family dinner together, tonight.

Please tell me what happened?"

"Don't call me "dear" please." Laura sneered and said, "I'm afraid that I I can't afford it."

"What the hell is going on?" Peggy stared once at Laura and then at Sue. She frowned and asked,

"Somebody gotta tell me. What's wrong?"

"Just ask your decent daughter." Laura curved her lips and spoke in a sarcastic manner eyeing Sue from the corner of her eyes.

Peggy realized Sue must have told something to Laura. She got frustrated that whatever attempts she made to extort money, Sue was ruining all her plans one after the other. Peggy turned to Sue with gloomy face and shouted, "What the hell did you do this time?"

"Nothing." Yet another indifferent reply came out of Sue's mouth. "I was just asking her not to come here again. Since I and her son have broken up, there is no need for her to come here anymore," she added.

"Did you hear that?" Laura snapped at Peggy as soon as Sue finished her words. "Just look at her audacity. What kind of an upbringing she has that she doesn't know how to talk with elders?"

Laura shook Peggy's hands off and said with a sarcastic smile, "I don't think there is any need to have

a dinner together. Since we can't be in-laws, what is the point of staying here? I'd rather leave and save myself from being cold-shouldered."

"Dear, please don't go," Peggy pleaded. She looked at Laura with pleading eyes and requested to forgive her daughter's misdoings. Peggy realized that the top priority right now was to make Laura stay. She could consider teaching Sue a lesson later on.

She held Laura's hand and said, "Please have a seat. We can sit down and talk about it."

"After this, there's nothing to talk about anymore. Didn't you hear what she said before?" Laura sneered and said, "I will just take my leave now."

Watching Laura leaving, Peggy made her last and final attempt to stop her. She screamed out loud enough for Laura to hear, "She is pregnant."

Chapter 887 Bride Price

The voices and commotion in the house were blurred in Laura's mind. She suddenly paused in her tracks when Peggy dropped the news to her on this fine evening. Her eyes darted between Sue and Peggy in utter disbelief. "You... Can you repeat what you just said?" she asked again. There was a small lapse of silence in the whole apartment as Laura waited with a bated breath.

"I said... she's pregnant." Peggy finally spoke. Since Sue seemingly refused to chime in, Peggy

decided to tell Laura everything. "The child's father is Anthony," Peggy added as she looked straight into Laura's eyes.

Once again, Laura was in total disbelief. She was truly shocked by Peggy's words. "Is that true? What Peggy said is true?" Laura asked Sue for the umpteenth time.

A small frown made its way to Sue's face. She had never thought that Peggy would expose her pregnancy to Laura. Her hands fidgeted as she had no idea what to do or say next. Fortunately, Anthony inched closer to her just in time and answered his mother, "Yes, that's true."

Anthony gazed warmly at Laura. "Mom, you'll be a grandmother," he added with a gentle smile.

Laura's eyes appeared condescending at first, but she suddenly blurted out, "My son, how dare you!

Why didn't you tell me earlier?" It turned out that she was overjoyed by Sue's pregnancy. She patted

her son's back to offer her congratulations and then turned to Sue. Laura warmly held Sue's hands in

her own and gently inquired about her pregnancy experience, "How many months of your pregnancy?

Have you ever felt uncomfortable?"

Sue hadn't even answered her yet but Laura had already started talking again, and her arms were now

around Sue's shoulders. "I still remember in the time of my early pregnancy, I had morning sickness every day. I felt badly ill as if bile was threatening to spill out of me," she reminisced.

After Peggy told her of Sue's pregnancy, Laura quickly and suddenly forgone her poor manners and completely ignored Sue's harsh words towards her, as if it never even happened.

Her face lit up with pure joy and excitement with the news. She even started to think ahead about the wedding ceremony. "As you are pregnant, the wedding ceremony should be put on the agenda as soon as possible. Wearing a wedding dress with a big belly or holding the wedding ceremony after giving birth to the child will be the topic of gossips. Thus, we need to hold the wedding ceremony as quickly as we can," she directly told Sue.

A small frown arched on Laura's face for the second time when she realized how much they needed to squeeze in short time because of the pregnancy. "Fine, I have to select a lucky day and book a hotel for the wedding ceremony as quickly as possible," she said after carefully thinking about it.

Even though Laura's mind was full of many fabulous ideas for the wedding, she couldn't help but worry about the limited time they had to prepare for it. "In such a short time, I am not sure whether we could book the hotel..."

Laura was so excited with settling and prepping for the wedding ceremony that Sue almost hated to interrupt her joyous ramblings, but she had to. She cleared her throat and said, "Aunt Laura, the child is mine and he has nothing to do with Anthony."

"Sue, what exactly are you talking about?" Peggy chimed in and gave Sue a stern look. "Ridiculous words. How could you get pregnant by yourself?" she asked Sue in a lofty voice.

"Yes. That is right," Laura agreed and looked at Sue with a tender smile on her face. "Don't worry. If Anthony dares to bully you, you could tell me and I will sort him out," Laura added to reassure Sue.

However, Sue wasn't placated by Laura's words. "Aunt, that's not what I meant." Exasperation was evident on Sue's face. 'Why does no one understand me?' she thought.

Meanwhile, Anthony drew Sue's shoulders closer to him and chipped in the conversation. "Mom, how do I even dare to bully her?" he chided. His lips curled upward into a smile. "She is the most important person in my heart now. I promise, she is the last one on earth I will dare bully. Besides, she has my child in her belly," he said with utmost sincerity.

"You'd better keep that in your mind," Laura said with raised eyebrows. She was definitely pleased by

her son's words, but in the next second her face contorted to show worry. "What name should we give the baby?" she said tentatively. Anthony's brows shot up to his forehead at his mother's words.

"Mom, what are you thinking about?" he asked her incredulously. "As we still have no idea about the baby's gender, it is too early to think of the baby's name," he added.

Laura smiled good-naturedly in agreement. "Yes, you are right. I was overjoyed by Sue's pregnancy, and I am a little bit muddle-headed," she said in jest. While the rest of them continued to converse, the smell of stew and freshly steamed rice wafted from the kitchen.

Peggy had just finished cooking dinner, and invited everyone to eat first. The smell of food also beckoned Allen and Doris out of their room and they joined in the dining table. After they have all settled down, it was finally time to eat.

Everyone enjoyed their meals, especially Laura. She couldn't hide the joy on her face after knowing about Sue's pregnancy. She was all smiles and happy thoughts the whole time.

She warmly kept serving the food for Sue to make sure she would be full. Not to be out-mannered, Peggy also served lots of food to her daughter as a considerate mother.

Sue's bowl was laden with many delicious food, but she had no appetite and hadn't even touched

anything yet. She simply stared at them.

Anthony sensed this and turned to her. "What's wrong? You have no appetite to eat?" he calmly asked.

However, Sue still remained silent. She continued her staring contest with the bowl of food.

Her lack of appetite did not slip by Peggy's attention as well. "Sue, if you don't want to eat these dishes,

tell me what you want to eat later and I'll cook for you," she told Sue with a gentle smile. With the

serving of dinner and gentle questions, Peggy played the role of a kind mother.

The dinner continued. During the meal, Laura discussed matters of the wedding ceremony with Peggy.

"Peggy, since Sue is pregnant, should we also set out to prepare for the wedding ceremony?" she

asked. "To follow your family's local customs, what do we need to prepare? Tell me something about

that. I assure you that it definitely helps me to make a start with wedding ceremony," she added with a

grin.

Peggy looked at Laura who sat across her and thought about it for a moment.

After a short pause, she finally said, "As for the wedding thing, I don't have much opinions about it.

After all, Sue is going to marry Anthony. As far as I am concerned, how about following your family's

customs to prepare the wedding ceremony?"

"Okay, you can be rest assured that I will hold a decent wedding ceremony for them," Laura replied

warmly and stirred her bowl of food. A warm smile made its way onto Laura's face as she thought

about arranging the wedding.

However, all their talks about the wedding ceremony only made Sue feel depressed. She could feel the

anger boiling within her and just as when she was about to let it out, Anthony held her hand in his.

"Believe it or not, I really want to be with you now. I will take charge of the whole thing, and all you need

to do is to wait," he reassured her.

Somehow, she suddenly believed in his words in that moment.

She forced herself to calm down and silently observed what would happen next.

"But..." Peggy wanted to say something, but paused. In reality, Peggy didn't actually care about the

wedding thing at all. She didn't even want to think of it.

Her tone suddenly became hesitant, as if the next words were difficult for her to say.

Laura felt her uncertainty and reassured her. "Peggy, we will be a family in law right now. If you have

anything to say, just say it straight. Everything we do is for Sue and Anthony, so there is nothing we need to hide," she said with a smile.

Peggy smiled warmly back at her. "Yes, you are right. Look at me, I am muddle-headed because of joy," she said. She picked up her glass of water and took a sip.

"Now that you have said that, I will not hide anything from you," she continued.

She paused for a while before proceeding with her next words, "According to our local customs, giving the bride price is still a must. In the south, the more bride price you get, the more decent the wedding ceremony is. As you can see, Sue is now pregnant, so about bride price... can we have more?" Peggy finally finished what she had to say. Across her, Laura still ate her food with contentment.

At that moment, she didn't think too much about it. She simply thought what Peggy asked for was merely for the couple. She temporarily put down her utensils and turned to Peggy. "Don't worry. You can be rest assured that we can afford the money," she said with a gentle smile.

She glanced at her son and back to Peggy again, a proud grin etched on her lips. "Since Anthony had graduated from university, I began to save the money for his marriage. I hope that he can get married as soon as possible, so you can be sure that I will never treat Sue unfairly," she added.

"That is good. That's so kind of you," Peggy responded with a small smile of her own. Even if her facial expressions showed happiness, she was still a bit worried about the monetary matters so she asked again, "Laura, if I may ask you... how much have you prepared?" The dining room was quiet as everyone waited for Laura's response.

Anthony's mother had actually prepared a lot of money for it, but when she found out that Sue's family conditions wasn't good enough, she did not want to give too much money as the bride price. Thus, Laura cut down the supposed amount ten times. "Eight hundred and eighty-eight thousand," she finally said, and smiled at Peggy.

She thought that the number was already outrageous and generous for Sue's family. However, Doris, who kept quiet during the whole dinner, finally spoke out. "Aunt Laura, are you serious? It will be nothing like enough," Doris said in a cold voice. "Everyone knows that the Xiao family is a famous and wealthy family with a high reputation. Besides, Anthony runs a company. Giving such a little amount as a bride price is definitely shameful if the news is spread out," Doris added haughtily.

At that moment, Laura was stunned and definitely shocked by not only Doris' rude words and manner

of talking to her, but also because she had never thought that eight hundred eighty-eight thousand wasn't enough for Sue's family.

Chapter 888 Are You Selling Your Daughter

Peggy snubbed, "Shut up, Doris! Can't you just eat your meal and stop talking?" Peggy glared at Doris and gestured her to keep quiet.

Doris sealed her mouth and lowered her head in resentment. Peggy smiled with a tinge of embarrassment and said, "Sorry, Please don't pay attention to her. Doris is ignorant. If she said something offensive, please forgive her. I really hope that she didn't make you offended."

"Don't worry. I'm fine," Laura replied promptly. Albeit Laura behaved as if everything was alright, but in fact, there were several questions that came to her mind. The more she spoke with Peggy and Doris, she could not but mark a certain crudeness in their speech, attitude and actions. It made her wonder if it was a good idea to allow her son to marry Sue.

Peggy poured some fruit juice for Laura in a glass and continued with a smile, "Laura, the bride price you offered is nice. It's a luck number. I can see that you really treasure my daughter and I'm sure Sue will be happy in your family. You will all take good care of her."

After saying this Peggy paused for a moment and then continued, "But..."

Laura creased her brows as soon as she heard Peggy utter this word. She became skeptical about

Peggy's next move. And as soon as Peggy opened her mouth, Laura's apprehension was proven right.

"I think Doris is right," Peggy continued. "You are so rich. It's improper for you to give us so little."

Peggy added in the politest tone, "Just think what villagers will say when they know that the bride price

totals only 880, 000. They all know that you are wealthy, so they'll think that you despise my daughter.

This will humiliate both you and us." Even though Peggy was trying to be excessively polite and placing

her sugar coated words in front of Laura, her greediness lurked behind each and every word uttered by

her. And that certainly did not evade the eyes of Laura. She was terrified at the very thought that she

was sitting with such a greedy family to discuss her son's marriage with their daughter.

Laura looked at Anthony with a blank expression. As she remained quiet, Anthony spoke, "How much

do you want? Just tell us."

Peggy's face brightened as Anthony asked this question. In fact, in her mind there was indeed no

upper limit of the amount of money she wanted. But she hesitated for a second as she thought that

Laura and Anthony might just turn down her offer right away. However, the opportunity was just too

tempting, so she said to Anthony with a smile, "How about 2, 880, 000? It's also a lucky number."

"2, 880, 000?" Laura blurted out of shock. She never expected Peggy to come up with such an exorbitant amount for her daughter.

She teased and asked, "Peggy, you must be kidding me!"

"Of course not," Peggy sneered back. Her face completely changed as she spoke. "If your son want to marry my daughter, you must give me the exact amount of money that I quoted."

"Well. Then, I have a question," Laura said in a sarcastic voice. "If I give you so much money, how much dowry will you give us?"

"Dowry?" Peggy was rendered speechless at Laura's counter demand for the dowry. After a long silence, she answered in a discomfited manner, "As the old saying goes, 'a married daughter is like water that is poured'. Once she marries your son, she is no longer my daughter, rather she is your daughter. Then where does the question of dowry arises?"

"You are blackmailing us now," Laura said. She was certain that she had underestimated this woman.

"Don't be angry." Peggy laughed, and said to Laura, "It's a great pleasure to marry my daughter to your son. How could you blame me for blackmailing?"

Peggy looked at Laura in the eye, and continued, "You are so rich. The bride gift is just a meagre amount for you I am sure. Isn't it?"

"Are you here to get your daughter married or to sell your daughter? How could you demand so much money?" Laura retorted with a frown.

"I see nothing wrong here," Doris spoke in support of her mother-in-law. "If Sue marries Anthony, she will become part of your family. She will not only be the mother of your grandchildren, but also take care of your son. There's nothing improper to express gratitude with the money to our family for bringing her up."

"You..." Laura was totally speechless. Indeed, she did not have the tact or the merit to counter reply such shameless words. She sneered and said, "If you really want so much, then my son won't marry your daughter. I wonder who will marry her except my son. Don't forget that she is pregnant now!"

Then, she stood up and asked Anthony to leave the place with her.

Peggy was anxious when she saw Laura leaving, but she tried to hide her anxiety. She stood up and said, "Laura, don't be angry. Let's sit down and discuss the problem peacefully."

Sue sat there quietly, her head lowered in embarrassment and shame. Whatever self respect and confidence she had earned in all these years of her career in modeling was shattered into pieces when her own mother reduced her to a mere commodity and tried to get a high price by selling her. Her dignity was hurt and she felt more and more humiliated as the conversation proceeded. She wanted to just run away.

The greed of Peggy also made her want to hide herself in an underground hole.

But she knew she couldn't. The only hope she had now was that Laura would cancel the wedding because of her mother's greed. Then she didn't need to worry about anything anymore. Sue knew Laura to be a volatile woman and she could see that Peggy was already pushing her to the edge of her patience.

Indeed, Laura didn't let her down.

She sneered at Peggy, "Discuss? I don't think there is anything we need to discuss any further."

Then, she held Anthony's hand and said, "Let's go."

"Wait a minute." Anthony grabbed Laura's hand. He could tell that Sue was embarrassed now, so he held Sue's hands and said, "I must take Sue with me. I can't let her stay here."

His palm warmed Sue's hand and her heart, but she shook his hand off immediately and said, "Why should I leave with you?"

Peggy was frustrated by Laura's reaction and said to her, "Sue is bearing Anthony's child. Isn't it what you have been expecting for a long time? How can you turn your back on your grandchild?"

Laura hesitated for a moment because of Peggy's words, but soon she replied in a cold voice, "I will have a grandchild sooner or later. I don't need this one."

Then, she dragged Anthony toward the door and said, "Let's go. If Sue doesn't want to go with you, just leave her here. No need to wait for her anymore. Don't you feel ashamed of being with such people?"

Laura urged impatiently, "There will be no dearth of nice women for a decent and successful man like you. You don't need to stay here."

"Mother..." Anthony said with a frown, "That's enough. I can handle this alone. Don't make the situation more complicated."

"Anthony... How could you talk with me like this?" Laura looked at Anthony in the eye, her face turning pale because of her anger. "Don't you know that I did all these for you? Couldn't you understand my

intention?"

"Of course I can. I know you did everything for me," Anthony answered with a bitter smile. "But this do-it-for-you has become your excuse for controlling my life and emotion. I have had enough. Could you let me make the decision alone for just one time?"

"Anthony..." Laura's face turned pale immediately and she said, "If I let you make the decision, you will marry her, won't you? But look at these people. They are not here to get their daughter or sister married. Rather they are here to sell her. I will never pay 2, 880, 000 for a woman from such a family."

"I will," Anthony said decidedly. "If that much money can help me marry Sue, I'll pay the money."

His words astonished not just Sue, but Laura.

All this while Laura was under the impression that Anthony wanted to marry Sue out of his moral responsibility towards the child that Sue was carrying. But she was indeed amazed to see that her son had fallen in love with Sue and wondered when it all happened?

Chapter 889 Peggy Breaks Off with Sue

Peggy couldn't resist the big smile that came up on her lips after hearing Anthony profess his love for Sue. This guaranteed her chance to get more money from them, of course, she was more than happy.

She stared at Anthony and happily confirmed his answer, "So that is to say, you will agree on my

requirement?"

"Somewhat." Anthony nodded his head slightly. "But I have a condition," he added in a calm voice, and made sure he caught Peggy's attention.

Peggy was already grinning upon hearing Anthony's agreement, thus, she was caught off guard on what he just said. Did he just say that there was a condition? The change in her expression was too hard to miss. "What condition would that be?" Her soft and cheery face hardened as she waited for it to dawn on her.

"You have previously mentioned that a married daughter doesn't belong to her parents anymore," Anthony started as he stared coldly at Peggy. "Should I take it then, that Sue can just forget about her relationship with you if she marries me?"

Peggy seemed confused at what she heard. "What exactly do you mean by that?" she replied with her brows narrowed. 'What is Anthony talking about just now?' Peggy thought. As much as she wanted to marry off Sue to him, she didn't intend to disown her. Of course she would like to keep their ties, otherwise, it would be such a waste not to get a hold of her son-in-law's fortune.

She tried to read Anthony's expression and he looked dead serious on what he wanted. He wanted Sue to break off with her.

Anthony continued, "I would like to marry Sue, not her family. Of course, it will be my responsibility to take care of her once she becomes my wife and the mother of my kid. But you, what does that have to do with you? Sue's encumbrances?" The sarcasm in Anthony's voice resounded in everyone's ears.

His words were absolutely offensive and none of them wanted to let it pass.

"What do you mean by that?" Doris couldn't hide her annoyance on what Anthony just said. "Why do you say that we are Sue's encumbrances?" she continued.

Anthony didn't seem to care less. "Aren't you?" he replied in a sarcastic tone. "You showed up at Sue's apartment unannounced and claimed it as your own without the owner's permission. You forced her to move out and stay at a friend's house instead. Now tell me, do you think you have not come across as Sue's encumbrances?"

Clearly, if it's money that you want, I can offer that to you," Anthony said in a condescending tone, "but you will need to promise me that you will break off your relationship with Sue afterwards. Your presence

is not even required at our wedding ceremony." His voice was cold and mocking. Certainly, he expected these comments would trigger this ungrateful bunch.

"What?" Peggy yelled, unable to control her temper. What she just heard was an insult she couldn't dismiss. She glared at Anthony and asked bitterly, "I beg your pardon? How dare you say that about us? Sue is my daughter and is part of our family. How can you expect us to give her up after your marriage? Don't you think your request is a little crazy?"

She tried her best to continue with composure, "Come to think of it, Sue is now pregnant. What right do you have to keep me from seeing my grandchild?"

"Enough," Anthony cut her off, a sarcastic smile lingering in his lips. "It's not like you value your daughter at all. We both know that you care less on what will happen to her, and now, you are trying to use our marriage for your own gain. You better do what I tell you or you can continue to dream on. I know that you will have a grandchild soon, but don't you dare use seeing Sue's child as an excuse to get what you want. I don't think that you would put my child's best interest on top of your son's," Anthony said with resentment.

Peggy's face turned red as embarrassment filled her. All that he said was true and she had to redeem

herself or she'd lose to this battle. "How can you have me pick between my children? I love both Sue and Allen. Of course I would not choose one over the other."

Anthony felt impatient upon hearing another lie and interrupted her immediately, "Stop it!" He glared at Peggy and continued, "You are testing my patience. If you'd agree to my offer, I will send the money to you tomorrow. But if you don't..."

Anthony stopped for a while and gave another sarcastic smile, "I can just take Sue to live with me abroad in a place you can never find." He threatened Peggy by his last remark.

"Mom, please just say yes," Allen urged Peggy to agree to Anthony's term. He was afraid that Anthony would change his mind on giving them the money if this went on. "You never really liked your daughter anyway. It's not a big loss to disown her after her marriage," he hastily said to Peggy.

"Once we get the money, we can do anything we want. I don't see why we are even having this discussion. Just go ahead and disown her," Allen persuaded his mother.

"Yes, what Allen said is definitely true," Anthony confirmed. "You can receive the princely sum of nearly 3 millions if you agree. Just think about it carefully," Anthony said with resentment.

Peggy looked around at each and every person in the room. She initially hesitated on a decision but finally nodded her head. "Okay, I agree to your demands."

She then turned to Sue and tried to state her case, "I hope you won't blame me for my decision. I do not wish to be ruthless but I have no other choice."

Sue was not moved by this at all. She shrugged coldly and responded, "You must be happy now, right?"

You have sold me at such a good price. You have no right to tell me how I should feel about it."

Sue's entire body was shaking out of both anger and despair. The heartlessness of Peggy to state her final decision made Sue lose her final hope to her family.

Anthony was watching Sue closely and he realized the despair in her voice. "Don't worry. I am here," he said in a reassuring voice as he reached out to hug her.

Sue initially intended to push him away, but the warmth of his embrace was so comforting. How could she resist this soothing feeling? Soon enough she ended up burying herself into his arms.

Laura had been observing them all this time. The show was enough for her to assess the situation. She couldn't help but comment, "From how I see it, you all came here today just for money. This is so ridiculous!"

She glimpsed at Sue, who was still inside the comfort of Anthony's hug, and cheered her on, "Sue, let's go. Although your family discard you, we'd be more than happy to keep you. You know that Anthony and I will try our best to take care of you. We won't allow you to feel wronged at all."

Sue just gave her a wry smile as she left Anthony's embrace. Laura's kind words sank into her and she could not help but express her gratitude, "Aunt, thank you for your understanding. I am sorry that you have to witness what kind of family I have. I am also grateful for your kindness, but..."

Sue choked on what she was about to say but she tried to continue, "But I don't want to be a burden to you. The money, I can't let you pay that money."

Anthony, surprised by her remark, asked with furrowed brows, "Why?" He stared at Sue and tried to convince her, "Sue, what I said to you just now is serious. I really..."

"Anthony, stop. I have already made up my mind. Please just leave now with aunt," she said firmly, avoiding his eyes, and urged them to leave.

"No, I won't leave," Anthony answered in disagreement and reached out to her arm to stop her. "If we leave now, what will happen to you?" he said in a concerned tone. "You will end up with maltreatment

again if they don't get the money."

Peggy, worried that Sue's refusal will result in her loss, hurriedly butted in and instructed Anthony, "Just take her away. From now on, I have nothing to do with Sue anymore.

I hope you're not forgetting our arrangement. If I don't receive the money tomorrow, I will chase her up again until you make the payment."

"You have nothing to worry about," Anthony assured her. "I always keep my word." He urged Sue to leave but she didn't want to move. She was such a stubborn lady.

In a fit of petulance, he straight out carried her. Did she really think he'd agree to leave her here alone?

Leaving her was not an option. Nothing good could happen to her here.

Sue yelled as she tried to struggle from Anthony's hold. "Let me go!" He ignored her words as he focused his way to the elevator, with Sue still struggling in his arms.

When the lift finally opened at the ground floor, a group of people patiently waiting was surprised with the sight. Sue felt embarrassed with the crowd's different expressions. So she had to bury her face onto Anthony's chest to hide.

His hold was firm but comforting. She could actually stay this way forever. As they approached his car,

Anthony realized that she had already calmed down, hence, he joked over her head, "Is my hug comfortable? You don't seem to want to leave it now?"

Sue snapped back into reality upon hearing Anthony's banter. She immediately replied, "You are talking nonsense."

Chapter 890 For Me Or For The Baby

Anthony was not angered by Sue's words. He stared at her with a delightful smile and teased, "Don't forget that I have bought you. You are going to be my wife soon."

"You..." Sue was still not in the state of mind to take these words casually. She was indeed upset about this, but couldn't do anything to change the situation. Darting a cold glance at Anthony, she refuted, "I didn't ask you to buy me."

"Yes, yes, yes, you didn't ask for that. I did it out of my wish," Anthony continued to tease her. He enjoyed the short bitter sweet fight with Sue and smiled at every expression of anger on Sue's face.

After a long time he felt peaceful and happy from within. It was evident from his behavior that finally he was contented.

But Laura didn't enjoy this much. She interrupted the young couple and spoke with a frown, "Let's eat

something to fill our stomach. Sue hasn't eaten anything for a long time. She has to eat something for her health and for the baby."

"Good idea," Anthony agreed with a nod. Sue didn't say anything, so he turned to ask Sue's opinion,

"What do you want to eat?"

"I don't want to eat," Sue replied impatiently. "I just want to go back now."

"Then let's go to Hong Fu Restaurant. It has really good cooks. Let's order fish soup for you. It's their special dish. It's popular, nutritious, and healthy." Anthony decided for Sue, completely ignoring what she had said.

"You..." Sue was so angry that she couldn't even find any word to say. It seemed that she had no control over anything anymore -- not even whether she wanted to eat or not. Hence, she just got into the car with much reluctance.

Sue could not decipher the reason behind the sudden change in Anthony. It was so quick and abrupt that it was unbelievable for her. The same person who had been so indifferent to her even when they were together was now so much devoted to her that he even agreed to pay an hefty amount of money just in order to marry her!

Anthony was so caring towards her that he booked the table and ordered the dishes on their way there, so once they reached the restaurant, the waiter would just lead them in and serve them the dishes straight away. He booked a private room, as he didn't want Sue to be annoyed by the noise of other customers eating there.

When they were eating, Laura kept filling Sue's plate with the meat, vegetables and desserts. She was so hospitable that there was no room for Sue to refuse. Though she did not feel like eating, Sue took a few bites.

Ever since she had become pregnant, she had completely lost her appetite for food, so she only finished a small portion in her bowl. She put down her chopsticks, wiped her mouth gently, and said flatly, "I'm full."

"So fast?" Laura questioned with a frown.

"It's Okay, Sue," Anthony said to Sue after exchanging looks with Laura and asking her not to force Sue to eat. "Well, if you don't want to eat now, that's fine. Later if you have appetite again, tell me and I'll buy for you."

Sue was unhappy with the answer. Though Antony looked happy and sorted, Sue was still fighting her inner dilemma. Her mind was restless and wanted a clarification. It seemed that Anthony was not going to talk about it anyway, so she started, "Anthony, I think we need to talk and make things clear between the two of us. I don't want to see anything going astray."

After a pause, Sue continued in a cold tone, "I think we already agreed, that we've broken up. Why are you still doing this?"

Laura frowned at Sue's words with discontent and reprimanded, "Sue, now you have Anthony's baby with you. You shouldn't speak in such a manner."

"Aunt Laura, I have made it clear, that this baby is my own baby. It has nothing to do with Xiao family,"

Sue affirmed without being bothered by Laura's disapproval.

"You..." Sue's defiance enraged Laura but she managed to suppress that, as she was afraid that her anger would harm the baby.

"Don't worry, Mom. Let me handle this," Anthony said to his mom and stopped her from saying more.

Turning his eyes to Sue, he started speaking in a very calm and polite voice, "Sue, I know why you want to break up with me. One reason is that you think I still love Sheryl, and the other reason is that..."

you don't want your family to be a burden for me, right?"

Upon hearing that, Sue eased the crease of her brows and pursed her lips.

Anthony kept looking at Sue waiting for a reply and then probed, "If you don't say anything, I'll take it as

'yes' then." Sue remained quiet. Anthony was elated to see Sue's silence. As far as he knew her, her

silence proved his assumption to be correct. This made him hopeful that Sue was still in love with him,

but she was just troubled by external factors. Staring at her with a determined look, he said, "Sue, then

let me sort the things out one by one."

Taking a deep breath, he started, "Firstly, as for Sheryl..."

The very mention of Sheryl brought a disgruntled look on Laura's face. She shared a why-do-you-need-

to-bring-her-in-now kind of a glance with her son which he ignored. Seeing his attitude, she barged in

and said, "Sue, rest assured. If he ever dares to retain any form of connection with Sheryl, I will give

him a harsh lesson on behalf of you. You don't have to worry about that."

"Mom..." Anthony frowned and gestured Laura to keep quiet.

He knew Sue's state of mind -- his mother's assurance would not be of any help.

Moreover, he held himself responsible for the entire dispute among the three of them. Hence, evidently it was his responsibility to make Sue feel secure in her relationship with himself.

Laura finally understood his point and refrained herself from speaking. Anthony then continued, "Sue, trust me, what I spoke to you in the corridor just now, I meant it from the bottom of my heart. It is true that it took me a long time to be completely sure about my feelings towards Sheryl. That was the reason behind me being so hesitant. But now I have the answer. I have realized who I truly love, and it's none other than you."

Anthony spoke in a deep earnest voice. He wasn't shouting, but his words sounded like thunders to Sue's ears. She tried her best to keep still and silent. No one could gauge her state of mind from her face.

Glancing at Sue, he continued, "As for your family..."

He paused. To be honest, it was absolutely new to him. He had never had to brush his shoulders with a person like Peggy before this. Although he found Peggy unbelievably troublesome and shameless, it was just because of her that his will for Sue became even stronger. After getting to know about Sue's family, he was determined to save Sue from her mother's grasp.

"I know you have been trying to save me from getting involved in your family matters, especially with your mother. But Sue, you should know where your limit lies. Since now it is not within your ability to solve your family issues, you should learn to hand that over to me and let me handle it for you. Please don't keep it to yourself." He then reached out his hand and touched her face gently, as if he was trying to soothe her wounds she got from her mother. "Trust me Sue, I'm not going to leave you because of your troublesome family. In fact, I want to stand by you. I feel so sorry for you that you have been mistreated by your family for so many years, so sorry that life has been so hard for you. Even with all those sufferings, you still made yourself such an optimistic and cheerful girl. I am so touched. All I want to do now is to just hold you in my arms and protect you. I will never let you get hurt again."

Anthony's words were so touching that Sue's eyes were about to be swelled up with tears. But, somehow, she managed to pull them back and replied with a forced smile, "But that is my own business." It was becoming increasingly difficult for Sue to maintain her composure. This was what she wanted. She loved Anthony from the bottom of her heart. And now as he was confessing his love to her, she was trying to resist it. She was getting carried away by Anthony's words but was trying with all

her might to be practical and relevant. She wanted a clear view of Anthony's mind about herself.

"From now on, it is not your own business anymore," Anthony refuted with resolve. Sue looked down in order to avoid eye contact with him. Her face still had a pensiveness that made Anthony unsettled in his mind. Anthony pulled Sue's hands and placed them on his chest so that Sue was forced to look into his eyes. He wanted Sue to see the sincere love in his eyes.

Gazing attentively at Sue, he said, "Sue, from this moment onwards, I will stand by your side. No matter what happens, we will face the trouble together. Don't consider yourself to be alone in anything.

We are going to be inseparable. Okay?"

Her heart was melting into a riot of emotions at the sight of his gaze.

Sue could see his sincerity when he uttered those words, but still she had some questions unanswered. She wanted to know why Anthony did this -- was it for her or for the baby?

If it was for just the baby in her womb, then she would reject him without hesitation. It did not matter how much she loved him or how much she dreamt of having a life with him. If he was here for the baby, she would not be able to accept this at any cost.

"You... What are you so much worried about?" Anthony asked anxiously. He could almost read her

mind in her eyes. He could sense the pain, humiliation and dilemma, though she tried her best to conceal her emotions. Then he realized that there was still something holding Sue back.

"Sue, now there are only three of us here. Feel free to say anything," Laura prompted softly when Sue hesitated.

After hesitating for a long time, she finally gathered herself and asked, "What... What exactly is it that suddenly made you say all these things to me? Is it because of the baby?"

"You can say that." Anthony nodded in agreement.

'So it was the baby and not me,' Sue thought. A slice of disappointment flashed on her face, but was quickly captured by Anthony who had been carefully observing Sue's facial expression. He realized how Sue had interpreted and hurried to explain, "Sue, listen to me. I didn't mean that.

It was because of the baby and not for the baby at the same time. You could say that your pregnancy gave me a precious opportunity to come back to you. In fact, I've been thinking about this for a long time, but couldn't figure it out. I was confused myself about what I really want and who I really want to be with. That was why I didn't look for you. However, I found myself so excited and exhilarated to hear

about your pregnancy. All I was thinking about since then was to be back to you, to marry you and to lead a happy life with you and the kid. The baby did help me make my decision, but trust me, I have come for you, not the baby."