

## **Wedded Bride 891**

### Chapter 891 A Crisis

Anthony smiled profoundly and started confessing wholeheartedly, "Therefore, Sue, my love for you is pure and sincere, and I have made up my mind to be with you. I know I have made a lot of mistakes and have treated you wrong and I want to apologize for all of these that hurt you. I want to know if you are still willing to love me as you did like before?"

"I..." Sue paused as her voice trailed off. She smiled bitterly. If Anthony had said these to her before, her heart would be overjoyed. She would be blissfully happy.

But she could not bring herself to give him a response. She couldn't think clearly. Millions of thoughts were running in her head, clouding her mind.

She focused her gaze at Anthony and shook her head. "I don't know.

I can't think straight right now. I am kind of confused. Give me some time." Sue felt a throbbing headache as she tried hard to contemplate about it.

"Hey, no problem. It is alright. Take your time," Anthony reassured her, without a hint of disappointment

even though he was turned down. He didn't want to push her. Instead, he soothed and comforted her, "I

can wait no matter how long you need to."

"I want to go home." Sue bolted from her seat, came to her feet and then hurriedly walked outside. She couldn't wait to leave the place. She felt like she would have a nervous breakdown if she stayed any longer. The pressure was tearing her apart.

"I will drive you home," Anthony offered, almost jumping to his feet.

Realizing that he was also with his mother, he glanced at her who was sitting next to him. Laura threw him a knowing look. She understood what his son was worried about, so she suggested, "Go ahead. You send her back first. I need to walk around and buy something. You can pick me up later."

"Thanks, mom. I'll be back." Anthony ran after Sue. He broke in a cold sweat at the sight of the scene playing over by the door. Sue stumbled and nearly got her foot twisted. He dashed to Sue as if his life depended on it and held her, "Watch out! Are you all right? Do you need to go to the hospital?"

"I'm fine." Sue shook her head. She was deeply touched by Anthony's kind gesture; his frightened expression, the concerned look and, the caring eyes when he ran towards her. This was the first time someone genuinely cared about her.

"Really? Are you sure?" Anthony probed, still worried about her. Finally, he was only assured of when Sue repeatedly confirmed that she was all right. He wanted her to stay longer but with her insistent demand, he could only send her to Zhao family house. "If there is anything you need or any food you want to eat, just call me. I'm on call 24/7. And one more thing, remember to follow the recommended schedule for regular pregnancy check-ups. I will accompany you to the hospital," Anthony reminded her when they arrived at the villa.

"Okay." Sue nodded agreeably. When she was about to open the door, Anthony called her in a voice soft with affection, "Sue..."

"What?" Sue instinctively turned around to face him.

"What do you think of this? How about you move in to live with me. You can't stay here forever, right?"

Anthony inquired with a serious frown masking his face. His voice sounded slightly pleading but in a courteous manner.

Sue hesitated and smiled faintly. After a moment's reflection, she replied, "Let's talk about it later or some other time."

Sue patiently stood in front of the gate and waited until Anthony's car was out of her sight. When she

came in, she only then realized that Sheryl was also there.

Sheryl ran to her and took her hands as soon as she appeared at the front gate. Then she giddily started recounting to her the things happened in Cloud Advertising Company. She noted that Sheryl's face beamed with excitement. It was so infectious that she couldn't help being influenced by Sheryl's vibrant and bubbly mood.

But being a sensitive person, Sheryl soon noticed the depression disguised by her smile. She studied Sue carefully and prompted gently not wanting to sound pushy, "What happened, Sue? How are you feeling today? Are you sick?"

"Oh, I'm fine. I'm just a little distracted." Sue tried to cheer herself up and she grinned at Sheryl. "Don't worry about me. I'll be better tomorrow."

"Don't lie to me. I can tell that by simply looking at you. You are absolutely not fine. Come on, what happened?" With Sheryl's insistence, Sue reluctantly told her everything that transpired earlier that day.

If truth be told, she didn't know what to do herself. She was totally confused and helpless so she was not expecting an answer from Sheryl. She just wanted to share her worries with someone, to get these

things off her chest, to ease herself so she could finally feel better.

"How do you think of him now?" After Sheryl patiently listened to Sue's whole story, she asked Sue.

"I honestly don't know." Sue shook her head while shrugging her shoulders. "There are a lot of things in my mind now. I don't know whether I should trust him or not," Sue confessed frankly.

"Do you think Anthony would lie to you?" Sheryl interjected and continued to conclude.

"That is something very unlikely for him to do so." Sue shook her head again. She sighed with a self-mocking laugh, "What else does he want from me that deserves that much effort from him?"

"Then this is the easiest decision to make!" Sheryl chimed in as she smiled excitedly at Sue. "In my opinion, you should give Anthony a chance to prove himself. Then you can decide whether to accept him or not based on the way he shows his effort in pursuing you. So, what do you think? How does it sound to you?"

"But..." Sue was still unwilling. She had other concerns that were holding her back and made her feel restless. Staring hard at Sheryl's sincere face, she found the courage, at last, to voice out the dreadful question, "Sher, you don't mind at all?"

"Mind? Mind what?" Sheryl asked in astonishment, totally unaware why she was involved.

"You don't mind me being together with Anthony?" Sue lowered her head as she breathed her words.

She didn't want to face her friend in this awkward moment. "One is your friend, and the other is your ex-boyfriend. Do you really feel comfortable if we become lovers?"

"Of course I don't mind!" Sheryl exclaimed when what she heard registered in her and she finally understood Sue's hesitation. She hugged Sue tightly. "I am hoping that both of you can be happy ever after because you are important to me and he was once a person closest to me!"

Sheryl tried her best in earnest to put away the anxiety that was bothering Sue. "Look at me now. I have a perfect lover, a son, and a daughter who all make me so happy. Why should I bother to mind your relationship with Anthony?"

Sue felt relief washing over her after Sheryl gave her sensible reasons. What she said indeed made sense.

Sheryl felt better after noticing Sue's change of attitude. "Sue, the first thing that you should do now is to listen to your heart. Ask yourself whether you still love him or not! Then next, ask yourself whether you still want to be with him or not. No one and nothing else should interfere with your decision -- not

me, not your baby, or even your unreasonable mother. Follow your heart and just do whatever you think and feel is right!"

After they chatted for a while, they bid each other good night. Calling it a day, they went to bed. Sue couldn't fall asleep. Their conversation was repeatedly replaying on her mind as she inwardly groaned to herself, 'If only the things between me and Anthony were really that so simple and no other things should matter!'

She could not even believe it.

She was musing and pondering until she felt dull and dizzy. She didn't even know when she fell asleep.

The next morning, a sudden ringing of her phone woke her up.

Sue groggily accepted the call. But she was fully awake in the next moment she got the news.

The man on the line was a policeman of Y City. He uttered coldly, "Is this Sue Wang? This is Y City

Police Station. A murder happened in Sunshine Apartment last night. The victim is a female, pregnant

for six months. Our initial investigations revealed that the suspect is Allen Wang. We need your

cooperation in the ongoing investigation."

Bang! Sue was utterly shocked by the message and her hand shook uncontrollably. Her phone slipped

off and fell down from her hand with a loud thud. But she could still hear the voice of the police coming

from the phone, "Hello! Miss Wang? Are you still there?"

"I... Yes, I am." Sue managed to croak her voice which sounded broken. She tried her best to remain

calm and curtly replied to the man on the other line, "Thanks. I'll go there right now."

Sue absentmindedly got herself dressed up. She was in such a hurry that she neglected to make

herself presentable.

Sheryl was putting the breakfast on the table when she rushed downstairs. Sheryl greeted her,

"Morning Sue. The breakfast is ready. I'm just thinking about waking you up!"

"I won't have it!" Sue cut in hurriedly. Her face was deadly pale. She then begged Sheryl, "Sher, could

you... could you send me to the Y City Police Station?"

She was pregnant. She must be responsible for taking care of the baby. She wanted Sheryl to

accompany her. She was afraid that something unfortunate would happen that would hurt her baby.

She needed someone who would send her to the hospital just in case.

"What's wrong?" Sheryl was able to note Sue's desperate expression. She put down the plate and



rushed to hold Sue, asking, "What happened? Tell me!"

"Doris... She was..." Sue sobbed, unable to speak coherently. She felt like her brain would explode.

She tried several times to finish her sentence, "She was dead!"

"What?" Sheryl was so shocked that she gasped for breath. Everything was fine with Doris several

days ago. Why was she dead all of a sudden?

"How? What happened? Tell me everything!" Sheryl asked anxiously.

Chapter 892 Jealousy

Sue shook her head. "I have no clue either. The police just called me. We'll find out what's going on

after we get there."

"Wait for me. I'll get the car keys," Sheryl replied. After getting the car from Abby, she drove Sue to the

police station as fast as she could. Just before Sue was to enter the main gate, Sheryl pulled her back

by her arm in worry.

"Mimi, wait. I have to remind you." Looking at Sue in care and concern, she continued, "You're

pregnant now. You have to put the baby first. No matter what happens, you have to stay calm. Don't get

angry, okay?"

"I know," Sue agreed. Of course, she knew that she had to control her temper for the baby's sake. Still,

she also knew that sometimes, things were out of her control. She had no idea what was waiting for her, and she couldn't anticipate how exactly she would react either. Driving the thoughts away, she stepped inside with Sheryl.

A policeman led them into a small room. He sat on one side while the two girls sat on the opposite side, feeling confined in the small space. They couldn't wrap their heads around the fact that Allen, who had always considered Doris a priority, would take her life. He had shown absolutely no sign of doing such a thing. It was astonishing news, as no one ever expected it to happen.

For formalities' sake, the policeman asked Sue some questions regarding Allen's recent behavior. Sue was as helpful as she could be as she told the policeman what she knew, which, unsurprisingly, revealed nothing about the motives behind the murder. After he was done, Sue had a question of her own. "Sir, you said that my brother has been accused of murdering Doris. Do you have any evidence?"

"I'm sorry. I cannot reveal our findings of the case to you," the policeman replied solemnly. "All I can share with you is that their neighbors heard them quarreling, after which, Allen ran out of the house covered in blood. Along with him was with your mother, Peggy. We're looking for them now. We called

you in to get more details about both the suspect and the victim, and to tell you to inform us as soon as possible if you have any clue whatsoever about where they are."

After a pause, he gave her a strange look and continued, "Or... if they come to you, please do not hesitate to tell us. They are now suspects of a murder case and have the potential to harm you as well. For your safety, please don't hide them from us."

"How is that even possible?" Sue suddenly shouted in her disbelief of the whole situation. "I know my brother. He would never say 'no' to that woman, not to mention after she got pregnant. No matter how angry he was, he couldn't have killed his baby! It's a mistake!"

He was her brother, after all, and she knew her brother. He might have had the guts to commit some wrongdoings, but she couldn't believe that he was capable of murder.

"It is a possibility," he replied flatly. "A thorough investigation is being conducted. If he didn't kill her, we will not accuse him falsely. But he ran away, which makes him more suspicious. Why else would he run? Don't you think it's worth a second thought?"

Having been so focused on denying that her brother could be capable of murder, that thought never crossed her mind. She was so overwhelmed with shock and disbelief that she couldn't even slightly

consider the strong cause of the police's suspicion. Now that he pointed it out, she had nothing more to say to defend Allen.

"Anyway, if you have any information on their whereabouts, do inform us right away. Understand?" the policeman again reminded the two.

"Okay, we will," Sue agreed with a nod.

After the session with the police, Sue was left feeling lethargic. She absentmindedly scratched her head as she thought hard for any possible reason Allen would want Doris gone. She couldn't figure anything out. Allen's temperament was far from good, but... not to the extent of murdering someone, his baby nonetheless.

Did something unthinkable happen that she had no clue of?

As they walked out of the police station, Sue and Sheryl saw a person rushing towards them. It was

Anthony. Without even a glance at Sheryl, he practically ran towards Sue and embraced her tightly.

"Are you okay?" he asked worriedly with an ever gentle voice.

"I'm fine," Sue answered him, emotionless. Slightly pushing him away, she wondered what brought him

there. "Why are you here, Anthony?" she asked curiously.

"I heard about the incident. I tried calling you, but you weren't picking up. I guessed you might be called in by the police, so I came here. What's going on now? Did they tell you anything?" Anthony explained, still in a rush.

"It's a long story." Sue smiled wryly. It wasn't a pleasant thing to tell and she didn't know where to start.

Reading their mood, Sheryl thought the other two might need some space for a private conversation.

"Since Anthony is here, I'll go first," she excused herself. "Anthony, I'll leave Sue to you." She turned to him with a serious look.

"Of course," he replied. It was the first time he had spared Sheryl a glance since he arrived at the scene.

It was rather strange for Anthony. In the past, when the two girls appeared before him, it was Sheryl that drew his attention first. Now, the opposite was true, and all he could see was Sue. It wasn't until Sheryl addressed him directly that he even noticed Sheryl's presence.

After Sheryl left, she headed towards Charles' company. Her head couldn't seem to escape thoughts about the whole incident, making it difficult for her to maintain calm. She wanted to talk to Charles

about it.

As he left his meeting, he was surprised to find Sheryl at the office, who rarely visited him lately. "You're not with that friend of yours today?" he asked her curiously.

"Anthony is with her," Sheryl said with a sigh.

Charles could hear the exhaustion in her voice, and his brows knitted in concern. "What happened?" he asked, wanting to know what was making her uneasy.

"Nothing. I'm just thinking about how easily things can change without us noticing." With a helpless expression, Sheryl continued, "Just a few days ago, she was alive, going about her business. Now, she's gone."

"You're talking about Allen and Doris, right?" he probed.

"You know?" Sheryl asked him, stunned about how indifferent he seemed. When she remembered how he had kept an eye on Allen behind the scenes, she quickly recovered. How could he not know about it?

Charles walked up next to Sheryl, put her hands in his, and led her to the sofa so she could take a

seat. "My dear, I can almost hear the gears in your brain turning every day."

"I just feel that... people really change so fast." Heaving a deep sigh, she explained, "Though that younger brother of Sue's was always so easily irritated, and treated Sue awfully, it was not all him. It was his mom pampering him every step of the way, encouraging him to be cruel to his sister. He was not someone so evil that he would kill anyone who triggered him. Even I could tell that he loved Doris and would give her everything he could. He never even dared shout at her. But... How come that changed overnight?"

Sue can barely process it. She's in a really low mood now, and so am I. I have no idea how to help her, or even cheer her up. It's too disastrous for her, of course. Even if she has been always mistreated by her family, she still has some sort of strange ties with them. And it was her brother who..."

"Why are you bothering yourself with that?" Charles asked tenderly when she trailed off. He was never so concerned about the business of other families, only his own. Handing her a cup of hot tea, he tried to comfort Sheryl, "Let others do what they will. We're different. Just keep in mind that such a thing will never happen to us. There's nothing to worry about."

Charles paused to observe Sheryl's reaction, but she didn't respond while she took in what he said.

Feeling somewhat reassured, Charles gathered himself and decided to bring up something he had been meaning to for a while. "Sheryl, it's been quite a while. Have you considered moving back to live with me? Clark has been nagging at me about you for days."

Sheryl's jaw clenched and she scooted away from the man. "Get away." She shrugged his hand off her as she noted what his true intention was. "You aren't expecting an answer of 'I have' or 'I haven't'.

You're just asking me to live with you, aren't you?"

"Yes I am," he responded frankly. "Don't you want to come back?" Her gentle nudges didn't drive him away but only made him move even closer and embrace his love. He asked with such eagerness in his eyes, almost like a spoiled child asking his parents to buy him a much-desired toy. Sheryl couldn't, or maybe even didn't want to escape. She relished in the warmth of his hug and childlike behavior, which she knew was only ever for her to experience. After indulging in his love for a while, she realized where they were and gently pushed him away. "Stop that. Others will see us," she said bashfully.

"This is my office. No one will see,"

he reassured her.



With slightly more force, she pushed against Charles. She almost couldn't fathom the stark contrast of such a strong and powerful man acting so childlike, but she did enjoy his affection. With conflicting feelings in her heart, she finally spoke. "Let's talk about all that after this incident is settled. Sue really needs someone right now... I can't help but worry about her."

Charles sighed heavily after hearing that and his mood turned low and depressed. Waiting was all he'd been doing lately because Sheryl's life seemed to revolve around Sue instead of him. With the way she was acting, it seemed to Charles that until she was absolutely sure that Sue was out of reach of that annoying family of hers, Sheryl wouldn't even consider settling things with him. In disappointment, he asked, "When do you plan to prioritize me?"

Sheryl's brows shot up in surprise. It was a startling question but she could sense Charles' frustration.

She couldn't help but find it rather funny and started teasing him, "What? Are you jealous?"

Charles simply turned his head away and refused to respond. At that moment, he was a pouty child giving her the silent treatment.

Chapter 893 Promised

"Come on now, please don't get mad at me..." Sheryl pleaded gently when she saw that Charles was frustrated. In consolation, she said, "I know I promised that I would move back when Sue's issue was

settled, but... now something new popped up, and it's completely beyond anyone's expectations."

Still not receiving a response from Charles, Sue dragged out a sigh. "Sue's condition isn't very stable these days. Because of what happened, I'm afraid she won't be able to cope... I'm really worried about her right now. As her friend, I need to give her my support. Do you understand?"

"So..." Charles turned slowly to meet Sheryl's eyes. "When Sue's issue is settled, you won't have any excuse to not move back. Do you promise that?"

"Yes, dear. I promise you." With a tender smile, Sheryl confirmed it without hesitation. "I've also promised Grandma that I will change my name back to my original one in a couple days."

The news shocked Charles for a moment, but a genuinely happy and sweet smile replaced his startled expression.

"Good. I'm really glad to hear that. We should celebrate." Charles was delighted.

At noon, he took Sheryl out for lunch. After the meal, he wanted to have a leisurely walk with her to relax them both. Unluckily for him, he received a business call, which he answered begrudgingly. He had to cut their time together short and head back to work.

Sheryl went straight back to the Zhao family house when Charles left.

Meanwhile, Anthony took Sue to dine out as well. Knowing that Sue was in low spirits, he thought to take her to an area in the surrounding countryside for some fresh air. They drove out for over an hour before arriving at the spot, and Anthony finally spoke.

"Here we are."

"What is this place?" Sue asked. It seemed like a farm, with beautiful rustic scenery around them, but she wasn't in the best mood to appreciate the environment. What was on her mind still plagued her.

"This is my favorite place. I used to come here often, way back. The place always helped me clear my head." Anthony took her hand in his. "I'll take you to a good spot. I'm sure you'll like it. Come on." He tugged her gently.

Sue had no idea what Anthony was up to, but as he pulled her along, she somehow felt that the tension was leaving her bit by bit. Staring at his back, she thought she could relax and just trust in him, allowing him to lead her wherever he was going.

On the way there, Anthony was afraid that Sue wouldn't be able to keep up because of her physical condition, so he walked at a slower pace so that she would feel more comfortable.

They walked through a long, dry stretch of land and it took them about ten minutes before they arrived at a vast lake where Anthony finally stopped his steps.

"Here it is." He gestured towards the lake.

"Why did you bring me here?" Sue asked doubtfully as she stared at the placid lake.

"You'll know in a minute," he replied, adding to the mystery of it all. He headed towards a cabin nearby and went inside to fetch a box. Inside the container were fishing tools. It seemed as though he had done all that hundreds of times.

Sue gave him a blank look. "You drove us all the way out here so you can go fishing?"

"Yes, that's right." He simply nodded his head in earnest. He handed Sue a fishing rod after preparing the bait. "Wanna have a go?"

Sue sighed. Since they were already all the way out there, she thought that she might as well take the opportunity to put herself at ease and go fishing.

Anthony took his own rod and sat beside Sue on the dock. Neither of them spoke. After a while, Sue's rod began shaking as she felt something tug at the string. A fish had taken the bait.

Seeing the line moving, Sue didn't know what to do. "Antho... Anthony," she asked unsurely, "what... what should I do now?"

"I'll help you." Anthony pulled up the fishing rod for her. When she saw a big fish hanging on the other end of the line, a bright smile finally replaced the frown she had been wearing all day.

At that moment, she could see why Anthony took her fishing.

As she sat and stared at the fish line, her attention was on nothing but the water. All the negative thoughts just drifted away for a while.

When the fish was hooked and caught, her chest was filled with satisfaction.

After the pair stayed for a while, Sue was able to fill up her bucket far more than Anthony did, much to her delight.

At the end of their little fishing session, Anthony let the fish go back into the lake. He took Sue's hand and pulled her up. "We should head back now. Let's go."

"Why did you pour the fish back into the lake?" Sue asked, puzzled.

"Because I don't want to separate them from their families. They would be sad and lonely," he replied softly.

Sue observed the distinct outline of Anthony's face glowing in the afternoon sun. At that moment, she felt that there was something different about him.

On the drive back, Sue felt the tiredness of the day overcome her. Anthony adjusted her seat so she could sleep comfortably. When the car got back home, he gently woke her up. "Sue, we're here, wake up."

"Oh, are we?" she asked, still a little groggy from just having woken up. She idly rubbed her eyes and yawned. "I had a great day today. Thank you," she said with affection.

She knew that Anthony had spent the day just trying to make her happy, even if he didn't say it outright.

It was clear to her that he wanted to help in his own way, and she was truly grateful for it.

"Sue..." He looked at her, a little unsure. "A lot of things have happened recently, and they've made me more aware about...about my feelings for you. I really like you and I want to keep taking care of you.

Would you give me a chance?" It was such a genuine and tender request.

"Why are you telling me this?" A little uncomfortable with this topic, Sue turned her head away, not knowing what to say or how to respond.

"You're avoiding my question. Sue, please look at me." Anthony put his hands on her shoulders and gently shifted her around so she would face him. "I know you're not completely ready to accept me, but a lot of things have happened, Sue. I'm worried about you... I'm afraid you won't be taken enough care of, so... would you move to my place and let me take care of you instead?" he asked in earnest.

"Anthony, you don't have to do this..." Sue was at a loss for what to do about his request. She shrugged off his hands with her eyebrows knitted in uncertainty. "I've told you before. I need time to think about all this..."

"I understand," he interrupted her. "If nothing had happened since then, I'd give you time to consider it, but that's not the case anymore. What if... what if they go to you at this time? I'm so afraid that they'll hurt you. Sue, I can't let them do you any harm. I can't allow them to hurt you even in the slightest way."

A bitter smile found its way to his expression as he spoke his mind. "I know Sher is your good friend and that she's very kind to you, but she's only a girl after all. She can't protect you all the time. Besides, aren't you worried about bringing danger and trouble to her as well? Do you want something bad to happen before it's too late?"

After Sue heard his words, her brows furrowed as she considered it. As a matter of fact, it had indeed

been worrying her. She was afraid to get Sheryl involved again and was starting to plan to move out.

He brought up her concern again.

Because she knew Sheryl's character of always being considerate of others and putting others' needs

first, Sue knew that Sheryl wouldn't agree if she proposed to move into a hotel by herself.

But if she moved to Anthony's place...

"Please give me more time to think about it," she finally said with a frown.

"There is no need to think about it," Anthony insisted. "Sue, listen to me. They are desperate now.

They'll try any means to get what they want from you. I don't believe they're above attacking and

hurting you. It's better and safer for you to move to my place. If you're with me, they won't be so quick

to go after you. I promise I'll do my best to protect you and your child. And if you move in with me,

Sheryl won't be in danger either and she won't have to worry about you too much. Isn't that good for

both of you? What do you think?"

It was still concerning for Sue. No matter how true Anthony's words were, it was a complicated

situation. "You should at least give me some time to talk to Sheryl, okay?"

Chapter 894 I Fear No Trouble



Sue let out a deep sigh and stated, "You know Sheryl's temperament very well. If I suddenly tell her that I will be moving out, she definitely won't agree. You should give me some time to explain to her clearly."

"So that means, you do like to move in with me?" Anthony grinned from ear to ear at what he heard.

"So I will just take it as your approval."

"I'm going now." Sue glimpsed at Anthony, and in her quiet amazement mused, "I'll call you tomorrow."

"Okay." Anthony felt so pleased that he couldn't stop himself from grinning.

Meanwhile, Sheryl had been waiting for Sue in the living room. She was worried because her friend never got home so late at night. She was about to give her a call when the door opened, and there she was bouncing gaily in the doorway. Sue seemed to be in a happy mood.

Sheryl closed in on the gap between them and probed her with a note of relief, "Why do you come back so late? Where have you been? Where did you go with Anthony?"

"He invited me to go fishing,"

Sue replied with a smile.

"Go fishing?" Bewildered, Sheryl wondered, "Why did he do that? Is he insane?"

"Maybe he just wants me to chill and relax. He wants to pacify my emotion after all the troubles that have happened to me." Sheryl was speechless for a brief moment when she heard the way Sue responded.

Tossing a glimpse at Sheryl, Sue whispered, "Is there any food? I am a little hungry."

"Yes... Yes! Come here. Let's go to the kitchen." Sheryl observed Sue with an expressed look of concern, and then went on, "Grandma knows you don't have appetite these past few days, so she went to the market this morning. She bought fresh chicken to make her chicken soup recipe. Shirley and I almost ate much of the chicken but, there's enough soup left for you. Do you want to eat some noodles with the chicken soup?"

"That will be great! Thank you." Sue smiled happily. She felt grateful.

About ten minutes later, Sheryl had gotten the noodles ready. She also made an omelet and some vegetables. The contrasting colors of the food made them look delectable and appetizing to Sue.

"Wow, the food looks delicious!" Her mouth watered even more when she snapped a glance at the noodles in Sheryl's hands.

Sheryl put the noodles on the table in front of Sue, and then she motioned, "Here you go. Eat more if you like it. There are still plenty left in the kitchen."

Sue nodded in great satisfaction and began helping herself.

"Hey, eat slowly. What's the rush?" Sheryl affectionately stared at Sue and handed her a piece of tissue.

Sue smirked and blurted out, "You and Grandma are so kind to me. I will be heartbroken if I will be moving out one day."

"So why don't you just live with us forever?" Sheryl teased.

Sue suddenly put her chopsticks aside and pouted, "You know it's impossible."

She looked at Sheryl, "Sher, you have your own life and you will go back to Dream Garden one day, but I..." She paused as she felt the bitterness crept up in her voice.

"I'm just an outsider in your family. It's not right to live and to stay here for too long."

"Sue..." Sheryl frowned and expressed her disapproval, "You shouldn't be thinking and worrying about it that too much. You can live here as long as you like and nobody will ever drive you out. You know you are important to me, don't you?"

"I know." Sue nodded, "I know all of you are kind people. But I can't bother you anymore, so I'm going to leave."

"What?" Sheryl was taken back and found herself spacing out. This was really beyond her expectation.

After a brief moment, she had calmly managed to voice out her doubts, "Why do you suddenly want to move?"

"It's not a sudden decision." Sue immediately reached out to hold Sheryl's hand. She then warmly smiled and pleadingly explained, "Honestly, I don't want to leave you just because I feel embarrassed causing some troubles to you and Grandma Amy.

Those times that I spent here with you and your family are the happiest moments in my life. Grandma Amy is so kind to me and always treats me as her own granddaughter.

But Sheryl, we know that I'm still not her granddaughter. The more your family treats me kindly, the more restless I feel. I worry that I will never be able to repay your kindness."

"Who wants remuneration?" Sheryl couldn't refrain herself from interrupting her friend. And she shot her an inquisitive glare. "Do you think we treat you well because we need you to pay us back?"

"I didn't mean it that way." Sue instantly realized that her words were inappropriate so she hurriedly groped for the right words, "I know you have really regarded me as a member of your family. But honestly speaking, I still feel I owe you too much."

Closing her eyes briefly, she started composing her thoughts and then she pleaded, "This feeling isn't this strong as before, but now considering some accidents that have happened..."

Sue smiled bitterly and insisted, "I really can't stay here and cause more troubles to you. Allen might come here and mess with your life up one day if I go on living here."

"Don't say such words," Sheryl hushed her. And with a frown etched on her forehead, Sheryl exclaimed, "You know I never fear of troubles."

"Yes, I definitely know that. But you should also think about your grandparents. They are too old to bear the possible troubles. How can you just let them face that danger?"

Now, Sheryl was rendered speechless. The only thing she worried about the most was none other than her grandparents.

She had no qualms in facing any danger because she was simply fearless, but she could never let her grandparents be worried about her.

With a heavy sigh, she breathed in slowly and muttered, "So where can you move now?"

Staring still at Sue, she implied, "You can't go back to your previous house because someone was just killed there. And one thing for sure, Grandma and I won't agree if you want to live in a hotel."

"I..." Sue hesitated for a while and then awkwardly confessed, "I'm going to move to Anthony's house."

"What?" Sheryl was greatly surprised. That was really out of her expectation.

Sue tried her best to stay away from Anthony. Now, she was claiming that she was going to live with him. That was really confusing, so she inquired doubtfully, "Do you plan to sacrifice yourself to avoid making trouble for us?"

"No." Sue smiled warmly and confided, "Actually I have thought it over and have considered it lately.

Just like you said, Anthony is the baby's father after all."

Sue held Sheryl's gaze and reassured her, "Moreover, I can feel his heart and his love for me after getting along with him for these past few days. So... I decided to give both Anthony and me a chance. My unborn baby also needs a father."

"But... Have you really made up your mind?" Sheryl tried to gauge Sue's expression. She was deeply

concerned about her friend's welfare and gently prompted, "Sue, there is no chance to regret if you are decided to do this. But, it might have been too late when you realize your choice is wrong. So have you really thought about this clearly? Are you certainly sure about this?"

"I don't know." Sue shook her head helplessly and admitted, "I didn't think too much about the consequences."

"But I believe Anthony will not let me down. He will be an ideal husband just like what you once told me," she asserted with conviction.

Sheryl arched her brow and pointed out, "I did say that, but..."

Chapter 895 Come In

"Alright," Sue held Sheryl as she said. "I know you care for me, I do. But you know Anthony, don't you?"

"I'm afraid I can't stay here. I can always go to you if he shows any signs of not treating me well. You won't turn me away, right?"

Sheryl dragged out a long, helpless sigh. As she turned to Sue and held a serious look, she said, "Well,

I won't keep you here if you've made up your mind.

"I know you're still in love with him. You haven't talked about it but you've been missing him, right?"

Sue smiled affectionately. "You do know me best."

"Since it was your choice, I'll respect your decision. But..." Sheryl paused for a moment, looking at Sue with a heavy stare. "You have to let me know the second you feel wronged, if you ever do. No matter what happens, I'll back you up.

You're always welcome to come here if you feel like it. My home is yours now too. I'll always be here for you no matter how things turn out."

"I know." Sue enveloped Sheryl in a tight embrace. "Sher, I'm so lucky to have a friend like you in my life."

And she truly was. Sheryl's words were genuine, and she would always do everything in her power to keep her friend from harm.

"Silly girl," Sheryl teased.

That night, Sue packed her belongings. When she moved out of her apartment, she didn't carry many clothes because she thought she would be staying at Sheryl's place for only a few days. Most of her necessities were provided by Sheryl.

All that time, Sheryl had made sure to provide enough for her. She shared all she could.



"Sue, you can take these toothbrushes and other toiletries. I bought them for you, anyway.

I also have these two dresses that I haven't worn since I bought them. We're about the same size, so you can take them with you too."

"Oh and by the way, have you taken the vitamins I brought you before?" Sheryl added.

"Yes." Sue stopped her. "Don't worry about that. Sher, if you keep doing this, I'll end up leaving with everything in your house. Might as well put you in my luggage," she joked.

Suddenly, the mood shifted and Sheryl didn't seem to be very happy about the teasing. "I'm just afraid that you won't feel comfortable enough there."

"I know..." Sue moved in to put her arm around Sheryl's shoulder and said to her gently, "You should be relieved about me moving out. How can I leave you if you keep doing this?

It's not like it's goodbye forever. We can still meet each other any time, every day, even."

Sue's comforting words made Sheryl feel loads better. They finished packing up and lay down in the bed, chatting the night away.

The next morning, Sheryl woke up very early. Anthony's car was already outside when she sent Shirley to school. She decided to approach him and knock on the car door.

He greeted her, looking very tired and restless.

"Have you been waiting here the whole night?" Sheryl asked.

"No," he denied. "I came here in the morning. I thought that I might as well just wait here since I couldn't fall asleep."

Sheryl looked at Anthony hesitantly. After a moment, she said, "Anthony, you can bring Sue home on one condition. You have to promise me that you will treat her well. She's a good girl and she deserves to be treated well."

"I know." He nodded his head eagerly before looking Sheryl in the eye. "I promise I will do my best to care for her."

When Sheryl heard the sincerity in his words, she nodded once and started walking back towards the house.

She briefly turned around and called him, "Come on in, Sue is still sleeping."

The invitation made him freeze. He wasn't sure if he was allowed to get close to Sheryl. 'How could she invite me in?' he wondered.

"What? You don't want to come inside?" Sheryl asked when she reached the door.

"No, no, no," he hastily denied and followed Sheryl to the door, at a loss for what to do once he stepped inside.

As Sheryl and Amy worked on preparing breakfast, Amy stared at Sheryl with a frown. "How could you let him in?"

"He's the father of Sue's child," Sheryl sighed. "And it's hot outside, so I let wait here," she simply explained.

"But..."

"Grandma, I know what you're worried about," Sheryl interrupted her before she could continue the thought. "He's coming to pick Sue up. There's nothing between us now. You don't need to worry about that."

Amy looked at her puzzlingly. "He's coming to pick up Sue? What's that supposed to mean?" she asked in confusion.

Sheryl had no time to relay to Amy all that happened the previous night because she arrived home so late. Once she did tell her the whole story, Amy looked skeptical and anxious about the situation.

"Anthony is such an unreliable man. Are you really alright with letting him take care of Sue?"

His role of fathering Sue's child did nothing to change Anthony's bad impression on Amy.

"Grandma, I know he did some untrustworthy things, but, I have to admit that he is very good at taking care of people." Sheryl wasn't defending him; she was only speaking the truth.

Anthony had taken care of Sheryl and Shirley very well during the years she stayed with him. The only issue at hand was if he was in love with Sue as much as she was with him.

If he wasn't, it might break Sue's heart while she lived with him.

"If he keeps to his word about treating Sue well, then I'll live with ease,"

Sheryl simply explained.

She called him into the dining room to have breakfast together. Knowing that Amy didn't think well of him, Anthony was uncomfortable and afraid that Amy didn't want him at the table, so he turned the offer

down politely. Amy looked at him indifferently and said, "Do you dislike the breakfast I made?"

Her question had Anthony rushing to the dining table to reassure them that he didn't mean to offend them. When he sat down, he could see how Sheryl and Amy were trying to keep from smiling.

After they finished breakfast, Sue woke up. She was surprised to see Anthony right away. "How come you're here so early?"

"He's been waiting for you outside since early this morning," Sheryl said. "Come have some breakfast first."

When she saw that Amy was rather sad about the news, Sue felt a little sting in her chest. "Grandma Amy..."

"Sue, are you sure you want to leave?" She took Sue's hands in hers and asked in earnest.

No matter how much she loved Amy and Sheryl, she knew that she had to go. She nodded her head resolutely. "I've been bothering you for far too long. It's time to bother my kid's father. He should take responsibility at times like this," Sue smiled teasingly.

Amy shook her head and laughed as she heard the words. "You're still kidding even now," she sighed.

"Seeing you leave... I'm just... I don't like it."

"Grandma Amy..." Sue smiled in gratitude and affection. "I'll make sure to visit you and rip meals off you often in the next days. I'll miss your dishes terribly."

Chapter 896 The Last Time

"Sue..." Sheryl couldn't help but sigh deeply. "My Grandma is rather fragile now. Let's not bother her."

Amy put on an amicable smile and slightly waved her hands to brush off the remark. "It doesn't matter.

Look at me. I have a healthy body. Cooking is no big deal for me. Just tell me if you want to eat

anything and I'll prepare it nicely for you. My little girl, please take care."

"Thank you Grandma Amy." Sue smiled and looked at her with deep appreciation. "I should get going

now."

"That fast?" Though Sue was not her real granddaughter, Amy had always treated her with as much

love as she did to Sheryl. At times, she even felt more affection for her because of her situation. Amy's

heart went out to Sue who had been mistreated horribly by her own family. She wanted to give the girl

as much care and love as she could. After living under the same roof for many days, Amy had grown

very fond of their new family member and found it hard to let her go.

"Yes, Grandma Amy." Sue nodded in understanding. She held the same sentiments in her heart and

felt reluctant to part with Sheryl and Amy, but it was time for her to leave. "I can't live off you for too

long. It's time for me to go. Thank you so much for everything. You made it feel like home."

Amy smiled at that. "I'll send you off, then." She brought Sue to the door and watched as she loaded

her things into Anthony's car.

As she thought about the memories that were made in that house, Sue paused and turned around. She thought of the immense care and concern Sheryl and Amy had given her and felt a surge of sadness overcome her that could almost make her cry. She looked at the two kind faces that she would never forget. "Sher, take Grandma inside. It's hot out here."

"We'll go back inside after you leave," Amy stated firmly before Sheryl could even have a chance to respond. Still reluctant to let her leave, Amy reminded Sue in a worried tone, "If you're bullied, tell me. I'll handle it for you. I'll always be here for you."

"Grandma Amy, rest assured. I'll take care of Sue. I promise," Anthony eagerly tried to comfort and assure Amy. For what happened to Sheryl, Arthur had already been furious with him before. If Amy were to bear such anger for him, he would have no way to deal with the guilt.

Amy scoffed at his assurance and warned him with a scornful glare, "Easier said than done, especially with you, someone with a bad record. I'm not just going to take your word for it. Remember, Sue is also my granddaughter. If I ever find out that you have done anything irresponsible or uncaring to her, you'll

regret it."

"I understand. I will treat her well," Anthony said solemnly in embarrassment. What she said was true, after all, so he had no right to argue back.

When they got settled in the car, Sue waved her new family off with a broken heart. After giving them enough time to bid each other farewell, Anthony started the engine and drove off.

It was not until the car was out of sight when Sheryl and Amy went back inside.

A few minutes into the drive, a soft sobbing sound filled the car. Tears were rolling down Sue's cheeks.

Anthony stopped the car and handed her some tissue. With his eyes full of love, he asked tenderly,

"What happened? Why do you suddenly cry out?"

"Nothing." After her one-word reply, Sue continued to indulge in her sorrow and kept sobbing as quietly as she could.

"Is it because you don't want to leave Sheryl?" Patting her on the shoulder, he tried to console her,

"Anytime you miss them, I can always drive you up there to see them. Just because you don't share the same room doesn't mean you won't ever see her again."

"I know." Sue nodded and felt her emotions surfacing even more. After another sob, she felt the urge to



open up to the caring man. "I just... can't help but feel sad. I've been living with Sheryl and Amy all this time and... it was the first time in my life that I've truly felt I was loved and cared for. They cared for me unconditionally and never expected anything from me. Amy is like a real Grandma to me. I..." Her tears didn't let her continue.

"My little girl..." Anthony gently stroked her hair and assured her in the softest tone he could muster.

"From today on, I will treat you the way they have done. You're also my family, Sue. No matter what is waiting for us ahead, we'll face it together. Okay?"

"Anthony," Sue suddenly called his name. With a hesitant and doubtful look, she asked, "Have you really decided?"

Her insecure nature urged her to ask. She couldn't help but seek for the confirmation that she needed.

Although Anthony had been determined to make things crystal clear for her, she still couldn't trust him completely.

For the last time, she wanted to be reaffirmed once again.

If... If Anthony wanted to take his words back, he should do it before making the potential damage

worse.

Anthony, on the other hand, only felt upset when he heard the question once again. Looking into Sue's eyes with a hint of disappointment, he said, "You still don't trust me?"

She shook her head slightly and explained, "It's not that I don't trust you. It's... It's that I'm afraid to trust you again."

Anthony's face suddenly turned serious and he stated solemnly, "Sue, I will say this for the last time.

If... If you ask me that again, I'll probably go mad."

Sue blinked the tears away and listened to him attentively. "From now on, I will do my best to protect you and our child. I will strive to be a good husband and a good father. Please trust me."

His words and the sincere love in his voice and in his eyes finally expelled the last bit of uncertainty in Sue. She was convinced to accept him with her whole heart.

She nodded vigorously, tears still in her eyes, but this time, they were tears of joy. Wiping them away with gently strokes, Anthony said with affection, "Alright, let's wipe these tears away. Knowing that I was bringing you back today, my mom woke up early and prepared some chicken soup for you. She must be excited to see you arrive now."

Anthony knew that Sue was still worried about his mother's attitude, so he assured her. Regardless

what, he was not going to let any harm come to Sue anymore for as long as he lived.

Back home, Laura was indeed eager to see Sue arrive. She was so anxious that she stood right at the

door as she waited for them. She walked up towards the car the moment it stopped and hurried to open

Sue's door for her. "Slow, be careful of your steps."

"Aunt Laura, thank you. I'm fine," Sue replied politely. "I don't need special care."

Laura simply shook her head. "This is a special time in your life. Of course you need special care," she

retorted as she glued her eyes to Sheryl's swollen belly. "From now on, just stay here and don't worry

about anything else. If you want to eat anything, just tell me. I'll prepare it for you immediately,"

Laura promised with a huge grin. She was overwhelmed with joy at the sight of Sue's belly. She could

even envision her grandson now and it kept her smiling.

Such a demeanor on Laura was a surprising sight for Sue. Compared to how she knew Laura in the

past, it was like she did a complete one-eighty.

Sue's surprise wasn't even registered by Laura, whose attention was fully occupied with looking out for

Sue as she led her to her room. "I've cleaned every nook and cranny of this room and sanitized the whole area as well. You might not find everything you need here, so I thought that we could go shopping tomorrow to look for anything else you might need. How about that?"

"That's not necessary, but thank you," Sue replied flatly. She was rather satisfied with the room and she could see that Laura did put a lot of thought into it. "This is a really nice room," Sue continued. "I don't need anything else."

Laura waved her hands in denial. "No, no, this is far from nice." She was delighted to hear it, though, feeling content with Sue's response. "I was really excited to hear that you would come and stay with us. It's just that I didn't have much time to prepare. Otherwise, I would refurbish the entire room for you."

Sue was elated to see Laura treating her so kindly.

Before she came, the only worry she had on her mind was Laura. She still remembered Laura's attitude towards her in the past, and she was rather scared to see this woman again. Now, though, it seemed that everything was going well. There was absolutely no need for her to worry about that.

Moved, she held Laura's hands and expressed her heartfelt gratitude, "Aunt Laura, thank you so much."

"No need to thank me," Laura said as she waved it off. As she talked, Anthony managed to take care of the luggage and brought her things into her new room. "Just put it down there," Sue said to him. "I can handle the rest later."

"No, please," Laura intervened hurriedly. "Look at your belly. You're pregnant, now. You can't do these things by yourself. Anthony," she turned to him, "open up her suitcase. I'll help her tidy up the rest of her things."

"I can do that myself, Aunt Laura. It's no problem, really," Sue insisted and rejected Laura's offer.

Laura's attitude had been a tad too hospitable for her to believe and get used to, so she had to insist, "I can arrange my own stuff. It's nothing tiring at all. Just let me do that, at least. I'm fine."

Chapter 897 Resignation

"No, you can't!" Laura completely opposed to Sue's proposal. She patted her and said, "The only thing that you need to do is rest. So why don't you sit right here while I make up the room for you."

Laura started to unpack Sue's luggage. She carefully took each item and busied herself around the room, making sure everything was in its right place. Sue offered to help but she refused. Even though

Laura belonged to an upper class family, she made it a point to do housekeeping for her husband and

her son. Her willingness to serve them had made her a fast and skilled worker.

Unsure on what more she could do, Sue had no choice but to stay aside while she watched Laura work

on her stuff. Sue was unable to hide the embarrassment on her face. "Take it easy," Anthony

commented with a smile, trying to ease her anxiety. "Just leave it to her. She has been looking forward

to having you around. You don't know how happy she is now that you've finally moved in."

Since Anthony mentioned it, Sue just stared as Laura continued moving around the room. Laura was

busy with what she was doing, unaware of what they talked about. Finally, when she was done, Laura

stopped and looked around for the last check. She patted her hands with satisfaction as she exclaimed,

"All is done! Perfect!" Sue took another sweeping look on the room and she had to agree. It now looked

like it had always been hers.

Laura went to the restroom and washed her hands. It was already time for lunch and she was excited

to share one with Sue. She took her hands intimately and invited her to dine, "Let's go down to have

lunch!"

Anthony watched his mom as she treated Sue like her own daughter. He didn't know how he should

feel about being left out, when he was her true-born son.

Carlson seldom dined at home, but when he knew that Sue had moved in, he made sure he wouldn't miss today's family meal. Sue remained to be the focus of Laura's attention during lunchtime. She kept offering her dishes even after her plate was already full. Carlson frowned at this sight and he could not help but comment, "What are you doing? Look at her plate. It's already full! You are making her uncomfortable!"

Carlson's comments had made Laura feeling awkward. "I just think she is too thin, so I want her to eat more," she reasoned out. "Don't you think so?"

Carlson didn't reply. They continued with lunch quietly.

Meanwhile, in the Zhao family house, Charles somehow got the news that Sue had already moved out, therefore, he hurried to Sheryl's place to bring her home.

He also brought Clark to back him up.

"Why are you here?" Sheryl was unable to hide her surprise the moment she saw Charles at her house. He was grinning as he approached her and announced, "I'm here to bring you home, of course! Now that Sue has moved out, you can't stall me off any more!"

"Yes, mom. Daddy is right," Clark echoed. "Let's go home together. Okay?" His twinkling eyes were fixed at her as he waited for a response.

Sheryl could not help but smile when she heard Clark's lovely voice. She squatted down and looked at him to acknowledge his request. "Clark, my dear. Don't worry. Mom will return home for sure, but not now."

She reached her hand out, stroke his cheek tenderly and continued, "You see, Auntie Sue just moved out. If mommy also moves out now, your great-grandparents would feel really sad and lonely. We don't want that to happen because we also love them, right?" She looked at him intently and hoped he'd find what she just said reasonable enough.

"Well..." Clark paused. He was trying had to think of an answer but could not find the right words to express his thoughts. He looked up at Charles and hoped he could help him up.

In fact, he did not want to lobby his mother, but since Charles was generous to give him abundant rewards, he agreed with it.

He felt bad that he was unable to do more for his father. He looked at Charles and shrugged, showing that his hands were tied.



Sheryl who was watching Clark's reaction noticed that he was sending distress signals to Charles. She didn't want to disappoint him so she tried to sound optimistic, "Clark, mom knows that you are a good kid. Please don't be upset. Give me a little more time, okay? You know that you shouldn't always listen to what your daddy says." She knew Charles was behind this. It hurt her that she couldn't just give the kid what he wanted, but she already made a decision.

"No problem, mom. I'm going to play with Shirley now." Clark was so eager to leave since he had already tried to do what he could to help his dad.

Charles watched as Clark went away. He simply could not accept this result. He wore a long face and appealed to Sheryl, "Sher, you promised me that you would be back as soon as Sue's problem gets resolved."

"I did. But..." Sheryl sighed. She didn't think Charles would just accept her decision. "My grandma is still sad since Sue moved out," she started to reason out. "If I tell her that I'm going to move out now, she will be devastated. Give me some time, okay?"

"Then tell me, how long will you need?" Charles tried his best not to sound impatient nor demanding.

Sheryl didn't expect his question but she had no choice but to respond, "A week probably." That was the best random answer she could come up with right now. She just hoped Charles would just accept it.

"I'll have a business trip next week. You have to move back after I return home, will you? No more excuses!" Charles demanded. He wanted her to know that stalling would not work anymore.

"You have my words," Sheryl replied with a smile. She then confirmed, "It's settled then."

Charles was not satisfied with the results but he had to live with it. He decided to keep quiet. He knew how much Sheryl's grandparents meant to her. He did not want to sound unreasonable if he insisted on getting her to leave them.

Early the next morning, Sheryl went to BM Corporation for work. The sun shone brightly when she reached the entrance of the building. She stopped to take a better look around. She was recently engaged in her own business in Cloud Advertising Company, hence, her current job was neglected.

After careful consideration, she decided that she needed to end it with BM Corporation.

Just the thought of it made her felt guilty towards Holley and George, but she had to make this choice.

After all, life was short. It would be best to make use of precious time on things that she really liked.

She went straight to Holley's office when she entered the company. She found her sitting behind her

desk reading through some paperwork. Holley immediately raised her head when she saw the door opened and welcomed her with a smile. She motioned for her to take a seat, and she did. "Sher, you are here. I was just thinking about calling you!"

"Call me?" she asked to confirm if she heard it right. Holley was still smiling. Sheryl wondered what it was that she required. "You need anything?" she finally asked.

"There is one thing," Holley responded. "Our company recently got a new deal. We need to send a delegate to their city for a few days, and we think you are the best candidate. As for the reward, I must say, it will be very satisfying. What do you think of it?"

It sounded like a good offer, Sheryl thought, but she needed to turn it down. She couldn't help but feel a little sad as she decided to tell Holley the truth. "Miss Ye, in fact I need to tell you something today.

That's why I'm here."

Even if she stayed in BM Corporation, she could not consider going on a business trip since she had two kids now. She didn't want to leave them behind even for a while.

"I'm sorry. But I don't think I would be able to accept your offer to go on a business trip because of my

kids. I don't think that can be negotiated no matter how much you are willing to pay me," Sheryl replied as calmly as possible.

"Yes, I understand," Holly acknowledged with a bitter smile. "To be honest, I don't want to send you there either, but, I'm sure you are aware on what happened previously. We fired some employees because of Mr. Lu, so we are already short-staffed." Holly could not help but sigh. She didn't want to mention it but she had to get Sheryl to agree at all cost.

She continued with her case, "If Sue didn't turn out pregnant all of a sudden, we won't be having this discussion. You know that I can't find anyone more suitable than you. So I want you to do me this favor."

Holley came close to her and patted her shoulder. "Sher, I really have no choice now. Could you help me this time? Please?" she pleaded.

"Miss Ye, I'm really sorry. I can't help you." Sheryl made sure that her voice sounded firm. "In fact, the reason why I'm here today is because I want to submit my resignation. I would like to terminate my contract with BM Corporation."

"Terminate your contract?" Holley was stunned by her message. She anxiously fired her questions

away, "What happened? Why do you want to resign all of a sudden? Are you not satisfied with your compensation? Has anyone treated you wrongly? No matter what the problem is, we can solve it through consultation. How can you just quit all of a sudden?"

"Miss Ye, it has nothing to do with the company. I need to attend to some personal issues," Sheryl explained. "You also understand my condition now, so..." she tried to persuade Holley.

"Sher, I understand your condition exactly," Holley interrupted. "But you need to know that a woman needs to be economically independent. You can't rely on your husband's grace! You need to have your own job! Moreover..." Holley's attitude turned tough. "We are in short of hands now. How can you choose to leave at such a bad timing? Don't you think that you are being ungrateful?" She looked at Sheryl coldly.

"Sheryl, Mr. Han and I have always treated you very well. When you joined the company, we welcomed you with open arms and accepted all of your proposals with a big heart. How can you forget our kindness now?"

Chapter 898 Negotiation

Sheryl knew that parting with BM Corporation would not be easy. Nevertheless, she was a little

disappointed with Holley. It was true that Holley and George had helped her a lot when she needed it the most, and she indeed was grateful. But she never thought that Holley would bring it up in this manner.

It seemed that they had been waiting to be thanked by her. This gesture did not go very well with her.

Sheryl looked at Holley and said, "Miss Ye, I'm so grateful to you and George for your help. I'll never forget about it. It's truly been a delight being a part of your team. I am ready to compensate as per the contract. I am aware that the way I am leaving the company is really abrupt. But because of the kids, I am left with no choice at all."

"So that means... you must leave?" Holley looked up at Sheryl with a stern face and asked. She narrowed her eyes and stared at Sheryl as she waited for her to reply. She knew it very well that it was futile speaking to Sheryl.

Sheryl had made up her mind to leave and now nothing could stop her. But would it be so easy to leave BM Corporation? How could Holley let it happen so easily?

Sheryl had a resolute expression on her face as she nodded her head slightly and said, "Yes. I must."

She then brought a polite smile on her face and continued in an apologetic manner, "I'm so sorry for

bringing the trouble to you and Mr. Han. I'm truly grateful for your understanding and help." Saying this

she stared at Holley, praying inside her heart so that she could be released without much hassle.

No matter how calm and composed Sheryl looked on the face, she was really getting impatient and

restless to get this matter settled. Holley looked at Sheryl expressionlessly. She was aware that Sheryl

would leave the company one day, but she didn't expect it to happen so early. She sneered and said,

"Well, it seems that you won't change your mind no matter what I say, will you?"

Hearing this, Sheryl felt awkward and replied, "I do want to help you, trust me. But I have no choice,

so..."

She thought that she would be thankful if Holley could understand her, but if not, she would just let it

be.

So she said to Holley, "Miss Ye, take care of yourself. Bye then." After a long time of thinking, Sheryl

decided to go back to Cloud Advertising Company. Only when she was there could she feel so much

alive. She was getting increasingly impatient as she just wanted the exit interview to end so that she

could finally be free from this and go back to the career she dreamed of.

Holley smiled as she watched her standing up, and said, "Okay, there is no point in keeping you here since you have made up your mind.

But as you can see that we're really busy now. I think I have to ask Sue to help me with the mass here, though she's pregnant. I bet she can fully understand me."

Sheryl turned round and stared at Holley. "What did you say? Miss Ye, Sue's pregnant now, how can you do that? Isn't it too much?" Holley's words made her freeze at her place she was standing. From the expression on her face Holley could say that she had played her card well.

Holley shared a quick glance at Sheryl's face that had gone pale and said, "I know that I shouldn't. But what can I do? As you can see that we're in the peak season and we have made the contract with our client. The number of models have been confirmed, so in order not to bring damage to the company's image, I have to do that.

Can't you guys understand my situation? Do you think it's easy to run a company?"

Sheryl was enraged and almost ready to blast as she heard Holley threaten her in a soft and diplomatic way. There was no doubt in her mind that Holley was threatening her with Sue. And this was the point where Holley knew very much that Sheryl could not break free no matter what. She loved the dilemma



that played on Sheryl's face but maintained a nonchalant look.

Then she stood up and said to Sheryl with a smile, "Alright, off you go. Bye for now. Wish you can have a good luck and a happy life then.

Close the door when you leave the room. The lawyer of our company will discuss with you about the compensation. I believe that you will cooperate." Holley stared straight at Sheryl's eyes with a very diplomatic parting smile on her face marking every twitch of the muscle on her face. Sheryl felt as if she was shaken up from her trance as Holley stood up and gestured her to leave. She took slow shaky steps towards the door and stopped right there.

Unsure of what she should do, Sheryl stood by the side of the door and thought about how to deal with the situation. She was afraid that Holley would really go for Sue. After a while, Holley looked up and said, "What are you still doing up here? Are you not leaving?"

Sheryl turned around slowly. She looked at Holley and said, "Look, would you not go for Sue if I stay to help you?" Holley put down her pen and looked at Sheryl.

"Come on, you don't have to worry about her. I won't ask her to do those difficult tasks. Actually what

she needs to do is just to present in a buffet. I believe she can handle it even if she's pregnant. Well, you can leave now since you have made up your mind to leave, so don't bother..." Holley looked down at her desk while she was very agitated of Sheryl's presence in the room.

Sheryl spoke slowly, "Miss Ye. Sue's very weak these days because of the pregnancy. I don't think she can handle the tasks you would assign, and it's not safe for her to travel either. So, I will go instead of her."

Holley frowned. "Are you sure? You won't screw it up, will you?"

Sheryl firmly replied, "Of course not. You can count on me. I'll try my best to do it. Let that be the last thing I do for the company."

Holley tilted her head a little backward, looked at Sheryl and said in a cold voice, "Ah, do you really mean it? Isn't it a bit too hard on you?"

Sheryl gritted her teeth but gave Holley a smile, and replied, "Deal? Call me when you start. Okay?"

"Deal." Holley stood up from her seat and walked slowly to Sheryl. She put her hand on her shoulder and said, "Sher, it's fine that you have taken the entire thing on your shoulders, but you'd better not

mess it up. I'm not sure what George would do to you if you screw it up. But, in that case, I can tell you

that it wouldn't be so easy for you to leave."

Sheryl found a hint of acridness on Holley's face, at the same time another familiar face slipped into her mind. She shook her head to drive away the idea at once.

She paused and said, "Okay, take it easy. I'm going to do it well. More so just for leaving the company safely."

"That will be good." Holley was satisfied with Sheryl's answer. She said, "You can just take a day off for today. Go spend some time with your family and kids." Sheryl smiled and walked out of her cabin. After

Sheryl left, Holley walked back to her desk, picked up the phone and dialed a number. "I've made an arrangement. You know what to do about it, right?"

"Yeah, I see what you mean. She won't be able to tell others about it after that, what she can do is just to swallow it." Holley coldly smiled and said, "But you have to make sure that I have to be out of this if something goes wrong."

Holley hung up the phone after she warned him about all the details she set up. And she stood by the French window and stared outside. Her eyes fixed at a distant gaze as she looked out and her face

was solemn as if she was trying to envision something.

After stepping out of the office, Sheryl headed straight to Cloud Advertising Company. She loved being

at this place more than anywhere else. And also, she felt relaxed being in Isla's company.

The project they worked on had been passed and Isla was always calling her and trying to get her

involved in all kinds of projects and solving difficulties in design.

Having bathed in this kind of atmosphere, Sheryl began to find back the enthusiasm she once had for

this job.

Chapter 899 What Do You Think

Her free hours left Sheryl feeling a bit restless, so she wanted to keep herself busy. She headed to the

company to see if she could help with anything.

The moment she stepped into the office, Isla called her over for help. "Sher! Good, you're here. I'm

going out to negotiate a plan. Come with me. You're the professional. It will be much easier if you're

around."

Isla had run the company in Sheryl's stead for quite a few years. After Sheryl returned, Isla had tried to

turn the company back over to Sheryl several times, not because she wasn't capable of the role, but

because she wanted to give Sheryl back what she owned. Since Sheryl wasn't really ready or prepared

to become the head of the company again, Isla wanted to involve Sheryl in everything she was handling, big or small, to help keep Sheryl in the loop of what was happening in the company until she officially took on the position of CEO again.

Sheryl found the job a bit too challenging, and declined, "I don't think I should be there. You're much more experienced in negotiation with the customers than I am. You can do a good job on your own. I can help you with any other cases that you may not have time to deal with."

"Sher..." Isla didn't like that Sheryl refused to take part in the meeting and tried to think of a reason to convince her otherwise. "This case is really important to our company. Please come with me. I want you to be there in case I'm uncertain of anything."

"But..."

Sheryl started to reject again but Isla interrupted her. "There's no 'but' here," she said firmly. Before Sheryl had any chance to reject her again, Isla grabbed her arm and pulled her into the lift. "Don't forget that you're the owner of this company, not me. It's not fair to just throw all the responsibility to me, isn't it?"

"You're very capable, Isla. I can rest assured leaving everything to you," she replied with a sly grin.

Isla felt rather delightful and proud of the trust Sheryl had in her, but at the same time, burdened by having to run the company. She knew that today, her attempt to make Sheryl take over her role failed once again, so she let that matter go for the time being and focused on the business matter at hand.

She drove them to the target company.

Waiting for them outside the office was the secretary of the target company's boss. This company was investing in real estate and was linked to Cloud Advertising Company via a personal network. They wanted Cloud Advertising Company to plan a wine party for them where they could advertise for their newly constructed houses.

All the guests invited were either rich in wealth or power and could be strong potential investors. The event, therefore, was deemed extremely crucial by the CEO. He had negotiated with several other advertising companies, but all the proposed plans were substandard for his taste.

"Hi, Dillon," Isla called the secretary as she saw who was waiting for them. Clearly, the two had already been introduced. Wearing a warm smile, she greeted, "Long time no see. How is your wife doing?"

"Very good," Dillon Zhang returned with an even warmer smile. "She just mentioned you yesterday.

She wanted to thank you for the beauty salon's membership card you gave her last time. The service there is fantastic, apparently."

Delighted to hear that, Isla skillfully switched the topic to one of her own interest almost seamlessly.

"Glad to hear that she likes it. If you really want to thank me, though, I believe I'll be needing your help later."

This was truly Isla's forte. She had great skill in handling interpersonal relations for the benefit of the company. Any relation was an investment, no matter how trivial it may seem in the beginning.

Though some relations may not lead to much, the one she possessed right now had the potential to do a great deal for the company.

"I can't completely assure you of this, though," Dillon Zhang replied with a hint of embarrassment. "You know that my boss has high standards. Before you, we already contacted four advertising companies, but none of them crafted anything that was even satisfactory for my boss. If you aren't confident that you can do well, I'd advise you to cancel the meeting so I don't get scolded again."

Afraid that Isla would be disappointed in his inability to influence his boss' final decision, Dillon Zhang

proceeded to explain the situation, "Ms. Zhao, I'm also hoping that you can strike a deal with our company today. You'll be happy, and I will too. But it's not for me to decide. I hope you understand that I have limited power."

"Dillon, rest assured, I was just making friends with your wife when I gave her the card as a gift." Isla showed a full understanding of his situation. "I didn't mean anything else. It would be ridiculous of me to expect you to help me just because I gave your wife a salon membership card. Don't worry, we have confidence in our ability. Also, today I have the ace of our company with me."

"Ace?" Dillon Zhang's eyebrows shot up in surprise. He finally turned to Sheryl and gestured to her.

"And this is...?"

"Yes, my ace, Autumn," Isla introduced Sheryl to him as he reached out to shake Sheryl's hand. "Dillon, don't worry. She can solve any problem we encounter. I'm certain that Mr. Su is going to love what we present to him." Cary Su was Dillon Zhang's hard-to-please boss.

"Autumn?" Dillon Zhang pronounced the name once, finding the name familiar. After a moment, it clicked, and he asked, "Is she the new employee that Mr. Shen recommended?"



Isla gave him a meaningful smile and responded, "The plan for Mr. Shen was indeed her work, but... she is definitely not a new employee."

"Then?" he asked in doubt.

"Autumn is not only a part of Cloud Advertising Company but the chairperson of the board. She's my boss. I've brought a very important figure here with me, so you should understand how important we deem this business opportunity to be." The information Isla just revealed was striking, so as to give the other party the impression that they truly wanted to work out a good deal. Isla also had the intention of making Sheryl's presence more known, so it would be easier for her to navigate the negotiation later on.

Now that she was satisfied with the introductions, Isla was ready to start.

"Let's get to the topic, Dillon. What are Mr. Su's conditions you can tell us about now?" she asked rather seriously.

Sheryl's introduction grabbed Dillon Zhang's attention, and he continued inspecting her a while longer.

'Where did this new chairperson of the board of Cloud Advertising come from? I surely haven't heard of her for the past few years. And Isla...' he thought, 'she speaks highly of her, even when she's usually so

strict in business. Since it's Isla's choice to bring her, she must really be somebody. I hope they make it.'

He briefly explained Cary Su's requirements and remarked with a scornful look, "Actually, his conditions aren't that hard to meet. I've looked through the other companies' proposals and they all seemed alright. I don't understand why he's so fussy about this."

Heaving out a deep sigh, he continued, "Mr. Su just didn't like them, I'm guessing. Every time I sent him a new plan, he thought it was too simple, and I had to go looking for another reliable company. At times, after getting the proposal, he didn't even go to meet the representative from the company I contacted.

It put me in a difficult situation. A few days ago, while I was struggling to find new companies, I happened to hear Mr. Shen mentioning your company and it reminded me of you. That was why I tried contacting you, Ms. Zhao. If even you can't give him what he wants, then I don't know who else I can seek help from." With a wry smile, he went on, "I was so busy with this case that I was away from home for about a week. My wife has been complaining all the while. Please help me, Ms. Zhao."

"Sher, what do you think?" Isla turned to Sheryl and requested her preliminary analysis of the situation.

Sheryl fell into deep thought. She had to admit that she knew quite a few capable advertising

companies in Y City, but if none of them succeeded to come up with an acceptable plan for Cary Su,

that could only be attributed to their misinterpretation of his requirements. Their proposals may have

seemed good, but the direction was probably wrong in the first place.

To make the situation worse, the preliminary plans were presented by Dillon Zhang, not by the

representatives themselves, because Cary Su didn't want to meet them. Presentation by a third party

would have definitely resulted in some miscommunication, so the chances of these plans appealing to

Cary Su were slim.

Chapter 900 The Post-it Note

Sheryl narrowed her eyes and paused as she collected her thoughts.

"I promise, you don't need to worry about the money. Mr. Su said that the budget is no problem as long

as you can satisfy him," Dillon hastily interjected.

Isla looked at Sheryl with a puzzled look, wondering what she was thinking. "Sher, what's on your

mind?"

Now that she had gone here, Sheryl couldn't return empty-handed. She finally looked up at Dillon and

inquired carefully, "Dillon, could you... could you allow me to see the plans of the other companies?"

You do have copies of the plans, right?"

Since Sheryl couldn't meet Cary directly, she had no choice but to look for clues from other companies'

plans. Maybe by this way she could find something common factor among them that Cary disliked.

Therefore, she could avoid such unsatisfactory elements in their own plan.

Isla had contributed a great deal to the company. Now that she was back now, she thought she should

do something to lighten the others' burden, especially Isla's. Proposing a satisfactory plan would be a

good start.

"Uh..." Dillon furrowed his brows, feeling a little awkward because of the unusual request that bordered

on inappropriate. He, of course, had copies of these plans. Giving them to Sheryl, however, may be

rather unconventional in the commercial field.

"Don't worry. I just thought I could use them as references. If you really don't trust me, I can look at the

plans under your supervision. I just want to see whether my speculation is right or not. Maybe after I

review those plans, I can find out why Mr. Su was unsatisfied," she explained faintly.

"Dillon, come on. You should trust us. We've already cooperated with each other for a long time," Isla urged Dillon on with a wide smile.

Hearing what Isla said, Dillon could only slightly nod his head in agreement. He still added, however, "I will agree to your request because I trust you. I can show you the copies. But I have to remind you in advance, if this is exposed, I won't take responsibility."

Isla replied with a big smile at his reminder. "Don't worry. If anything happens, I will take full responsibility."

Given Isla's assurance, Dillon went to his office to pick up his laptop. He showed them the folder containing the files and let them have it. "These are the other companies' plans. You can look through what you want."

He then sat opposite Sheryl and poured himself a glass of tea as he gestured for Sheryl to proceed leisurely.

Although Dillon said he wouldn't be responsible, he was still worried that something bad would happen.

He decided to stay and oversee their actions.

Sheryl began reviewing the company plans. From what she knew, the companies that proposed plans

were all well-known and reliable in the field, so she wondered why their plans would fail to satisfy Cary.

As she went through the first plan, she admitted that it was good, but she narrowed her eyes as she delved further into it.

Although the activities displayed the luxury image, there was no substantial and novel content. It was no wonder that Cary felt unsatisfied.

From the looks of it, the other companies made the same mistake as well. They thought that the activity was targeted only at the rich, so their emphasis was only on luxury, while the substance was lost in the fanciness.

After skimming through all the plans, Sheryl knew how to formulate a sound plan. Isla also identified the aspects that the other companies lacked, so she looked up at Sheryl and asked to confirm, "So, you know what the main problem is?"

"I think I've spotted the biggest reason why they failed," Sheryl replied confidently.

Seeing Isla's expression, she believed that Isla must have also realized what the issue was.

Dillon heard their exchange and cut in, "So, what have you found? Why didn't the plans get accepted?"

"Dillon," Sheryl addressed him as she closed the laptop. She looked at him seriously for a moment before continuing, "If possible, I still want to see Mr. Su. I want to discuss my ideas with him."

"Uh..." Dillon muttered as Sheryl made things difficult for him. He furrowed his brows and turned to Isla.

"Ms. Zhao, it's not that I don't trust you. But before... before the plan is approved, even I wouldn't dare disturb Mr. Su. Because no satisfactory plan has been found yet, he's already feeling disappointed and frustrated with me. If I go and request a direct meeting with him at this time, I'm afraid that..."

"Dillon, if something wrong takes place, I will take full responsibility. I know I'm twisting your arm here, but you just have to arrange a meeting for us to make this plan have a higher chance of passing." Isla interrupted before Dillon could refuse again, "I trust Sheryl. If she didn't have absolute confidence, she wouldn't request to meet Mr. Su like this."

"Ms. Zhao..." his voice trailed off. He looked at Isla, a little embarrassed. "It's not that I don't want to do you a favor. But you put me in an awkward position. Mr. Su is my boss, and I should work for him in accordance with his given instructions. So... I'm sorry. I just can't help you there."

"You..." Isla was disappointed at his refusal. Before Isla could continue, Sheryl put her hand on Isla's arm to stop her. She shook her head slightly and patted Isla to pacify her frustration. "It's fine, let me

handle it."

Sheryl always carried post-it notes with her and she felt it was time to put them to use again. She took one out and scribbled something down on it, folded it carefully, and handed it to Dillon. In a calm voice, she explained, "Dillon, this is my plan. Could you hand it over to Mr. Su for me? If he still refuses to see me, we will leave at once, and we won't bother you anymore. How's that arrangement?"

"You..." Dillon hesitated for a moment before turning to Sheryl and asking her, "Are you really that confident about this?"

"Yes." She nodded her head firmly.

Dillon gave the two another glance before he sighed and nodded. "Okay. I'll try it for Ms. Zhao's sake, but I can't promise that it will work. If Mr. Su says that he's not interested in seeing you, I won't have any option but to send you away."

"Don't worry," Sheryl reassured him. "If that's how it turns out, we'll leave right away."

After Dillon left to grant their request, Isla couldn't help but ask Sheryl softly, "Sher, are you really sure about this?"



Sheryl shook her head slightly and smiled lightly. "Actually, not really. I just have to pretend I'm absolutely confident so he does what I ask."

"Then how come you request that even though you don't have confidence?" Isla was dumbfounded at Sheryl's confession.

Sheryl smiled again and said, "As you once said, just try it. Maybe it'll work out, right?"

Isla's eyebrows shot up. She didn't expect that Sheryl would use her own words to persuade her.

Dillon felt so nervous that he clutched at the note tightly. After much hesitation, he finally knocked on Cary's office door. A calm but stern voice called him from inside. "Come in."

The secretary nervously opened the office door. Cary looked up at Dillon and inquired, "Oh, Dillon, how's the plan coming along? The proposals you handed in before didn't meet the demands at all. Have you found other qualified advertising companies?"

"Yes, Mr. Su, I came here to give you this," he replied, almost in cold sweat. He looked at his boss and said carefully, "Mr. Shen recommended a company to us. Do you remember the one he mentioned that successfully organized an activity recently? You raved about it. It's the same company I'm about to introduce to you."

