

Wedded Bride 911

Chapter 911 Alternate Intimidation And Bribery

A sly smile spread over Holley's face as she thoroughly examined Sheryl's appearance. Then, she looked around as though she were a queen with everything under her control.

"In fact, it is not just some modern fancywork. More importantly, you need to..." said Holley and then paused for a bit. Hesitation had crossed her face before she continued, "I asked you to come here today because there are a few important guests who would appreciate our company later."

As soon as the words had left her mouth, the girls wore shocked expressions upon fully comprehending the underlying meaning of 'accompanying guests'. It was not what they expected to hear from her. "What? Are you just kidding me?" a girl asked in a rather indignant tone. "Miss Ye, that is not what you said before. It is so absurd for you to think that we would ever agree to do something like this." "She's right! We are models and model show has always been our major work. We don't want to get involved in any of your shady activities. We have made it clear in our contract, so I am afraid that we can't do that for you," a girl said furiously.

"Yes. Miss Ye," said Susan, looking at her disbelievingly, "how could you make that decision without talking to us about it beforehand? You can tell that everyone here does not want to take part in this."

After she had furrowed her eyebrows into a frown, she then turned to Sheryl, and said, "Sher, BM

Corporation looked like a legitimate company and that's why I wanted to work here in the first place.

But I never expected that such an atrocious business would also exist here. It feels so disgusting."

Being cautious, Sheryl pressed her lips into a thin line and kept silent as she felt like it was not an

accident. It appeared that everything that had happened so far was on purpose.

"Miss Ye, if you're asking us to be a bunch of hostesses today, then I'm afraid that we'll have to decline

your request," another girl almost cried out.

"Yes, we won't do that," the girls agreed in a furious tone.

It was apparent that Holley's proposal encountered strong opposition from all the girls except for

Sheryl, who just sat there motionlessly while refraining from uttering her true thoughts.

She knew Holley well enough not to be impulsive. If the woman had her mind made up about

something, she would do whatever to achieve her purpose. Even if the girls were reluctant to do her

bidding, they would be unable to change a thing.

That was why she decided not to contradict the woman. It was futile.

When Holley glanced at Sheryl, she half expected that she would look like a duck caught in a thunderstorm.

After all, she had been waiting for this moment for such a long time.

However, to her surprise, Sheryl looked so composed as though nothing had happened. Her relaxed demeanor was so convincing that it made Holley feel frustrated somehow.

'Doesn't she care about it?' she thought to herself.

The girls' discussion grew louder by the second, so Holley had to cough deliberately in order to interrupt them. When she had their attention once more, she gazed around the room and said in a rather calm yet casual tone, "Stop talking, girls. Listen to me. Calm down. Try to remember that I'm still your boss, and that all of you are my best assets." When she was sure that her words had sunk into the girls' minds, she continued, "Do you really think that I would set you up? Well, if I did, what would I profit from it?"

The persuasive manager smiled bitterly and went on, "We have known each other for a long time. I thought you'd all know me well by now. Still, I never expected that any of you would regard me as such a vicious woman. It's quite upsetting."

Then she feigned a frustrated look while the models became bewildered. None of the girls could guess her real thoughts.

But Sheryl, unfazed even after Holley's little guilt trip, remained seated with her lips tightly shut.

Susan, who trusted Sheryl the most, was seated beside her. If there was anyone who could figure out a solution to protect them, she strongly believed it was none other than Sheryl.

"Sheryl, what is going on here? I am so worried," she whispered in a shaky voice. After a few seconds, she added, "Would Holley really ask us to work as hostesses? I can't do that. I would never do that."

Knitting her eyebrows into a frown, she stared at Sheryl and continued, "Although I wasn't born into a rich family, my father taught me how to preserve my chastity since childhood. I'd rather die than do something like this."

"No one's asking you to die. Never say that again," said Sheryl calmly. She turned to Susan and comforted her, "Calm down. Let's listen to her first, and then we'll figure out a solution."

Determined, they had no other choice but to put with Holley's charades for a bit longer. It was the only way, Sheryl thought, that could help them succeed in avoiding her trap.

When Susan had finally understood her tactic, she stopped talking and instead, looked at Holley with such enraged eyes.

"Miss Ye, what do you mean?" asked a young model. Even though they were adamantly against working as hostesses, some of the girls could not make up their minds. It appeared that Holley's words had worked like a charm. Now they wanted to know what more she had to say.

While wearing a bitter smile, Holly replied, "I know you are all decent girls. Indeed, people often say that the glamorous world of modeling is chaotic. But let's be clear about one thing: we are all pure girls here, and no one would ever do such cheap things for money. So of course, it is impossible for me to ask you to do that. The mere thought of it also makes me feel sick. Our company has encountered many hardships, and now it is on track. I wouldn't lift a rock only to drop it on my own feet. What do you take me for?"

"Miss Ye, please don't keep us guessing. Just get to the point!" said Sheryl abruptly. As she did not want to beat around the bush with Holley anymore, she interrupted her directly and then continued, "You know that all the models here are good girls. If you still want to ask us to be a hostess after that, then I'm sorry. No one would be willing to do that for you."

"Yes, we will never do such crummy things," the girls said, nodding their heads in agreement.

Thanks to Sheryl's words, all of them stood at the front with renewed courage.

Seeing this, Holley burst into a discreet sneer, and snorted slightly. 'I am afraid that it is not up to you, '

she thought to herself.

Nevertheless, she did not reveal her real emotions. Instead, she smiled softly, and said, "In fact,

tomorrow's event isn't as filthy as any of you assume. A few big bosses will come here for a meeting,

and they just want to invite you to keep them company while eating. It doesn't mean that you have to

be their hostesses. Don't act like you are all innocent girls."

After she had finished explaining, she laughed in a scornful manner.

"But how different is that from being an escort service?" asked Susan in an indignant tone. She stood

abruptly while staring at Holley and went on, "Miss Ye, I can't interfere in other people's thoughts, but I

have to make it clear that I would never do such a thing. I will rather die if you force me to do that."

"Yes, Miss Ye, you must know how these men tend to act when they've had a little liquor to drink.

We've also met such people in the past, so we are telling you that nothing can change our minds. I'm

afraid that we have to decline your request," said another girl.

"Well..." Holley heaved a sigh and then responded, "How could you see it as escort service? I just don't understand. They are very different cases. It sounds so ridiculous."

Taking a glance at Susan, Holley was a little bit angry. Had it not been for Sheryl, the girls would not be so agitated.

After calming down her nerves, she looked at Susan and asked, "Susan, haven't you always wanted to ensure your father's health? And on top of that, afford your sister's tuition?"

"So what? I'll achieve that eventually," replied Susan furiously. "Just not in this way," added Susan. It did not take her long to comprehend what Holley was trying to allude. Frankly, what the woman was trying to say annoyed her.

"Well, you are a nice girl. If you promise me to do this favor, I promise that you would have enough money to achieve all of your dreams," persuaded Holley patiently. She showed a smile and then went on to continue, "They offered a huge payment in exchange for all of you to show up tomorrow. I know you all work very hard, so I'll only take a fraction of it and you could have the rest of the money. Coral, didn't you always want to buy that bag? If you grab this rare opportunity, you can buy more than ten

bags the next day."

"What? Are you serious?" asked Coral suspiciously. After hearing Holley's offer, she refrained from revealing the slightest hint of interest. Truthfully, the pay was tempting. She looked into Holley's eyes and tried to figure out whether she was telling the truth. "Miss Ye, are you serious or is it just a joke?"

"Of course, I am serious," replied Holley firmly. Then she turned to another girl and said, "I know you've always wanted to buy a big house. You could achieve your dream if you'd accept this deal." Persuading them was a cinch since she knew how to exploit their weaknesses. All of the young models looked reluctant after hearing her tempting offer. Soon enough, just as she had expected, they became less resistant to her proposal than they had been a few moments ago.

Chapter 912 Taking The Responsibility

Looking coldly at Holley, Susan said, "I pray every day that my father's illness will be cured. And yes, I'd also like to send my dear sister to college. But let me tell you, I will never do anything against my own will to achieve those dreams. That includes selling my body to any man. Do you want to know why? If I accept this job, no matter how much I am rewarded, my father would not forgive me, even if he were instantly cured with the money. More than that, I won't be able to look at myself in the mirror for being

so cheap either."

While eyeing Holley, she paused for a second. Then, she continued her words, "Miss Ye, I am really sorry, but no matter how badly you want me to do this job, I just cannot accept it. Please, understand where I'm coming from."

Enraged, Holley did not respond immediately. As she had put so much effort into this proposal, she thought it would be a piece of cake to convince them. Now, however, Susan simply turned her down without batting an eye, and she was left in a state of embarrassment. Even more, the models standing around them began to agree with Susan as well. By the looks of it, her proposal was about to go down the drain.

Nevertheless, she did not intend to give up so easily. Putting on a smiling face, she looked at Susan, and said, "Listen to me, Susan. I am doing this for your own good."

After pausing to contemplate how to speak in a more persuasive way, she continued, "You must have misunderstood what I meant. To begin with, I wasn't asking you to sell your body. I am merely suggesting you attend the banquet and offer some company to my big customers, by either serving them with drinks or chatting with them. It is up to you. All the while, you'll make some money which you

can help your family with."

The woman sighed and pretended to be offended. "That's a really easy job," she remarked nonchalantly. "I just don't understand why you'd reject my kindness. Can you tell me why you're doing this?" "Is that all we have to do? Just serving customers with drinks and chatting with them?" asked the models, a glint of doubt visible in their eyes.

"Of course," answered Holley quickly. "That's all you have to do." Under those circumstances, she maintained an offended expression and smiled bitterly while saying, "I have already told you from the very beginning, I would never ask you to do things that you don't like. I am not that kind of person.

What have I unwittingly done that you would think the worst of me? It's truly quite upsetting."

When Holley sensed that the models were slowly getting convinced, she went on, "I know how difficult it is for you to make some money. I also know you are working really hard. I totally understand you, and want to offer my sincere help. I want to bring more benefits to you. That is why I am doing all of this. For you. Besides, in this day and age, no one can make you do things you don't want to do. And I'm no exception. Do you still think I can make you sell your bodies?"

"But..." Some of the models were still reluctant. Despite her reassurance, they could tell that it still seemed no different from being a paid escort. Uncertain whether they should accept the job or not, everyone waited to see what the others would do.

"Please, no more ifs or buts." The manager gave another forced smile and said, "I won't allow any harm befall on you. No one is permitted to hurt you. What else are you afraid of? Why are you still hesitating?"

Then she looked at the models with eagerness, and tried to persuade them again. "Well, let me put it like this," she said, interlocking her fingers in front of her. "If anyone of you is treated wrongfully, or any of you has to do things you don't like, just tell me immediately. I will absolutely cancel all the activities right away and all the losses will be shouldered by me. You have my words. What do you think of that?"

With such a huge promise, some of the models felt inclined to accept the job. Nevertheless, some were still hesitant, and wondered what to do. It seemed that whatever excuse they had, Holley would not hear any of it.

Standing by Sheryl, Susan said in a low voice, "Sheryl, I can still feel there's something wrong about it, but I can't quite put my finger on it. What do you think we should do?"

Sheryl did not answer her question, and instead, sneered. She knew Holley was waiting for her to get hooked. But it was never going to happen.

It was clearly just another one of Holley's tricks. Even an innocent girl like Susan could detect the oddness in the matter at hand. The girls who were ignorant enough to believe Holley and agreed to attend the banquet would soon realize they had been deceived by her sweet lies.

"Miss Ye..." In the beginning, the girl who was called Coral could not make up her decision. Later, after pondering for some time, and likely tempted by the large sum of money being offered, she could not help but ask Holley, "Do we just need to serve drinks and chat with the customers? Is there anything else?"

Holley assured Coral, "No, there's nothing else. I know you're very concerned about your own safety.

I'm here to assure you that there is absolutely no need to worry about that. I'll always be with you. If

there is anything bad that happens, just tell me. You are all my girls. If you get bullied, I will be

disgraced as well. If you get hurt, I will be ashamed of myself. I won't allow anything terrible to happen

to you. More importantly, if you ever need help tomorrow, I will be always there to lend you a hand. You

can count on me."

"In that case..." Coral trailed, and hesitated. The young woman paused for a long while, before saying,

"I'm in." In the end, she could not resist the temptation of money and accepted the job. She thought it

was quite simple to earn so much, and all she needed to do was serve drinks and chat with men for a

while. It was just pennies from heaven and she had to take the chance. Otherwise, she would be a fool

to pass up on money that was almost literally being handed to her on a platter.

Besides, it was a lot easier than walking down runways with her nerves all frazzled.

"That is my good girl," cooed Holley as though the girl were a child. Feeling quite satisfied, Holley wore

a broad smile on her face. Then she turned to the other models and asked, "What about the rest of

you? Have you thought it over carefully? Do you want to make more money or will you let the chance

slip by?"

When the other models saw Coral had promised to attend the banquet, those who had a relatively

good friendship with her eventually agreed to go as well. In the end, only Sheryl and Susan remained

silent.

For a moment, everyone's eyes turned to focus on both of them. They wanted to know their final

decision. Did Holley convince them to change their minds?

As Susan was still young and had never experienced such a scene, she found herself at a loss for words. After all, she was merely a naive girl without much social experience. Timidly, she hid behind Sheryl and asked her, "Sher, what shall we do now?"

Although Holley had coaxed the models in, Sheryl knew she was only sharing what she wanted others to know. Even after such a long and arduous speech from the woman, Sheryl did not believe a word of what she said, nor did she believe they were just required to deliver drinks and share a conversation with the customers.

"Sheryl, Susan, what about you? Do you think of joining us?" asked Holley in a sharp tone. It was just as Sheryl had expected from the woman with a deceitful tongue. With nearly everyone convinced to go, she thought it would be easier to convince them to agree. It was as though she never heard Susan's or her refusal to go earlier.

A bit enraged, Sheryl met Holley's cold eyes fearlessly. She smiled and said, "Miss Ye, I'm afraid I can't promise you that I will attend the banquet. My decision remains the same. I hope you can accept my

apology."

Even though she had been through death, for once, she was afraid of nothing. Still, she did not want to lose her dignity in these types of occasion, so she maintained an air of decency while dismissing the woman's proposal completely.

When she had finished speaking, she turned to the young lady beside her and gave an encouraging smile. "Me neither," said Susan, plucking up the courage to speak up.

"Why? Why are you so silly to miss such a good chance?" asked Holley with a slight frown.

"I will earn my money by fair and honest means. If I do attend the banquet and join in the activities tomorrow, I think my children will be ashamed of me from then on. What's more, I will despise myself for that. One more thing, you didn't tell me clearly what the job was before I came here, so now my refusal to comply can't be regarded as a breach of contract. I'm the one who's made up my mind to leave. So please excuse me, Miss Ye."

She took a breath and continued, "As for being short-handed, I think you can count yourself in, right?"

You will do a great job at the banquet."

Holley gritted her teeth and asked, "Are you really going to do this to me? At such a critical moment?"

Sheryl, I'll ask you one more time. Are you going with us to the banquet or not?"

Finally, Sheryl stood up while staring at Holley, and said, "Miss Ye, as you know, I am a mother. I

cannot afford to disgrace myself in public. So, I'm unsuitable to join these kinds of activities. Would you

please ask someone else to replace me? For the termination of the contract, I will ask a lawyer to talk

to you later. And I think there's no need for us to meet again."

She cracked into a smile and went on, "I will go back to pack up my stuff now. As soon as I'm done with

that, I'll leave the hotel."

"I am asking you one more time. Are you really determined to go?" asked Holley, looking extremely

sulky. No matter how much she tried, it seemed that Sheryl managed to get away from her devious

plans. The thought of her slipping away from their contract agreement made it difficult for her to

suppress her anger.

Without a trace of fear, Sheryl nodded and responded, "I won't be leaving by myself. I'm bringing Susan

with me."

"Are you now openly setting yourself against me?" asked Holley coldly. A dangerous hint of vengeance

flashed in her eyes.

"Not really. I am just being myself," said Sheryl, smiling in a relaxed way. "I just don't want to do things I don't feel like doing. Is there anything wrong about that?"

There was no question about it. Sheryl was determined to help Susan get out of this dilemma as well.

Looking at Holley without an ounce of fear in her eyes, she said, "Susan is still too young for her own good. If you're gonna fire her for this, that's all right. I'll take full responsibility for her penalties. You have no need to worry about that."

As she finished her words, she turned around to take a look at Susan and said, "Let's go now."

"Okay," replied Susan. Only then did the young woman come to realize how selfless and kind Sheryl was, and that the woman would do everything to help her. She then followed behind Sheryl with gratitude.

When some of the models saw Sheryl turn her back on Holley overtly, they threw a look of disdain at her. One of them expressed her views scornfully, "You're just so pretentious. I know you're a mother of two children. You don't have to brag about this. No one's asking you to sell your body. Besides, I doubt anyone would want you as you're a mother. You're not a virgin anymore. I just don't see what the hell

you are afraid of."

Another model who was irked by her defiance also made a personal comment, wanting to insult Sheryl.

"So shameless and slutty. When I think of the way she seduced Charles Lu, I can tell she's really good

at seducing a man. If she can't go to the banquet, it's really a waste of chance..."

Chapter 913 The Final Advice

Sheryl didn't plan to get involved, but what they said pissed her off. She stopped and walked up to

Coral

"What do you want?" Coral vigilantly looked at her and asked.

"Take it easy, I won't hurt you, but you need to watch your God damn mouth," Sheryl replied coldly. "I'm

about to lose my patience."

Coral sneered, "Why do I need to watch what I say? Did I say anything wrong?"

Since you started in the company, no one but Sue welcomed you. You're even more disgusting to us

now with your little tag-along.

Who do you think you are? It's not like Miss Ye is asking you for some special services. We all agreed

to Miss Ye's arrangement. How dare you turn her down!

Do you think that we don't know how you got close to Mr. Lu? A whore can never hide her true colors by acting so pure."

The other models in the room, including Holley, laughed upon hearing her acrid words. Susan was infuriated and was about to argue with Coral, but Sheryl stopped her.

"Have you finished?" Sheryl asked as she approached Coral.

She sneered, "Not yet. I have a lot to say. So what? Are you scared, huh?"

She hadn't even finished her sentence when Sheryl's hand flew straight to her left cheek. The slap made a very clear smacking sound that it attracted everyone's attention.

Coral was shocked. She didn't expect that Sheryl could hit and humiliate her in public. "How dare you hit me?

Who the hell do you think you are?" she shouted. She tried to strike back but Susan immediately stopped her the moment she raised her hand.

Coral couldn't help but continue her cursing. "You dirty slut! Do you really think that Charles will love you? Don't be silly. How can he love a fucking whore with two kids? He will dump you as soon as he loses his curiosity about you. Slipping into his bed will never assure you a happy life. You will be

disposed of like rubbish.

We know exactly what you are. There're so many girls who are younger and hotter than you, but why

does Charles choose you? That's because you're a whore, you know how to seduce men. You bitch,

I'm teaching you a lesson you won't forget." Coral was still struggling from Susan's hold.

"Sher, leave here now. Go!" Susan advised her as she tried her best to stop Coral

She didn't care about what Coral would do to her; she just wanted Sheryl to get out of the chaos.

She owed a lot to Sheryl so she wouldn't allow her to be harmed.

"Let go of me, Susan, don't piss me off again." Coral angrily tried to get rid of Susan but her attempts

failed.

"Coral, would you let go of Sher?" Susan replied. "You don't have to be mad at her at all. I think this is a

big misunderstanding. Sher isn't Charles' mistress. She's not what you think she is."

"Susan, enough!" Sheryl interrupted her before she spat out who she really was. She then asked

Susan to let go of Coral.

Susan didn't move. Her hold to Coral's arm grew tighter. She clearly doesn't want to risk her charging

towards Sheryl so she said no.

Charles was Sheryl's legal husband and the father of her two children. Susan couldn't understand why she had to hide their relationship from everyone. It would have been easier if she would just divulge the truth.

However, Sheryl didn't think that she owed anyone an explanation.

Sheryl urged Susan again to let go of Coral. "Let her go," she said. "Fire away. I'll listen." She dared Coral.

Sheryl had always been fearless.

Coral jumped at Sheryl the moment Susan let her go, but she was not fast enough. Sheryl slapped her again.

Susan was stunned. Things went really fast that she didn't even see it coming.

Sheryl looked straight at Coral. She made sure she had relayed her message loud and clear. "Well, are you done? Would you like me to slap you for the third time?"

No one will stop you if you want to make money by insulting yourself, but by now, you should already be aware on what I can do. If you would like to stay at BM Corporation, you should mind your

manners."

Sheryl's comments came as a warning. It was true that she had a few nemeses fired from work in the past.

Coral would not be an exception. She could easily get rid of her after she had labeled her as Charles' mistress.

Sheryl smiled at her.

"Didn't you say that I'm Charles' mistress? So I am. You know him as much as I do, so you'd better be polite. I can think of a thousand methods to punish you if I hear those dirty words coming out of your mouth again. I'm not sure what he might do to you if I give him a pillow talk."

Coral suddenly turned pale when she heard that.

She also heard rumors on what happened to those that the company had laid off.

It was easy for Charles to force BM Corporation to fire someone, and it was hard for those who got laid off to find another job in the same circle. They had lost their reputation, so they couldn't find any places in the circle of modeling.

They ended up being rich men's mistresses at last.

Coral didn't want to be like one of them, so she decided to keep her mouth shut.

No one dared to speak when Sheryl mentioned Charles.

She glanced around to look at the models and announced, "Look, I know you all dislike me. It's alright.

I've handed in my resignation. So I'll leave as soon as Miss Ye agrees.

I want to give you a piece of advice before I leave. We're colleagues after all. Being mean and acrid

isn't the right way to survive in the modeling circle.

You have to try harder if you want to progress quickly. Okay, I'm done here. Just pretend you don't

know me and we can go our own ways."

Everyone in the room remained silent while she was making her final speech, if they were frightened by

her vigor.

Chapter 914 Men In Black

"Susan, let's go." Sheryl pulled Susan's hand as she started to leave. Susan was in a daze. This was

her first time to attend such an occasion, and she almost blanked out in shock. Good thing Sheryl

willingly reached out to her, so she held her hand with all her might.

Whatever Sheryl told her, she would follow, with no questions asked. It was easy as following the only

beam of light in the darkest night.

The two women were just about to reach the door when Holley suddenly called out to Sheryl, "Wait."

She had been standing aside and remained silent throughout until now. She took a brief glimpse at

Sheryl before she continued with a disdainful look, "So do you just want to leave like this?"

"Miss Ye, are you requesting me to stay?" Sheryl asked her back. She knew in her heart that it wasn't going to be so easy, so she was mentally prepared for what was going to happen next.

Darting a glance back at Holley, she thought, 'I'm not sure whether this woman is Holley or Yvonne.

Regardless, she does not look to mean well. So the most important thing now is to leave this place. It will be dangerous for me to stay. The fact that she even stops me from leaving now means something may be up.'

"Sher, I don't want to force you as well," jeered Holley. "I made everything clear before you come here.

I emphasized the importance of this event several times to make sure you would understand, and you agreed. But what happened next? It seems that you have forgotten what you've promised. Don't blame me now. I have to make you agree, no matter what it takes."

"I did agree," Sheryl responded coldly. "Do you still remember what you said? You didn't say that I would be a prostitute, did you?"

This was absolutely beyond the bottom line of morality for Sheryl. How could she agree to trade her body for money? In the first place, she wasn't short of money, and her self-respect and self-esteem wouldn't allow her to stoop this low as well. She didn't even want to accept money from Charles. So why would she agree to receive money from a complete stranger by spending a night with him?

"Don't be so rude, Sher," Holley tried to explain. "It's not prostitution. I have laid everything to you. The job simply requires you to serve drinks and wait at tables. It has nothing to do with sex."

Sheryl couldn't believe what she just heard. She walked up to Holley, her eyes fixed on her, and challenged her, "Miss Ye, you may have a way to fool those little girls with your fabulous story, but you can't fool me. I have been with Charles for quite some time. I have seen it myself and Charles has alerted me as well. Do you think I am so naive that I don't even know how your dirty business works?"

Those rich men are having a filthy business behind what they call 'business meetings'. They deceive their innocent wives into believing they've been working hard. Yup, absolutely, they're working hard on the bodies of other women. These are not even just any lowly women on the street, but nameless stars

and models. They may be more expensive but still affordable as compared to the famous ones and 'of higher quality' and 'cleaner' as they put it." She pointed out Holley's agenda in more detail. "You did mention about serving the food and the drinks, but that's only the first half of the story. These men would pay for the night if any of them want any of the girls. And you, you would do anything to make them agree, whether by force, by money or by other filthy ways unimaginable just because you are in charge, right?"

Holley's face turned pale as she heard Sheryl. She didn't expect Sheryl to know so much about her plans. Noticing Holley's expression, Sheryl realized that she was on the right track, so she continued to attack her in a more confident tone, "Miss Ye, I hope you know who the person behind me is. Aren't you afraid of how Charles will react when he knows this? I'm not threatening you, but just as a matter of fact, I believe Charles will chase you till the end of the world and make sure you get arrested."

Holley was speechless. Sheryl's words caught all the models in surprise and raised their suspicion towards what was truly going to happen. They exchanged glances with each other and started to discuss the credibility of Sheryl's description.

"Can it be that Sheryl is right?" one of the model whispered to another, trying hard to keep the voice low.

"How can that be? Miss Ye won't trick us." Another model peeked at Holley who still remained silent.

"But what Sheryl's said sounds so true. It's not the first time that I've heard about such things. Those people are practically inhumane. I heard that one of them tortured a girl to death in bed. What was even more ridiculous was that the police covered it up and made it appear as suicide."

"Stop saying that. It's so scary."

"But that's true."

"If that's the case, I quit."

Sheryl's speech created a domino effect that scared all the models away one by one. They all decided to quit after Sheryl stepped out.

Even Coral retreated as well.

Holley was infuriated that her carefully planned business was ruined by Sheryl. She was expecting to get a large sum of money for this deal and to destroy Sheryl at the same time. Now with her devious plans revealed just like that, she had nothing to hide anymore. Scoffing at everyone there, she

threatened, "Everybody, listen. This is my place. So you can either follow my order willingly, or else, I will have to do it in the brutal way."

"Miss Ye," Sheryl exclaimed in an opposing tone, "if you insist on forcing me to stay here, I will have no choice but to call Charles. You know what? It just happens that he is currently in this city as well. I believe it won't take long for him to find me."

Holley completely ignored her warning. She had known this before. In fact, she purposely arranged it.

To ensure the success of her plan, she did a thorough investigation and analysis to take into account all possible disrupting factors. She deliberately chose this place after she knew that Charles was located in the same city.

She wanted Charles to know that Sheryl was tortured and insulted by another man under his nose, but he could do nothing about it. It would be a barrier between them for the rest of their lives. This obstacle would tear them apart and never really let them merge into one. Charles would never be able to overcome his guilt; and Sheryl, her shame.

This was only the first part of her plan.

Holley couldn't help but feel satisfied after envisioning the reactions of Charles and Sheryl after this.

With a wicked smile, she scorned Sheryl, "You think I'm going to be scared of Charles?"

Sheryl wasn't expecting she could still persuade Holley to let her go right after she mentioned Charles.

She just wanted to bargain her way out with Charles' power. It was clear that her situation would turn more dangerous with each minute passing by. Now she regretted that she had agreed to come here in the first place. Sue was right when she worried that something perilous would happen to her in her business trip.

Gathering herself once again, she tried to negotiate, "So Miss Ye, it seems that you won't let me go no matter what I say?"

"That's right," asserted Holley. After rejecting Sheryl's demand to leave, Holley then turned to pacify the stimulated crowd, "Everyone, please listen to me. She is speaking nonsense." She looked at Sheryl as she said this. "What she described was utterly inhumane and illegal. How can I do such a thing? I just want everyone of you here to earn extra money. Don't let this woman trick you."

However, the models remained quiet. Obviously, they were not convinced by Holley. And what Sheryl said next made Holley's efforts go in vain.

Sheryl scoffed at her explanation and fought her way back. "If you really mean what you said, why don't you do it yourself? Just set an example for us." The words from the smart woman again stimulated another round of turmoil.

"Yes, she's right." "It's not that we don't trust you, just that we're worried. If what Sheryl said is indeed true, there's no turning back for us."

"If Miss Ye takes part of this herself, we'll feel much more assured."

The effect of Sheryl's argument seemed to remain, and acted as a spark for more suspicion. The models kept chatting, asking and requesting. It almost drove Holley crazy. She had now lost control.

Darting a vengeful glare at Sheryl, she stormed at everyone, "Shut up! Follow my order, or else, you can have a try."

"What if we say no?" Sheryl confronted her with a cold face.

Holley just sneered at her and replied in contempt, "Well, you can have a try."

Sheryl found it strange that Holley still didn't block her way, but she had already decided that she should not stay any longer. She grabbed Susan and urged her to walk out. To her surprise, a group of

men in black appeared in her sight the moment she opened the door. They stood right at the exit and wouldn't move their feet. Clearly they were not here to rescue her.

Standing firmly to block Sheryl's way, the man in front, who seemed to be the leader of the group, instructed her in his cool tone, "Miss, please go back in."

"What if I insist?" Sheryl now realized that she had underestimated Holley's means to confine her in this place and make her agree to her plan. Regret would do her no good. All she tried to think of now was how she could escape this place. However, before she could come up with anything to break out, the man in black already acted.

"I'm sorry." Having said that, the man forcefully took away Sheryl's and Susan's purses, where their mobile phones were. Now they had no way to get away or to contact anyone from outside. They were locked.

Chapter 915 The Perfect Strategy

"What are you doing?" Sheryl panicked when she saw the man's rude behavior. She realized that Holley was set to destroy her in one fell swoop.

She frowned in frustration and stretched out her arms to grab her phone back. But the man was clearly stronger and taller than her. She couldn't possibly win against him.

He cast a glance in her direction and said, "We're confiscating your phone until the activity is done. If you want to go somewhere, we will accompany you. But we recommend that you remain silent. You never know when accidents might occur. Better safe than sorry." His voice was laced with clear warning.

Sheryl had never expected that they would keep her grounded. There was no way for her to contact Charles now, so she had to depend on herself to get out of here.

"Take her away," Holley commanded the man.

He nodded and turned to Sheryl. "Let's go."

Sheryl was compelled to go with him, but she was also plotting her escape.

Holley sneered at Sheryl's retreating figure. She hadn't told her about the next day's plans until now just in case Sheryl informed Charles about it.

She believed that this time she had gotten everything under her control and Sheryl had no way out.

"Miss Ye..." Coral watched as Sheryl was led away and realized that she had been telling the truth this whole time.

Coral needed money, but she didn't want to lose herself in the process of making it.

Holley turned towards the models and gave a cold smile. A chill ran through Coral's spine. "I know that all of you are confused right now. You are forced to believe that Sheryl was telling the truth, right?" she asked.

Everybody stayed quiet. Some of them whispered among themselves, but didn't raise their voices.

Finally, Coral stepped forward and said, "Yes." She looked at Holley with furrowed brows. "Miss Ye, you know the financial conditions of every model here. We chose this career to make money and better the lives of our family. We do make use of our appearance to earn money, but that doesn't mean that we are willing to sell our body. I don't like Sheryl, but her words make sense. We won't sell our bodies even though we are dirt poor. We would never be able to forgive ourselves."

Her eyes were fixed on Holley as she added, "So Miss Ye, if you're really trying to make us do it, we won't agree."

"Yes! We won't agree."

"This is ridiculous and shameful."

Other models came forward and rejected the idea. Holley looked at them and smiled bitterly. Then she

said to Coral, "Don't worry. Didn't I tell you that I would never compel you to do anything you dislike?"

"Did you really mean that?" Coral asked skeptically.

Holley nodded slightly. "What Sheryl had said was true. There is sexual service involved in this activity,

but..." She paused and gave a reassuring smile this time before continuing, "That service was

specifically arranged for her."

She looked at their raised brows and skeptical faces. She assumed that an explanation was necessary

to rope them in. "There is someone, an extremely important person in Y City, who is very interested in

Sheryl. He promised a hefty pay for the small favor. I couldn't reject his offer."

Holley smiled brightly at the models. "So, you can relax. Sheryl is the only one whom the boss is

interested in. When this activity is over, I will pay you more money. I hope you understand the situation

in which I had to take that decision regarding Sheryl."

"So you're saying that it was only arranged for Sheryl?" Coral was still not very convinced.

"Yes, that's exactly what I'm saying." Holley nodded and said, "Sheryl will be under my custody till we

can pass her on to the boss. I hope none of you will get yourselves involved in this matter. I called you

here to ask you not to speak about this to anyone. If you dare run your mouth, you will have to face the consequences and I promise that it'll not be to your liking."

Holley didn't want to tell the truth at first, but she decided to rein them in and make them submit to her terms.

Holley turned her attention back to Coral. "I know you are still skeptical about this. But take it easy. You are all my colleagues and I won't bring any harm to you."

"But, Sheryl is your colleague too," Coral said in a low voice.

"She isn't anymore," Holley said. "You just heard what she said. She quit. Now that she has betrayed my confidence, I don't have to protect her any longer."

Holley then flashed a big smile and announced to all the models, "I have explained everything to you.

You can relax and rest easy."

She patted Coral's shoulder and said, "Don't think too much about it. There's nothing to worry about.

Get some good sleep and devote yourself to your work tomorrow."

"Miss Ye..." Coral called Holley just as she was about to leave.

"Yes? Is there anything else?" Holley was puzzled when Coral didn't say anything.

"Nothing..." Coral looked Holley with her timid eyes and said, "It's nothing."

Holley knew what was on her mind. She walked up to Coral and said, "I know that you are a good girl. I

won't force you to do anything against your will. Just take it easy and get some rest, okay?"

"Okay." Coral nodded slightly.

She felt restless even after Holley had left.

She didn't understand why Holley had treated Sheryl like that. 'Is it just because Sheryl quit her job?'

she wondered.

Nobody was surprised that Sheryl had quit her job. But the way Holley had treated her was too horrible.

"Aren't you leaving?" another model asked Coral. The other models were relaxed, now that they knew

they would be safe tomorrow. Coral was the only one who was still upset.

She felt sorry for Sheryl and couldn't help but worry about her own future.

"Yeah, I'm leaving now," she answered. She didn't say a word on their way back to the hotel.

A model tried to cheer her up, "Stop worrying. Miss Ye explained everything, right? It's none of our

business. Moreover, you don't even like Sheryl. We should grab this chance to teach her a lesson so

that she will never act so lofty and prideful before us again."

"Enough!" Coral shouted. She felt uneasy as she heard those words and became more anxious. She

shouted at the model in rage, "Just shut up and leave me alone!"

The model glowered at her for not being grateful for her kind words. She turned around and walked

towards the others, leaving Coral alone.

Coral scoffed in frustration when she saw the happiness in all their faces, as if nothing had happened.

'They are being too foolish. Holley has compelled Sheryl to sell her body this time. Who is going to be

her next victim?'

Chapter 916 Coral's Help

Coral went into the bathroom and took a shower. However, the mild water didn't make her feel

comfortable and relaxed at all. She could feel that something wasn't right but couldn't figure out what

exactly was going on. She was worried about what might happen to Sheryl. Sheryl might face a really

bad consequence soon and she just couldn't help growing more and more unsettled about it. She

couldn't even stop herself from thinking about it over and over. After a long while of consideration, she

finally made up her mind that she should do something to help Sheryl. Otherwise, she might not get

away with it herself if something terrible happened to Sheryl.

Coral had always been envious that Sheryl could easily get everything she dreamed of without making any efforts. However, she never resigned herself to that fact. Instead, she recognized Sheryl as her target, the one she had to defeat.

Thus, Sheryl's existence had been the reason for Coral to strive for excellence. She even unconsciously regarded that sort of jealousy as her motivator to work hard.

However, she got to realize how eager she was to fulfill her goal and that she started doing things by hook or by crook. She also thought that she shouldn't be taking any advantage of anyone simply out of envy. She couldn't sacrifice Sheryl's integrity to fulfill her ego. After all, a girl's reputation meant a lot!

Thinking of this, Coral couldn't wait to jump out from the bathtub, got herself prepared and then headed

to where Sheryl was kept.

It was late at night. Sheryl and Susan were kept in the same room and there were two tough men in black standing outside. Although Sheryl and Susan were told that the two men were arranged to protect them, they both knew deep inside that they were actually kept under house arrest.

With a stern look, Coral arrived before the two security guys. Considering that the men knew who she

was, she planned not to ask for their permission. She attempted to be composed and straightly enter.

However, when she was approaching the door, two stout arms just stretched out from both sides before her and prevented her from taking a step forward. "You are not allowed to get in. What are you doing at this late hour?"

one of the two men in black asked her in a suspicious tone.

Coral got a little scared. She took a step back and almost lost her balance. The man's biting looks clearly made her feel nervous. "I..." she stammered, at a loss for words. She couldn't find a way to explain herself. All she had thought of was to come over to Sheryl and try to give her a hand if necessary. She'd never expected that there would be two tough guys waiting outside the room. Now she really was in trouble.

"If you don't have access into the room, please leave now. This is not where you are supposed to come," the other men said flatly.

"I am here for Sheryl. I need to talk to her." Coral managed to calm herself down and continued to reply in a solemn tone, "Miss Ye knows this."

The two looked at each other and hesitated for a while. Just a few seconds after, they finally made up their mind. They looked at Coral again, changed their tone and claimed in a fairly polite way, "All right, please don't stay too long."

Coral silently thanked all the gods for her quick wits. It was really risky to claim something like that in this sort of scenario. It was evident that the two guards' doubt quickly melted away at Holley's name.

Thus, Coral was allowed to enter Sheryl's room very easily.

Inside the room, Susan kept pacing out due to concern. Her panic was almost driving her out of her mind. She couldn't help repeating the very same question inside her head. In the end, she turned to Sheryl, who was trapped in the same room with her and asked, "Sher, we are stuck in this room and unable to call someone to give us a hand. What should we do now?"

She continued to act anxiously. She was at a complete loss while walking in the room back and forth.

"How did Miss Ye change into a totally different person? It is hard to compare who she is now to the way she used to act before." Susan just kept moving. There were some times when she paused to complain. It was her way to vent her stress and tension out.

"Can you stop it? You keep pacing back and forth and I can't stand it anymore. What you're doing is

making me nervous too." Sheryl felt helpless and addressed Susan in an impatient tone, "Can't you just sit down and keep silent for a little while?"

"How do you think I can settle down?" Susan doubted humorlessly and continued, "Don't you understand what kind of situation we are in? There are two tough guys in black out there! What do you think they are standing outside for? They are sent by Miss Ye to keep an eye on us. We are being kept under house arrest. If we just sit here doing nothing, we will be doomed to..."

Susan couldn't understand how Sheryl stayed so composed. Trying to get Sheryl to know what sort of case they were in, she suddenly stopped and approached Sheryl. She looked at Sheryl and was wondering whether Sheryl could come up with an idea. Thus, she asked her hopefully, "Sher, you must have something in your mind. Tell me, what should we do right now?"

Seeing Sheryl was still quiet, Susan added, "Don't be hesitant. Say what's in your mind. I will agree with it."

"How can I come up with something when you are so noisy? My mind is in a complete mess right now."

Sheryl felt really mad at Susan.

What Sheryl had just said made Susan's anxiety even worse. She felt so disappointed. She said in despair, "You mean... you also have no idea what to do?"

"I have no idea." Sheryl was still calm and she replied in no hurry. She wasn't worried much about what Holley was going to do with her at all as she knew that she could just get away from it. The only problem that she was caring about was how to cool Susan's head down. Only in that way, she could focus on thinking.

Sheryl's answer almost drove Susan crazy. She was overly panicking again. It took her a few seconds to collect herself and then she made a bold choice. She said, "Let's plan how to escape from here."

She then looked at the door of the room and added, "It is impossible for us to run through the door.

Sher, we can escape through the window. If we choose to run away and succeed, there will be nothing Miss Ye can do about that."

"Have you lost your mind? We are on the sixteenth floor. Is it even possible for us to stay alive after we jump out of that?" "What else can we do then?"

Susan's voice trembled. It was easy to tell that she was already on the verge of crying. She continued,

"Sher, we can't wait until we are taken to the dinner party, can we?"

"Take it easy! Trust me, we will find a way. I just need time to think." Sheryl still kept calm.

When Susan was almost losing the last strands of her hope, a sound of door opening reached her ear.

Suddenly, Coral showed up before them. Susan became alarmed and jumped to her feet immediately.

Her reaction was just like a hedgehog with all its pricks unfolding on its body. Susan quickly moved to

stand between Coral and Sheryl. She then turned to the newcomer angrily and hissed, "Stop

approaching! Don't get closer. What do you plan to do?"

Coral just ignored Susan and turned to look at Sheryl. She said in a very low voice, "Sheryl, we don't

have much time. Let's cut the long story short. Holley had this activity to set you up. She said that a rich

boss fancies you. Thus, she arranged this activity for the boss and you to meet. Everyone else is just

here to confuse you and make you feel that all this is real. She doesn't want you to have doubts. You

have to find a way to get out of here at once."

"What?!" What Coral had just said made Susan's jaw dropped in an instant. Shock was all over her

face when she glared at Coral again and questioned, "How could that be possible?"

Sheryl was too astounded to speak. She had never expected that this activity was to be against her

from the beginning. All she could do at the moment was to gaze speechlessly at Coral with furrowed eyebrows.

"Sheryl, what should we do now? We have to do something. You have to try your best to leave right now," Susan said as she quickly grabbed Sheryl by the arm tightly.

However, Sheryl just remained gazing at Coral calmly as if she was assessing things. Then she finally questioned, "What do you mean? Why did you even take the risk just to tell me that?"

"Does it matter to you?" replied Coral immediately. "The real matter right now is the fact that you are in a terrible situation. I know that you both don't have cell phones in your hands. You can't even call anyone for help. There's almost no way for you to get out of here. However, I can give you a hand to get out. I will help you contact anyone that you like."

"Why are you helping me?" Sheryl doubted.

"Is it very important for you to know why?" asked Coral in an impatient tone. She was already frowning when she opened her mouth again. "I told you that we are running out of time. You'd better hurry up before Holly finds out that I am here."

"But why should I trust you?" Sheryl insisted on questioning Coral regardless of the woman's reaction.

She continued, "How can I be sure that this is not another trap you and Holley set for me?"

"Can you..." Coral felt really at a loss for words. However, she could understand it, since she and

Sheryl never really got along very well. She possibly might be reacting the same way if she were the

one in Sheryl's shoes.

Thus, she gave Sheryl a wry smile and said, "Trust me, please. I won't play tricks on you at this time."

Sheryl kept silent while staring at her with a flat expression. That made Coral feel helpless since her

real intention was just to show kindness to Sheryl. She briefly confessed, "I understand that you don't

believe me. Nevertheless, Let me tell you why I choose to help you. It's simple. I don't want to be the

next victim like you!"

Coral adjusted herself and gathered her thoughts. Then she continued, "To be honest, I thought she

wouldn't have the nerve to put her hands on you because Mr. Lu wouldn't let her get away with that.

But I was wrong. And then I got worried that she might treat me in the same way one day."

Coral paused and looked Sheryl enviously; then she mockingly smiled. "I'm not as lucky as you are. I

have no one to turn to for help and have no powerful man to back me up. It would be much easier for

Holley to do something crafty to me as long as she wants. So... the reason that I choose to give you a hand is not only for your good. More importantly, I do it for myself. I don't want to be her next target."

Sheryl was convinced since she believed that Coral spoke her mind at this moment. Although only Sheryl was Holley's target this time, this didn't mean that Holley would not do the same thing to others some day. Coral didn't want to be the next Sheryl.

"Does explaining things that way make you understand it better? Now, can you tell me if there is anything that I can help you with?" As Coral couldn't waste more time, she was eager to hear Sheryl's reply.

Chapter 917 Don't Be Silly

In the end, Sheryl decided to believe Coral. Her explanation was convincing because this was just the way she was. Coral wasn't offering to help Sheryl because she was kind-hearted. She knew how to use other people for her own benefit. She always put herself first.

After some hesitation, Sheryl said, "I can't call Charles from here. They have taken my phone. You have to call him for me."

Coral nodded. She got Charles' phone number from Sheryl and turned to leave. "I have to go now. I can't let Holley know that I was here. And rest assured, I will make the call," Coral told her.

"Thank you," Sheryl said in a low voice.

Susan breathed a sigh of relief. "Finally! A way out of here!" she said. "Sher, we should get some rest now."

"You go ahead," Sheryl said absent-mindedly. Though Coral had promised to help, she was still wary of the situation. Her instinct told her that it wouldn't go as smoothly as they expected. It was just too good to be true.

No, she couldn't put all her eggs in one basket. She needed to figure out other solutions besides Coral's help.

"Sher, what's wrong?" Susan looked at her in confusion. "Coral has promised that she will pass on your message to Charles. Why do you still look so tensed? Is something wrong?"

"I'm fine, Susan. Don't worry." Sheryl smiled at her and tried to make her feel at ease. "You go to bed first. I need to take a shower."

After leaving Sheryl's room, Coral didn't return to her own room. Since the phones in their rooms were only available for internal calls, and their cell phones had been taken by Holley, she had to make the

call to Charles from outside.

Luckily, she was allowed to walk outside unlike Sheryl. So she decided to go to the lobby to borrow a phone from the hotel staff. However, the moment the lift door opened on the first floor, she saw Holley standing there, her face sullen.

"Miss... Miss Ye!" Coral stammered nervously. She lowered her head like a kid who had misbehaved and gulped nervously. She picked up the courage to look into her sharp eyes and asked, "It's really late, Miss Ye. You didn't go to bed yet?"

"How could I possibly sleep when you haven't gotten into bed yet?" Holley asked enigmatically. Holley had told her guards to keep a careful eye on Sheryl at all times and report to her whenever someone came for a visit.

As soon as Coral had walked into Sheryl's room, Holley had received the information. She had been waiting to see what Coral would do next.

"You should be in your room now. Why are you out here at such late hours? Are you going somewhere?" Holley questioned her coldly.

Coral started to tremble. She managed to manifest a weak smile and said, "Um...The room was really

stuffy and I had difficulties falling asleep. So I thought I'll take a walk and clear my head. Miss Ye, would you like to join me?"

"No, thanks." Holley eyed her carefully.

Coral was relieved when she refused her offer. Having Holley with her was the last thing she wanted, because then, she wouldn't be able to call Charles.

A relaxed smile appeared on her face. "That's too bad. Good night, Miss Ye. I'll take a stroll and return to my room soon."

When Coral was about to leave, Holley held her shoulders and stopped her. Coral felt her nails sink into her flesh. She flinched. Holley looked into her scared eyes and said, "It's not safe for you to roam around alone late at night. How about this? I'll arrange some guards for your protection."

Holley gestured at the two men behind her who were clad in black suit. She smiled wickedly and commanded, "You two! Follow Coral wherever she goes. She is a fragile little girl, so make sure that you keep her safe. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Ye," the men replied with no emotions on their faces.

"Oh no! That's not necessary, Miss Ye..." Coral blurted out, shocked by the sudden turn of events. She searched for a quick excuse to avoid the guards. "Miss Ye, I was hoping I could take a walk alone. I won't go too far, just around the hotel. There are hotel staff everywhere, and it's brightly lit here. So nothing will happen. I'm sure I'll be fine on my own."

"No, I can't let you do that," Holley said firmly, shaking her head. She continued, "M City has not been very safe recently. There are robberies, rapes and murders reported everywhere. It's not safe for a young girl like you to go outside alone. They will accompany you. If you don't feel comfortable, I will have them follow you from a distance. You won't even know they are there. What do you think?"

"Miss Ye, it's really not necessary. Please!" Coral became anxious and she was desperate to get away from Holley and her guards. If they followed her around, then she wouldn't be able to make the call.

"I won't wander away from the hotel. You don't have to worry. I'll be back soon," Coral tried to reassure her.

"Why are you so against taking the guards with you? Are you planning to do something which you don't want me to know?" Holley sneered. Her sharp eyes pierced through Coral's act.

"What...what are you talking about Miss Ye?" Coral tried to smile, but she was too nervous to produce a

satisfactory smile. She continued, "There's nothing that I want to hide from you!"

She lowered her eyes and fixed her gaze on the floor. She couldn't dare look into Holley's cold eyes.

"Oh really? I heard that you paid Sheryl a visit." Holley sneered. She edged closer to Coral and said, "I

wasn't aware that you were such good friends."

"I..." Coral stammered, unable to find a suitable reply. She realized by now that making the call was

impossible today. She needed to clear the air between them first. Holley was not easy to fool. She

smiled bitterly and confessed, "Miss Ye, you know everything that happens around you. You are so

clever."

Holley snorted, unimpressed by Coral's flattery.

Coral tried hard to clean up the mess. She said, "I wasn't trying to hide it from you, Miss Ye. I did go to

Sheryl's room. I wanted to see for myself the disgrace which our elegant swan had fallen into. I taunted

her a little, nothing more. I promise I didn't hurt her."

Coral's expression became hateful. She continued, "You already know that we didn't get along well with

each other. I hate her arrogance! I didn't want to give up on this great opportunity to make her feel

ashamed. Am I wrong, Miss Ye?"

"I wouldn't know." Holley gritted her teeth hearing the blatant lie. "There's a saying, 'Yesterday's enemy is tomorrow's friend.' How would I know if you went to Sheryl's room to taunt her or to make friends with her?"

Holley glared at Coral with an expression that made her tremble. "Coral, I recommend you think wisely before you choose a side. You should know who is in control right now. You will have hell to pay if you ever betray me."

She paused for her words to sink in and she watched as Coral's expression changed to that of pure terror. She snorted in satisfaction and continued to threaten her, "If I find out that you're plotting something with Sheryl, I will not be able to punish her, but I can do whatever I want with you. Think carefully! Unlike Sheryl, you don't have a powerful patron guarding your back. Getting rid of you will be child's play for me."

Coral's face became pale and her hands shivered in fear. "Tell me, Coral... Do you think that Sheryl will beg Charles to help you? You said yourself that you never liked each other. You think she'll save you?"

Holley patted Coral's shoulder and continued, "Coral, you are a smart girl. You have great potential and a bright future! Don't ruin it. Do you understand?"

Chapter 918 The Gown

"Miss Ye, I really don't..." Coral quickly urged herself mentally to come up with an excuse. She groaned inwardly as she nervously scanned Holley's face. She could sense that Holley seemed to know her scheme. She was desperate now in groping for the right words in her mind. But before she could muster a word, Holley coolly commanded, "Alright, just save it. You don't have to explain. I don't want to hear it."

She then gave a slow and wicked smile. Her knowing stare kept lingering at Coral, who remained motionless under her scrutinizing gaze. With a sinister smile still plastered on her face, Holley sweetly crooned, "Now... Do you still want to go for a walk?"

"Oh! No need," she stuttered with a wry smile. Coral was smart enough to heed the detectable suspicion and sarcasm lacing Holley's voice. She had no way but to give in. "I feel tired now. I want to go back and take a rest."

Coral thought that she had managed to conceal her plan well enough, but it turned out that she only succeeded in hiding nothing under Holley's nose.

She knew that insisting on going out to execute her plan to call Charles would signal a red flag on her status as Holley's enemy.

Her determination to sacrifice herself in helping an acquaintance died down after she gradually knew how powerful Holley was, so she reluctantly decided to forego her intention to help.

If she dared go against Holley's will, her fate wouldn't be better than that of Sheryl.

"Have a good rest," Holley remarked sarcastically as she gently patted Coral's shoulder. Then she started walking into the lift. She found it amusing seeing Coral still standing there as if she didn't hear anything. "What? You're not planning to go up?"

"I'm coming!" Coral snapped out from her thoughts and nervously entered the lift. She was trembling inwardly. But as soon as she heard the ding sound of the elevator, relief washed over her. She straightened herself up and then gingerly stepped out. Her heart was still pounding hard. Though she felt uneasy, she urged herself to turn back and to look at Holley.

She was able to catch the odd smile Holley gave her as she heard her say "Rest well" a moment before the door closed.

That night Coral couldn't fall asleep. She was thinking of the possible actions Holley would do against her. And knowing Holley for quite some time, she could easily guess that she had her men already posted at her door to keep an eye on her. Holley would definitely not hesitate to torture her if she found her acting suspiciously again.

It was during breakfast when Coral went down for food. All the girls were free during the day, as the party wouldn't start until night. Of course, the term "free" only meant that they had nothing to do, but not

that they were free to move around. The moment Sheryl saw Coral coming down, she winked at her to ask the question that they both knew. Coral responded with a slight shaking of her head and a bitter smile. Sheryl understood. And the two men in black behind Coral reaffirmed her answer—Coral failed.

"Sher, come and try the biscuit. Quick! It's really nice!" Susan was excited while she shoved the food to Sheryl's hand. She seemed to be not bothered at all by what had happened last night.

Sheryl looked solemn. No one could make anything out from her face.

Susan was completely unaware of the situation. She felt worried upon seeing how serious Sheryl

looked. "Sher, what is going on? Are you okay? Are you still worried about what happened last night?"

Unable to get any response from Sheryl, she naively tried to console Sheryl, "Don't worry. Coral agreed to help us contact Mr. Lu, right? Mr. Lu will be here anytime soon.

So let's have our breakfast now."

"If she succeeded, we wouldn't be still sitting here having breakfast now," Sheryl explained to the carefree girl. For the entire night, she had waited for Charles and couldn't let herself close her eyes to get a wink of sleep. She knew that if Coral succeeded in letting Charles know, he would come immediately at any cost.

She had anticipated that and believed Charles was about to show up any minute.

But that shimmer of hope was eventually doused out after she realized that Coral's plan had failed.

Her mind refused to accept this nagging feeling. She desperately needed to validate this hunch

because she might be possibly wrong. She held onto the tiniest spark of hope at the bottom of her

heart even though she already had the answer in her mind. She confirmed with Coral again, only to find out that they indeed failed.

Susan finally realized how dire their situation was and she grew anxious. "Then that means Coral failed to contact Mr. Lu?" she mumbled shakily.

"What do we do now? Are we really going to attend the party?"

Her anxiety manifested itself as a series of questions that bombarded Sheryl. "Don't worry. There is going to be some other way," Sheryl consoled the poor little girl.

Before they could come up with "some other way", they heard Holley's people scurrying over with gowns in tow. They handed Sheryl a nicely designed backless piece in a gold-tone fabric. And Sheryl couldn't help vividly imagining her glorious and gorgeous self with this piece of garment.

Then they gave Susan a very-usual-not-fancy-nor-ugly-looking pink gown.

Sheryl gritted her teeth at the contrast of the two gowns. She openly showed disgust towards that stunning piece of clothing. 'It seems that Holley is so anxious to wrap me as a package in that delicate gown and present me to the buyers, ' Sheryl thought.

"Sher, you would be so attractive wearing this..." She heard Susan complimenting her with envy.

Susan was still a little girl at heart. She got easily attracted to fashionable clothes as all other girls would.

Sheryl was not happy at all to hear the flattering remark. "No matter how visually pleasing it is, I don't

want to wear it."

"Why?" Susan inquired. She looked baffled.

"Have you forgotten what is waiting for us tonight? The more I am well dressed up, the more attention I will draw. Don't you know this simple logic?" Sheryl exclaimed helplessly, expounding each word as if she were teaching a life lesson.

Susan listened intently. And when she let everything registered in her mind, she finally realized what Holley's real intention was. "Then..." she stammered. "Then what do we do now? Shall we... I mean...

Are we going to swap our dresses?" Sheryl almost rolled her eyes out of exasperation when Susan continued asking such questions. Her naiveness made her worry even more. It seemed to her that

Susan only absorbed what she had mentioned earlier at a surface level and she didn't go to the extent of comprehending her words to exact a better judgment.

Sheryl was pacing in the whole room mulling over her thoughts. "Do you really think Holley would allow this to happen?" she shot back.

"Then..." Susan pleaded. "Then what do we do now?" Susan was getting scared now. And like a

broken record, she repeatedly asked the same question. She had no idea what she could do and was

absolutely clueless about what was going on.

Sheryl resolved to gather her thoughts. And after she calmed herself down, she proceeded to the bathroom to change.

The gold-tone gown was as smooth as silk, and it gave a dazzling allure in the dim light. The hem fell short above her heels, barely touching the ground. And it gently swayed when she moved. The waist was as slender as a snake accentuating her soft figure. The neckline was shaped to enhance the fullness of her breast, making her more a sexually-appealing woman. Sheryl was like an elegant narrow-necked vase if viewed from afar. To the rich men, who would closely inspect her, she would just be like a vase. And that was the harsh reality. And as if that weren't appealing enough, the side of the gown was slatted, outlining her alluring curve, vaguely revealing her white legs, slender and straight. And her hair? Her crowning glory was nicely coiled up into a bundle. If ever she took her silver hair clip away, you would be fortunate to see the silky hair streaming down like a waterfall.

The taste of Holley, Sheryl had to admit, was definitely at a professional level. Her choice for the gown had accentuated all her attractiveness as a woman. Staring at herself in the mirror, who had never

been dressed so elegantly like she was tonight, Sheryl now felt more like a gift to be presented to the dirty men attending the party.

The moment Sheryl emerged from the bathroom door, Susan was dumbstruck with her innate beauty and she couldn't take her eyes off her.

She had expected Sheryl to be beautiful, but the level of beauty in front of her now exceeded her imagination.

She regarded Sheryl in awe. "Sher, with that gown, you are so beautiful," she couldn't help complimenting.

"Yours is also good," Sheryl sincerely praised Susan as well.

Her eyes swept over Susan. She looked lovely in the crystal-studded pink gown, which reminded her of diamonds, stars, and morning dew. It had showcased her young body and had complimented her gem-like shiny legs.

"How great it is to be young!" Sheryl exclaimed.

"Sher, thank you. That's too much of a compliment," Susan acknowledged shyly.

Then they both heard someone knock at the door and ask, "Miss Xia, Miss Su, are you ready?"

"Yes," Sheryl casually replied. She opened the door. And there stood Holley with a big grin on her face.

At moment of surprise flashed in Holley's eyes, but she quickly suppressed it. She then commented with a polite smile, "I knew it would fit you."

Nonchalant, Sheryl didn't even trouble herself to say a polite "Thank you".

"Alright, since you are ready, then let's go now." Holley did not seem to care about Sheryl's cold reaction. It only made her sneer at the two before she turned her back around and led them out of the room.

Holley's man then gestured the way to the girls and said, "Miss Xia, please."

Susan felt defeated as they had no choice but to go. Sheryl was nervous and frightened too, but she forced herself to calm down. Noting the tight grip on her left hand, she gently squeezed it back. "Don't worry, I'm here," she softly reassured the scared girl. Glancing at Susan beside her, she was determined to be strong for both of them. She needed to be vigilant of what was about to happen, in order not to miss the slightest chance for her to escape.

Those words were like magic to Susan, giving her the courage that she desperately needed.

'That's right. Sher is still with me. There's nothing to fear about, ' she thought.

Chapter 919 How It Tastes Like

Sheryl was about to follow the other models as they boarded the bus when Holley suddenly pulled her hand back and offered, "Sher, don't squeeze into that bus. Ride with me in my car instead. You're too beautiful to be stuck in a crowded bus."

Susan, still holding Sheryl's hand, looked at Holley nervously. Holley jeered at her and coldly said,

"Don't worry. I'm not going to eat your Sher."

Sheryl could tell that Holley had something to tell her personally. Since it was between her and Holley, she didn't want to get Susan involved. She patted Susan on the back and assured her, "No worries. Go ahead and get on the bus."

After some hesitation, Susan finally heeded and boarded the bus with the other models. Holley was clearly annoyed by Susan's attitude towards Sheryl and scoffed, "I didn't expect you to have such a loyal friend here."

Sheryl merely stared back at her without replying.

After the bus started moving, the car that Holley and Sheryl was in just followed, carefully keeping a reasonable distance from it. After an awkward period of silence, Holley couldn't suppress her curiosity

any longer and broke the silence. "Why don't you beg me to let you go?" In Holley's mind, Sheryl shouldn't have been acting so composed as she was in that moment.

"Beg you?" Sheryl didn't bother hiding her disdain in her words. "Is it of any use to beg you?"

"Why don't you try it?" Holley's eyes turned mischievous. All those years she had been waiting for that moment, the moment Sheryl would push aside her self-esteem and self-respect, bow down her proud head, and beg her. She wanted to walk all over the other woman and gain full control of her fate. Sheryl would be a timid mouse in front of a fierce cat—she had nowhere to escape.

"You've put in so much effort. I know it's impossible for you to give up just because I beg you. You won't let me go even if I get down on my knees before you." Sheryl glared at Holley with ice-cold eyes, as if she could see right through her and into her mind. "So, why would I waste my time doing something that won't get me anywhere?"

"You..." Holley started, beyond annoyed. It seemed that Sheryl won that little round. Holley's sense of superiority and victory immediately subsided when she heard Sheryl's calm words. She quickly swallowed down the feeling of defeat and tried to regain her confidence by convincing herself that

Sheryl would soon face the harsh reality. With a disdainful look, she threatened the idle woman, "You're too proud for someone too close to her fate. I'm curious to find out whether you'll still have that proud look on your face after tonight, especially when you meet Charles. That will be interesting. I can't wait to see that."

"Have I hurt or displeased you before?" Sheryl asked Holley out of curiosity. She couldn't think of any reason why Holley was so dead set on taking her down. She thought it could be money, but money alone wasn't enough to explain Holley's unique treatment towards her compared to any other girl.

Sheryl even had Charles backing her up, so it seemed that Holley wasn't afraid of Charles in the least, and even wanted him to suffer as well. It had to be something personal.

"No," Holley answered, barely hiding the roaring hatred in her eyes.

"Then... did I know you in the past?" It was so puzzling.

"No."

"Then I'm confused. Why do you target me like this?" Sheryl was dumbfounded and just wanted to understand what all that Holley had done to her was for. "After you came back, you purposely tried to get close to me. Everything you've done has already put me in a dire situation. You set a trap for me

and succeeded. If I didn't know you from the past and haven't caused you any trouble, I don't get it.

Why do you do this to me?"

"You don't need to get it." Holley didn't even bother addressing the other woman's doubt. "I just don't

like you. I don't like your arrogant face. George and I have treated you well, but you choose to leave us

when we need you the most. Since you're not appreciative of our kindness, I'll pay you back with

cruelty instead. It just so happened that someone pointed your name out with a price that I couldn't

resist. It came so naturally, so why would I say no to him?"

Holley paused for a moment to see if Sheryl believed her story but she couldn't make anything out from

the other's emotionless face. The excuse continued, "Sheryl, the only one you should blame is yourself,

not me. I've been nice to you, but you're not nice to me. You reap what you sow. Understand?"

"You're similar to someone I once knew," Sheryl suddenly remarked. All the while, Sheryl was closely

observing the face, action, and tone of the ruthless woman in front of her. The more Holley spoke, the

stronger Sheryl's suspicion grew that Holley was someone she had known from her past. Holley's

heartbeat seemed to stop as she heard it, but she managed to grab on to her calm facade without

saying anything. Her fists were clenched so tight that her palms were turning pale.

"That person is my younger sister. We're half-sisters on my mother's side. Three years ago, she was sent to prison but disappeared since then. Someone said she went abroad and transformed her face and identity. Her name is Yvonne. Do you know her?" With a strong suspicion that Holley was indeed her sister, Yvonne, she spoke the name to see if it would evoke any reaction from her.

Holley, however, was doing everything to conceal the feeling of shock and coolly replied, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"This sister of mine is exactly like you, except for her face. You're both allergic to seafood; you're both vengeful; you both like pink. Miss Ye, don't you think all your similarities seem a little more than just a coincidence?" The further Sheryl analyzed, the harder it was for Holley to argue back. At that point, it seemed that Holley had no way to deny the suspicion. The shock and uneasiness in her elevated and she once again tried suppressing the monster that was roaring inside, struggling to be freed. If Holley let her anger get the best of her, she would definitely admit everything as loud as she could, so she could yell at the woman in front of her who had caused her immense pain. Instead, she swallowed her feelings and faked a surprised tone of voice. "Is it? I can't believe that there could be a person so

similar to me in the world. That makes me curious. I'd like to know her."

"You two should meet, then," Sheryl scoffed.

Holley was terribly uncomfortable with the topic, so she abruptly decided to stop talking about it. "Stop

the nonsense. Later, after you get in, do serve Mr. Zhang well. Otherwise, I'll punch you in the face,"

she threatened.

"Well, you'll see," Sheryl scorned at the agitated woman.

When the car stopped, Holley found herself another weapon to humiliate Sheryl with. She turned to the

woman with a wicked smile. "I'm just curious... If Charles ever comes to know that you will be in

another man's bed tonight, how will he react?"

Sheryl fell into a heavy silence.

Meanwhile, in the Eternity Company meeting room, Charles was throwing Chuck Zhang cold glances

as he asserted, "Mr. Zhang, if you insist on your own way, then there's nothing for us to discuss now.

Shining Company is not going to participate in this project or invest a single penny in it. I guess you'll

have to find yourself a new partner."

As he said it, he stood up and prepared to leave.

"David, help me book the flight back for tomorrow." "Yes, Mr. Lu," David agreed with a nod.

"Mr. Lu, please stay." Chuck Zhang grabbed Charles' arm as he made his request. Charles only threw

him a harsh glare in return, which put him off enough to pull his hand back. Standing there in

embarrassment, Chuck Zhang gathered himself before convincing Charles to consider further

negotiation. "Mr. Lu, if you think that the project doesn't meet your demand, then we can definitely

make changes to fit your interest. Moreover, you're a distinguished guest of mine. I haven't had a

chance to treat you or take you around the area. Just stay for some time longer and let's come up with

something together," he offered.

He looked at Charles with a rather indecent smile and lowered his voice, as if telling a secret, "I've even

planned a small party tonight in the most grandiose restaurant of this city. There will be a group of very

cute girls. I've heard that Mrs. Lu passed away several years ago. Would you like me to arrange a nice

girl for you? I'm sure you're going to enjoy her."

His offer made Charles dart a furious glare at him, which got his voice quivering. Chuck Zhang was

wrong to believe that Charles was someone with that kind of interest in random women. What made

him even more wrong, was that he thought Charles was simply afraid of being found out and subsequently being defamed, so he hurried to assure him, "Mr. Lu, don't worry. I'm a very careful person. I'll make sure that no one else knows about it."

"David!" Instead of giving his remarks a reply, he called for David in anger. "Tell all the people in my company that as long as I'm still in charge of the company, there's going to be no collaboration with Eternity Company in any form," he said firmly and stormed off.

"Yes, Mr. Lu," answered David.

"Mr. Lu... Mr. Lu!" Chuck Zhang, still unwilling to give up the business opportunity, ran outside to persuade Charles once again, but only helplessly saw the latter in the lift with the doors about to shut.

It took no time for Chuck Zhang to turn from an inferior business partner seeking Charles' help to a ruthless man full of vengeance. Staring at the lift doors, he spat out, "Who the hell does he think he is?"

He acts like he's on such a high horse."

Taking out his phone, he made a call. "Is the woman ready?"

I can't wait to find out how Charles' woman tastes. Would he be so arrogant when he finds out his

woman is begging me to let her go?"

With his next plan in mind, Chuck Zhang couldn't help but laugh out loud, which washed away all the earlier displeasure with Charles. 'He was really a boss just now, ' he thought to himself. 'I'll give him a harsh lesson tonight. Then he'll know who the real boss is.'

Chapter 920 Chuck Zhang

Chuck was irritable because of Charles' rude attitude towards him. He firmly decided to take revenge on Charles at any cost.

In the elevator, David timidly tried to ask, "Mr. Lu, are you really giving up the cooperation with Mr. Zhang's company?"

Charles merely cast a glance at David and his tone went cold. "What? Did you think I was just kidding?"

"No, no... I didn't think so," David said in a rush. "But... He was an important partner of ours. If our sales volume in this season is reduced because of your argument with him, other members of the board would blame you."

Charles simply sneered and said, "Don't worry. I'll deal with them. You should just busy yourself with what I asked you to do."

"Okay." Although a little reluctant, Dave nodded slightly.

Charles called Sheryl as he left but she didn't pick up. He frowned at that and assumed that she would call him back soon. After he finished dinner, though, there still wasn't a call for him and it got him feeling restless.

He reached Abby and found out that Sheryl went somewhere else for work, but Abby didn't know exactly where Sheryl was either.

By that point, Charles was panicked. He called Sheryl another few times but didn't get through.

"David, check where Sheryl is working right now." His tone was serious and demanding.

David realized that something must've happened. He asked nothing as he went to check Sheryl's work schedule. Charles was gripping his phone hard and nervously waiting to find out her whereabouts as soon as possible.

Finally, his phone rang. It was a call from Sue.

He suddenly realized that Sue must know where Sheryl had gone and he cursed himself for not reaching her earlier.

"Mr. Lu, is Sher with you now? She's not answering my phone. Please have her pick up the call." Sue's tone was nervous. She had just had a nightmare at noon and it made her feel restless with concern about Sheryl.

"You think she's with me?" Charles was astonished.

"Didn't she go visit you?" Sue realized that Sheryl never went to see Charles. When Sue heard his confused voice, she was taken aback and murmured, "How would that... Sheryl told me her working place is also in Y City and she planned to give you a surprise."

Sue paused for a while and carefully added, "She really didn't come for you, right? Could something have happened to her?"

Both Sue and Charles were fidgety and restless because of the possibility that Sheryl did meet some kind of accident.

"Are you sure she came to Y City?" Charles asked once more, hoping to hear something hopeful.

"Yes, I'm sure." Sue was certain about that, at least. "She had to go with the people at BM Corporation.

I tried to stop her this time because I thought Holley is too weird, but I didn't expect anything to happen so quickly."

"Don't be scared. She could just be really caught up in work." Charles tried to console Sue, and in turn, himself.

"No, that's impossible." Sue's smile was bitter as she said, "I kept calling her last night but she never picked up. She would never do that to me."

Charles arched his brows at Sue's words before he said, "Don't be nervous. I'm looking for her right now."

"Mr. Lu..." Sue started as he was about to hang up. "Please tell me if you can find her. I'll stay up until I'm sure she's okay."

"Okay." Charles raised his voice as soon as he hung up the phone. "David, connect BM Corporation now and check where Sheryl is!"

In the Xiao family house, Sue was still worried about Sheryl as she hung up.

She decided to put on a coat and head out when Anthony immediately grabbed her hand and pulled her back. "Where are you going?"

"I feel too worried about Sheryl. I'm going to look for her." Sue frowned and continued, "This work

should be mine. Sheryl did it for me. If anything happened to her, I would never forgive myself."

"It's far too late and you're pregnant. How can you find her by yourself?" Anthony heaved a sigh and tried to console her, "You can't do anything about this matter, anyway. Just stay home and wait for Charles' news."

"I can't just wait anymore." Sue was getting irritated by Anthony's coddling. "She is the most important person in the world to me. I can't just sit here and do nothing. I'm going to help look for her."

"Sue, calm down." Laura had just prepared some nourishment for Sue. When she overheard her argument with Anthony, she tried to persuade Sue to stay. "I know Sheryl is your best friend. But you're pregnant, after all. You should stay calm and rest for the sake of the baby."

Sue began hesitating when she heard Laura's words and the latter continued, "Sheryl wouldn't allow you to risk anything if she knew you were looking for her at such a crucial moment."

"But..." Sue's concern still wasn't vanishing from her face.

"Don't think too much." Laura continued, "If you're still worried, tomorrow, we can look for her together."

"It's just too late today."

"Oh, do you mean it?" Surprised, Sue wondered why Laura was also concerned about Sheryl.

"Of course," Laura said with a smile. "You must be forgetting something. Anthony and I are from M City.

It's a good chance for us to take you back to our hometown and give a little visit as well. We can decide the restaurant for your wedding."

Sue blushed and nodded slightly.

At the same time, Sheryl had been waiting a while. They were all feeling sleepy.

Holley arrived and asked them to stand up. "Cheer up! The guests have arrived. Go out right now!" She shouted at them.

She walked up to Sheryl and said, "Sheryl, come with me." Sheryl followed Holley without a word.

There was no escape anyway and she could only be obedient as she thought of her chances.

Holley took Sheryl to a room where only an ugly man was inside. He was about forty years old with a fat belly, giving her a sense of disgust. Holley smiled and said to the man, "Mr. Zhang, this is the person you want."

"That's the woman you told me about?" Chuck examined Sheryl and found that with her pale face, she looked very pure. He believed she was the type that Charles liked.

"Yes, she is." Holley grinned at the situation. "What do you think of her? Are you satisfied?"

Chuck sneered. "Not bad," he said as he continued examining her as if she were merely a product.

Sheryl felt terribly uncomfortable under his gaze.

"Then... I should take my leave now. Have fun!" Holley smirked as she said it. When she passed by

Sheryl, she warned, "Don't try to play any tricks. Otherwise, I'll teach you a lesson."