

## **Wedded Bride 971**

### Chapter 971 Birthday Party

The day had finally arrived. It was Helin's birthday. It was a big event and Sheryl got up early at her usual time. She got ready and drove straight to the hotel where Helin's birthday party was to be held.

After she handed over her car to the valet for getting it parked, she arrived at the hall where the birthday party was supposed to be held. She walked through the lobby to supervise the staff, checking the sitting arrangements, floral decorations, and the food. After discussing the on-site layout with the staff, she picked up her phone to make sure that the emcee was reaching the venue on time.

Around 9:00 am, Helin came to the hotel as well. She entered the immaculately done up party hall. She looked around with amazement and could not help but appreciate the flawless arrangement made by Sheryl. Sheryl was standing right there marking the satisfaction on Helin's face. Soon, their eyes met and they exchanged a formal smile. Sheryl came forward and ushered her inside the hall.

As they walked further inside the hall, Helin marveled at the hall and thought to herself, 'I love the design. I am sure my guests will be impressed as well.' Although she was upset with Sheryl for refusing to help her, she could not stop herself from appreciating Sheryl's efforts to put together a marvelous design for her birthday.

"Miss He, the work is almost done. What do you think of the design? Please let me know if you have any other requirement," Sheryl addressed politely, as she came forward and stopped in front of Helin.

Helin maintained a straight face and replied blandly without looking at Sheryl, "Not bad."

Sheryl heaved a sigh of relief.

"Keep an eye on them. I got to go," Helin instructed, taking a quick look at Sheryl.

Helin's next destination was the beauty salon. She had made an appointment for a party make up at one of the finest salons in the city. She turned her wrist to check the time on her wristwatch and thought, 'I need to hurry up.'

Sheryl glanced at Helin, and replied, "Yes, I will."

Helin patted Sheryl's shoulder and said, "I will give you a handsome reward for this." Sheryl felt awkward as she followed Helin's hand with her eyes as it came on her shoulder and then Helin took it away from her.

Helin maintained a nonchalant expression unmoved by Sheryl's reaction as she spoke and took her leave from the party venue. She already regarded Sheryl as her subordinate, it seemed.

Sheryl got irked but ignored her arrogant attitude. As Helin left, Sheryl went out and bought some beverages and fruits for the workers. It was a hot day after all and the workers had been sweating it out to make the perfect arrangement.

Sheryl handed over the drinks personally to each worker who looked up at her with regard and gratefulness. Enthused and energetic, they went back to the work with renewed vigor.

It was not before four in the afternoon that the hall was completely ready for the guests. The lobby was spotless. The carpet spread out, the flowers clustered in a beautiful arrangement, the tables, and the seats arranged meticulously. The hall was finally ready for the guests to walk in. Knowing that Helin attached much importance to this party, Sheryl had invited the famous chefs to prepare the food.

Sheryl checked the food and made sure that it presented in a buffet arrangement by 5:30 pm. After going through the entire checklist one by one, Sheryl let out a sigh of relief.

Sheryl was in a pink hooded tracksuit. After everything was in place, she went to the washroom to freshen up. By the time she returned to the hall, Helin had already appeared.

With sophisticated make-up, Helin looked radiant in her party look. From her expression, Sheryl knew that Helin was pleased with the site layout. She went towards the stage and took a seat nearby.

Very soon, the guests started to walk in. Helin greeted them with a brilliant smile but kept looking towards the entry door from time to time. There was an impatient look on her face and it was apparent that she was waiting for someone.

Sheryl observed Helin as she moved around greeting the guests. The restlessness in Helin's demeanor did not evade her eyes. Sheryl knew that Helin was waiting for Roger.

As time passed by, Helin grew more and more impatient. And slowly, it had started to show on her face.

The party was scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm. But since the one she was dying to see didn't appear as yet, she didn't start the party even when it was 7:00. Slowly a mark of gloominess started to surface on her pretty face. No matter how much flattery she received from the guests, she couldn't cheer up.

Marking the sulky expression on Helin's face, even Heron got disturbed. He scowled and pulled Helin aside to a quiet corner and scolded, "What's your problem? So many guests are watching you.

Besides, there are so many news reporters among the invitees. And look at yourself. What if they make up stories?"

Helin furrowed her brows and lowered her eyes but remained silent breathing heavily. Her silence

enraged her father. He snapped at her, "Talk to me. What are you doing? Why do you have such a long face?"

"Dad, have you met Roger recently?" Helin asked as she looked up at her father with a solemn face.

"What are you talking about?" Heron scowled at her for bringing Roger up. "So you look unhappy because of Roger?" he asked. Helin looked at Heron's face and blinked her eyes for a couple of times.

She really had to muster a lot of courage to talk about Roger in front of Heron.

"Dad, I really like him," Helin said decidedly as she stared straight into his eyes. Heron's eyes were burning with fury as he narrowed his eyes and fixed his stare at Helin. Helin swallowed and continued,

"Whether you agree or not, I will not marry anyone else other than Roger in my lifetime."

"Are you out of your mind?" Heron blurted furiously. Helin's face was ashen as she found herself at the receiving end of Heron's fury. "Do you even know what you are talking about? What's so good about Roger that you are so obsessed with him?"

He glowered at Helin and warned, "I don't know what you are up to. But it is my sincere advice as a father that you should give up that crazy thought. No matter what you do, I will not let you get married to him."

"Dad!" Helin raised her voice as she looked up at her father. "I don't know why you dislike Roger so much. But I am telling you that you have no right to decide who I should be in love with. I will not let you use me as a pawn for your commercial benefits. I will choose the one I love and get married to him. If I find you interfering in my love life, I will not spare you. Do you hear me?"

"You..." Heron was too angry to utter another word. Father and daughter turned their face away from each other for a moment. As Heron regained his composure, he said adamantly, "Good. Since you have expressed your own stance, I will let you know mine. You can date anyone you like but Roger. Do I make it clear to you?"

Noticing that the two were in a fierce fight, Sheryl approached them and stopped before Helin. She said courteously, "Miss He, it's almost time for the party to begin. I was wondering if we should make the announcement to start the party."

Sheryl's arrival interrupted their heated argument. Helin cast a glance at the entry door and curved her lips into a bitter smile.

Her face went pale and her eyes went blank as she could not see Roger walk into the party as yet. Her

heartbreak could very well be noticed on her face.

Heron was completely nonchalant towards Helin's feeling. He cast a stern glance at her and said, "I

have let you do whatever you want since your childhood. But I will not make any concessions this time.

If you dare to do anything against my wishes, don't blame me for hurting your love."

Heron then turned around and walked away. Helin kept staring at him from his back seething with

anger.

Sheryl reminded Helin, "Miss He, it's 7:00. I don't think there is any hope for him to come to the party.

The guests are waiting for you to start the party."

"I see," Helin responded impassively. Helin looked away from Sheryl as she was still upset with her.

'Would Roger have been here if she had agreed to do me the favor?' she wondered.

"Okay then, start the party," Helin said sounding utterly depressed as she cast an expectant look once

again towards the entrance of the hall.

Sheryl summoned the emcee to give her speech.

"Here we embrace the prosperous midsummer as we gather together to celebrate Miss Helin He's

birthday party. First of all, please allow me to share my sincere gratitude to all the esteemed guests on

behalf of Miss He!" As the emcee's bewitching voice echoed through the hall, a round of heated

applause broke out among the crowd. "Now, let us welcome our birthday girl..."

She repeated it several times but Helin sat still as if she heard nothing. She was distracted. Heron's

face darkened with fury. Sheryl strode ahead to Helin and whispered to her, "It's your turn, Miss He."

Sheryl's reminder broke her reverie. Helin hurried to the stage and walked to the emcee's side. She

took the microphone and addressed the guests with a smile—a smile that failed to reach her eyes.

Chapter 972 I Thought Of You As My Sister

Holding the microphone in her hand, Helin stared at the entrance once again. Marking the lost look on

her face, the emcee took over once again. "Looks like birthday girl got slightly nervous," the emcee

laughed and tried to break the silence and fill it up with a bit of humor to engage the guests. Handing

her microphone to Helin once again, she continued, "Today is Miss He's big day. I'm sure that she must

have much to share with you. So I will leave the stage to her. I'd like to hear your applause, guys.

Welcome, Miss He!"

The guests looked at Helin, waiting for her to speak. The paparazzi went on with their cameras. And

amidst the entire hustle bustle, Helin stood still, lost into her thoughts. In fact, she didn't care a damn



about the stupid party. All she wanted was to meet Roger and confess her feelings to him.

She had made such an elaborate arrangement only to see him. All the people who had gathered there meant nothing to her. Her heart wrenched as there was still no sign of the one and only person she was dying to see.

She laughed sardonically in the heart. Now that so many people had gathered at the party for her, she had to continue the show, with or without Roger. Otherwise, she would end up making a fool of herself.

Both Helin's and her father's reputation would be at risk. She could not afford it at any cost. She pulled herself up and forced a smile as she addressed the crowd.

"First of all, thank you all for your coming..." Helin started her speech. Though she addressed the guests, she could not feel connected with them. She stood on the stage absentmindedly, sharing some pleasantries. The guests present were big shots of Y City. They were running out of patience as they didn't come here to waste their precious time hearing her rubbish.

Heron watched his daughter from afar and marked the reaction of the guests. He thought of saving the day and walked onto the stage hurriedly. He took the microphone from Helin's hand; he couldn't hear anymore. With a laugh, he said, "I'm sorry, everyone. My daughter was spoiled by me. Evidently, she is

not a great speaker. Please forgive her."

He successfully came to Helin's rescue and engaged them with his speech. The next flow of events was to cut the birthday cake. Sheryl initially planned to let Helin propose to Roger during the process. However, since Roger didn't make his appearance, Helin just blew out the candles, made a wish and cut the cake with a grumpy face. As soon as she cut the cake, she could not hold herself any longer on the stage.

She hurried off the stage and ran straight toward Sheryl. She grabbed Sheryl's hand tightly and pleaded, "Sheryl, please do me a favor and call up Roger."

Sheryl cast a stern look at her and abstained from replying to her. Helin looked at Sheryl's face and put on a pitiful face as she begged, "Sheryl, please don't refuse. Now you are the only one who can help me. I can't think of anyone else except you.

It took me a long time to prepare for this. I can't give up like this." A mark of despair spread over Helin's face as she pleaded. Looking at the helpless girl, Sheryl raised her brows. The sad girl stared at her and implored, "Please do me this favor. I don't know what to do now..."

Sheryl narrowed her eyes at Helin, not knowing whether she should help her or not. Taking note of

Sheryl's dilemma, Helin held her hands and continued, "If you agree to help me, I will do whatever you ask me. Please just say yes, will you?" Helin sounded exasperated as she pleaded in front of Sheryl.

As they were engaged in talking, there was some noise that came from the door and suddenly all the reporters rushed towards the door. Helin turned her face towards the door. And with a completely startled look on her face, she let go of Sheryl's hand that she had in her clasp for such a long time.

Looking at her reaction, even Sheryl turned towards the door to find Roger entering the hall with a female star who was a newbie who hit the limelight recently. The shutterbugs rushed towards them.

Sheryl and Helin watched them as they posed like a couple in front of the cameras. She had unnatural, delicate fine features. Such features could not be attained without going under the knife. She stood beside Roger and held his arm tightly just like a timid bunny.

A sudden whispering sound broke out among the crowd as all the heads turned towards Roger and the lady in his arms. "Isn't this Roger Han?" A voice came from the crowd.

And then came another remark, "Oh, yes, it's him. It is widely said that he was dating Miss He. I thought they were a couple. But what's going on?"

And yet another voice—"Isn't that girl Bessie? She has gained a lot of popularity lately. But now they show up together. Are they seeing each other?"

"I guess so. But what about Miss He?" And thus, there was an exchange of different remarks and comments regarding Roger, Helin, and Bessie.

Helin ignored all that as she sprinted straight to Roger and gave him a tight hug. Paying no heed to the girl next to Roger, she sobbed cheerfully, "I knew you would come here. I knew it."

"Let him go," Bessie said acridly as she pushed Helin away from Roger. It was evident that she was hostile to Helin.

The guest flooded to the three of them, waiting to see the show.

Heron dashed forward and grasped his daughter's arm. Turning to Roger, he said, "Hi, Roger, I am so glad to see you here. You have always treated Helin as your own sister. I heard that you were on a vacation abroad. Have you come back only to attend her birthday party?"

Heron sported a smile which failed to reach his eyes. As he grasped Helin tightly with one hand trying to keep her away from Roger, his jaws were stiff and his facial expression betrayed his words.

Roger looked back at Heron and replied with a diplomatic smile, "Yes, I have. I got a call from Helin, so I came back." Marking Helin's restlessness from the corner of his eyes and yet maintaining a nonchalant attitude, he gestured at the girl beside him and said, "Well, I forgot to introduce her. She is my girlfriend, Bessie."

"Girlfriend?" Helin repeated as she gazed at Roger in disbelief. Her face went pale and her jaws dropped. Roger had become aloof from Helin. Initially, she thought he had gotten a fake girlfriend to make her get mad. But she didn't expect that he would bring that girl here.

Roger's referring to Bessie as his girlfriend broke her heart into a million pieces. Darting a hurtful look at Roger, she asked, "Is she really your girlfriend?"

"Of course I am," Bessie grumbled before Roger replied. Helin rasped as she cast a burning glare at Bessie. "Do you think he is lying to you? We have been together for a long time." Bessie braved Helin's wrathful glare as she spoke.

"You're lying, aren't you?" Helin ignored Bessie's words, looking at Roger. Her face was full of pain as she looked at Roger who refused to even look back at her. She couldn't believe that he was dating someone else. "How come you suddenly made a girlfriend?" Helin asked again demanding an answer

from Roger.

"It's true," Roger confirmed as he finally looked at Helin and smiled. "I and Bessie have been together for long. I plan to marry her. I will send you a wedding invitation." Roger put his word in the most casual manner, ignoring Helin's reaction.

Helin had her eyes popped out and her mouth open as she heard Roger announce his marriage. Pain and humiliation surfaced on her face like an open wound. She could not believe it. Even if it came from Roger's mouth, she did not want to believe it. Tears pooled her eyes as she stammered, "And what about me?"

"You?" Roger drew a warm smile and replied, "I thought of you as my little sister." After a pause, he continued, "Oh, would you like to be my bridesmaid when I get married?"

Helin gave a desperate laugh, tears bursting out of her eyes as she laughed. "You are so mean to me,

Roger Han," she responded dejectedly.

'It doesn't make sense. I never expected this. Roger is supposed to be with me. But why did he choose that woman?' she mused.

"Are you mad at me, Roger?" Helin asked softly wiping the tears off her cheeks. Regardless of so many guests and reporters, she moved forward and held Roger's hand. "I am the one you like. Then why did you choose this woman? Did I do anything wrong? If I did, please let me know. I will do anything I can to make things right," Helin implored swallowing her pride.

Seeing Helin beg in front of Roger like this, Sheryl couldn't bear to see it any longer. She squeezed her way through the crowd towards Helin. She held the latter's hand and said, "Miss He, you are drunk. Please stop talking nonsense." Sheryl tried to pull Helin out of the crowd but she remained rooted at her place refusing to budge even an inch away from Roger.

Sheryl's appearance took Roger by surprise. With a slight smile, he repeated, "It's not funny, Helin. I always treat you as my sister. How would I have a crush on you?"

Holding Bessie's shoulder, he turned towards her and said, "I like Bessie, and we have decided to get married."

Chapter 973 Love On The Brain

"You are lying!" Helin cried out. She clearly couldn't accept such absurdity. Roger seemed unfazed, however. Her glares did not intimidate nor move him. She pointed at Bessie and, with her head towards Roger, began yelling once again. "What is it about this woman that attracts you? Why are you marrying

her instead of me? What makes you think she is any better than me?"

"Helin! Please, come to your senses!" Her father called out. Heron felt really embarrassed to see Helin humiliate herself in front of so many eyes. He would have done anything to make it all go away, to get her out of the rabbit hole she was sinking herself into. He had a hard time containing his disappointment. Despite that, he tried to calm himself down and addressed Helin with a stern face,

"You drank too much today. You need to go get some rest."

"I'm not drunk," She asserted forcing a smile. Then, her demeanor suddenly changed as if she had just had an epiphany. She turned to Heron with a hostile look and started blaming him. "It's all your fault! If it weren't for you, Roger wouldn't do this to me. You'd better stay out of my business from now on and leave me alone!"

At the sound of her words, a smirk flashed across Roger's face as if Helin's accusations pleased him.

His reaction revealed what was really inside his mind, but he didn't think anyone would be paying attention to him or notice it. However, when he raised his head, he was met by Sheryl's blazing eyes.

Heron was overcome by anger, but he still managed to put on an act in front of the crowd. He



responded to Helin's comments on a low but patronizing tone, "You have to get hold of yourself! You can't allow alcohol to turn you into this kind of person all the time. I'm going to start restricting your drinking from now on! You have crossed the line tonight."

He then turned towards the crowd with a fake smile, attempting to persuade everyone that Helin was indeed drunk. "I am really sorry. My daughter has had too much to drink. I hope everyone doesn't..."

As Heron was trying to appease the crowd with a statement and prevent the dinner party from turning into a disaster, Helin was not about to budge on her request.

Ignoring the inopportune timing, she kept asking for her answers. "You have to tell me. What does she have that I don't? Why are you doing this to me? I don't get it." She sighed and continued, "You know that I've loved you ever since I met you. You mean everything to me. All these years, the looks, the talks, the raised heartbeats... you can't say you haven't felt them too. If you really don't love me as you claim, then why have you strung me along? Why have you deceived me for so long? Please tell me that what you just said isn't true. Tell me you don't mean it."

Helin grabbed Roger's hand and looked him in the eye for a few moments, then inquired, "Has my dad said something to change your mind? You have to tell me. If so, you shouldn't pay attention to it. This

concerns only us two. No matter his words, my love for you will never change. Trust me. Don't let his words get in between us."

"Helin, all these years... that's not how I see them. You have been misinterpreting everything," Roger began explaining. He paused to think and then clarified, "My affection for you is nothing like what you are insinuating. I have always regarded you as my sister. Yes, I've heard the rumors about other people's interpretations of our relationship but I haven't realized that you actually believed them. Should

I have kept my distance from you because of them? I never..."

Roger paused once again. He was playing his part quite well. Adopting a guilty stance, he apologized,

"I'm sorry. It's all my fault. I should have known you may misinterpret this and should have clarified it to you."

Helin's heart sank deep in her stomach and her eyes swelled with tears. "I couldn't have been mistaken for all these years. How can you just deny it all? How can you let it all go down the drain?" she yelled, not believing her ears.

She took a few deep breaths to steady her nerves. Her eyes were staring down and her hands were

clenching her purse as if she was on the verge of making a move. Finally, with trembling hands, she took out a platinum ring embellished with a priceless diamond and confessed, "You know... Today, I was going to propose to you. It was going to be a big surprise; at least I thought it would be. But I was wrong. What you've just said makes me realize that you're not the one. I have just been too stubborn to see it." Roger turned to stone at the sight of the ring. All eyes were on him in that moment. Shocked, he declared, "Oh wow. I don't believe this. As far as I'm concerned, her feelings and intentions are news to me as well!"

Helin's confession provoked a frenzy among the journalists present. To them, there couldn't have been smoke without fire and that was definitely going to be big news. So they all began asking question after question, in order to get to the bottom of the story. They strained against each other, inching closer to Helin and creating a huge commotion.

"How long have you loved Mr. Han for, Miss He? Have you been intimate? Can you tell us more?" They kept shouting without any respect.

The cameras started clicking too. Blinded by flashes, Helin remained silent.

However, the questions kept coming. "Miss He, what kind of relationship do you and Mr. Han have exactly? What has made you buy him that ring? Has he ever hinted at marriage?"

They were not about to stop running their mouths. Eventually, the questions started sounding more like insults, purposely thrown out to trigger a reaction from her. Sheryl grew worried watching Helin get attacked by the group of journalists. She kept glancing over to Roger, hoping he would pull her out or jump in her defense. However, Roger remained silent, acting like nothing was happening. Sheryl finally had enough and rushed to her side. She gave Helin a glance and then turned to face the journalists.

"Everyone, please step back. You all can see that Miss He is not quite sober right now. Therefore, anything she may say cannot be counted on. Please do not use her state against her or ruin her reputation based on an erroneous slip of the tongue."

"And who are you? What is your involvement in the matter?" a journalist retaliated. It wasn't every day that they got such a big and juicy story. So the journalists were not about to back off. Sheryl's interference only made the matters worse. They began verbally assaulting her as well. They were using their best scare tactics to get Sheryl out of their way.

In spite of her embarrassment, Sheryl didn't let them have their way. Eventually, someone seemed to

recognize her and stated, "Oh! You are Mrs. Lu, right?"

Wherever Charles went, he always had Sheryl by his side. Her presence was not a surprise. Realizing who she was, the journalists started to calm down and stop with the threats.

Even if they were not pleased with her involvement in the matter, they respected Charles. So they slightly backed away from the two women and did not ask any more questions either.

Sheryl felt pretty happy and surprised to learn how well-regarded she was in society. She had hoped this would be the end of the night's problems, but Helin wasn't done yet. She was still unwilling to believe what Roger had told her. Desperate for closure, she asked him, "Roger, I just want to ask you one last time. Whom are you choosing to marry, me... or this woman?"

Roger gave her the barest hint of a smile. He had never loved Helin and didn't care much about her feelings either. Plus, he was getting fed up of her scenes.

So he decided to be straightforward with her. "Bessie and I have a real, solid relationship. Helin, you are too young to understand what love is. For me, you've always been a sister. As for your feelings towards me, they're probably infatuation at best. This is not love. I trust that you will soon realize it too."

His answer left Helin numb. He had crushed any of her remaining hopes and dreams.

She took a deep breath. She had never felt so stripped off of her dignity. After what felt like an eternity,

Helin finally accepted the truth. "Fine, I get it."

With nothing else left to say, she set out for the gate. A minute later, she was gone. Sheryl intended to

chase after her but was stopped by Roger, who held her arm tightly. Irritated enough, she turned and

shouted at him, "What's wrong with you? Let me go."

"Why are you here?" he pried. Roger had not expected to see Sheryl there. The situation was a bit

awkward for him but all he could do was to act calmly and continue to play along.

He had a goal in mind and was willing to do anything for it.

"Why are you asking? Huh? Tell me!" She demanded, infuriated. She pulled her arm out of his hold and

expressed her disappointment. "Roger, now I really regret giving you a hand when you were in trouble

three years ago. You don't deserve it. You aren't half the man I thought you were."

Sheryl didn't want to waste any more time talking to Roger. She immediately rushed out in hopes to still

catch up to Helin.

However, Helin was gone without a trace.

That caused her to turn into a bundle of nerves, as she was afraid that Helin might do something stupid. She decided to reach out to Heron and ask for his help. Seeing Sheryl's honest concern, Heron got really moved. With a resigned expression, he instantly consoled her, "Oh, this child of mine! Never a dull moment with her! Sorry to make you worried but you don't have to be. She knows how to take care of herself. She always has."

Heron then caught sight of Roger in the distance, who had just raised his glass and was about to propose a toast. The image felt like adding salt on the wound for the poor father.

So he excused himself, "Well... Looks like I'll be leaving now." The hostess was gone anyway, so it was impolite even for Sheryl to stay there any longer. She offered Heron a respectful bow and then made her way out of the venue as well. Her driver was waiting outside patiently. As soon as she opened the door, a large shadow of a man overcast her.

"Wait a minute, Sheryl," Roger called out.

Sheryl turned around, a little surprised to see him approach her again. Then her brows creased into a demeaning stare. She was appalled by his earlier disregard for Helin. No matter what had happened

between them, he should have at least tried to defend her reputation publicly. Instead, he humiliated

her even more. That kind of a person could not call himself a man.

Moreover, Sheryl could easily tell that he didn't love Bessie either.

Chapter 974 You Don't Know Him

"What's the matter?" Although the question was asked in concern, Sheryl harbored no affection for

Roger and faced him with a cold expression. Not expecting to have a long conversation with him,

Sheryl looked at him unheedingly.

"I just wanted to tell you...

what you saw today... it's not real," slightly stammering, Roger explained. It wasn't clear to Roger

himself why he would even try to explain this to Sheryl. There was just the feeling of not wanting Sheryl

to misunderstand him in such a way.

Giving a polite smile, Sheryl said, "Roger, you don't need to tell me. You should just go and explain to

Helin. She's been anxiously waiting for your explanation for too long."

"It has nothing to do with Helin because I don't have any feelings for her at all," Roger explained with

haste. It seemed as though he was afraid Sheryl would get too angry and just leave abruptly.



Taking two steps forward, Roger looked at Sheryl and said rather fretfully, "I never liked her from the beginning. I really don't have any feelings for her. You must believe me."

"And so what if I believe your words? Would it make a difference? You think it matters enough to change anything?" The doubt was evident in Sheryl's voice. It was still rather puzzling to her that he was even explaining anything to her at all. "I still don't quite understand why you're talking about this with me. What are you trying to do? You should talk to Helin, not me because I don't think my opinion matters much to you."

As a matter of fact, Sheryl simply decided not to believe what Roger said anymore. No matter how much he explained, she would not be convinced. Moreover, she could feel the regret of helping him in the past seeping into her chest.

Although Helin was arrogant and acted unreasonably at times, Sheryl knew that she was, deep down, a good and kind-hearted girl with real and serious feelings for Roger.

When Roger heard Sheryl's words, he smiled bitterly. Even he had to admit that regardless of whether or not he explained things clearly to Sheryl, nothing would change. There was no way Roger could change anything by merely saying a few words to the person in front of him.

Sheryl was Charles' wife; she was Mrs. Lu. All Roger could do was ask himself, 'What on earth am I expecting? What kind of fantasy do I still have about this woman?'

The answer was still lost to him, yet, he said to Sheryl with a forced smile, "I just don't want you to misunderstand me as others do. That's all."

Taking a moment to pause, Sheryl cast a cold glance at him and said, "Roger, if you really care about what I think of you, I suggest that you go and clear things up with Helin. No matter what you plan on doing, she's innocent. She's someone who's done so much for you. You shouldn't sever your relationship so easily because of such a matter. It's not fair to her. Go and have a heart-to-heart with her to deal with the problem. She needs you, you know?"

"What about you? Do you need me?"

As soon as he spoke the words, Roger was stunned by his own boldness. While he didn't know why he suddenly had the courage to say such a thing to Sheryl, he continued anyway, "What exactly do you think of me? Do you have any feelings for me?"

The daring questions were just as much of, or even more so, a shock to Sheryl. Never would she have

expected him to be so brazen to ask her such things directly and she wasn't sure why he would say such things that seemed like nonsense.

As they stood in silence, both stilled from Roger's words, Sheryl's driver pulled over and stopped the car in front of them. Ignoring his aimless questions, Sheryl merely walked straight to the door of the car.

As she was about to enter the vehicle, Roger got a hold of her hand in an attempt to stop her from leaving. "Sher, you haven't given me an answer..."

"Let go of me." Seeing him act like that for the first time, Sheryl was too startled and wanted to shake his hand off but failed when he gripped her hand with more force. His behavior bewildered her as she didn't even share much affinity with him at all, so him harboring any desire for her was absolutely ridiculous in her eyes.

At that moment, Roger was too much of an unpredictable man and she had to keep away from him at all costs.

Finally, once she succeeded in getting rid of his hand, she rebuked impatiently, "You disgust me. Don't make me sick."

"Sher..."

Though Roger still wanted to say something, the driver walked to him and grabbed his wrists with a surprising force as he pinned them behind his back, pushing his head down onto the surface of the car.

Before Roger even comprehended what was happening, the driver had him under control.

Sheryl took the opportunity to get into the car and slammed the door shut.

"You'd better stay away from Mrs. Lu."

After intimidating Roger with a threatening tone, the driver let him go and merely drove away, leaving Roger standing awkwardly behind.

For the first time, Sheryl came to realize that the driver Charles assigned to her was rather skillful in a fight. As she rode in the backseat, she thought about it the whole drive back. Finally, she let her amazement get the best of her.

"Wade, I didn't know...you are so capable in a fight! Thank you for protecting me just now."

"You're welcome, Mrs. Lu. I used to be a soldier for several years before I transferred to another job.

That's why I know some fighting techniques."

While Wade put it mildly, Sheryl knew things were definitely not as simple as he said.

It was a wonder why Charles assigned Wade to be her driver.

It dawned on Sheryl that Charles wanted a person strong enough to be by her side to protect her.

Knowing that, Sheryl felt a warmth bloom in her heart.

Meanwhile, leaving the banquet hall, Helin headed towards the bar. The day had made her pretty upset

and half of her wanted to paralyze herself with alcohol. Only drinking could make her numb.

Since Helin was a public figure, she was recognized not long after she entered the bar. Some of the

more daring guys gathered around her, trying to chat her up, but Helin simply swore them all away as if

it was second nature to her.

One bottle after another, she continued drinking and was almost wasted by the time someone sent by

Heron found her and took her home.

Seeing his daughter in such anguish and dismay, Heron was truly worried. The love he had for his

daughter could hardly let him bear to see her suffer any pain. The more he thought about it, the

resentment he had for Roger grew stronger.

Looking at Helin who was lying in bed, Heron took out his cellphone and gave Roger a call. "Come to

my office at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. I want to have a talk with you."

Grimly, Roger agreed.

Having drunk too much at the bar the previous evening, Helin spent the night vomiting. Because Heron was too afraid that the nanny was not capable of taking good enough care of Helin, he stayed home to look after her until she woke up. When she did wake, it was already the morning of the next day.

Almost nodding off as he sat on the sofa, Heron was woken up by a sound coming from Helin's room.

When he swung the door open to check on her, he saw her slowly getting up from the bed. "Are you okay?"

Paying no attention to Heron, Helin got up on her own. Thinking that it was all his fault, she was angry at him and bore only malice instead of affection. She was convinced that Roger treated her poorly because her father kept obstructing their relationship and so she would not listen to or even look at him.

Understanding that his daughter would give him no response, Heron heaved a sigh. "Look at you! You were so drunk last night. You could've easily run into danger. Have you even thought about the consequences of your actions? Is it really worth it to devastate yourself like this for that bastard,

Roger?"

"I know what's worthwhile for myself. Stay out of my business," Helin coldly replied, stubborn as a rock.

Still adamant about her father not getting involved in her relationship with Roger, she turned to face him

abruptly and snapped, "If it weren't for you, I would've been happy with him. We would get along well

and have a good time together by now. But because of you... You ruined it! You destroyed our

relationship. It's your fault. And you stand there asking me if it's worthwhile? That's hilarious!"

By then, Helin's face had turned red with anger. Taking a deep breath, she went on, "Listen to me. I will

hate you for the rest of my life because of what you've done to me and Roger. I hate you and I don't

want to see you anymore!"

"How can you talk to me like that? I am your father."

Helin's words deeply irritated Heron and he rebuked, "Everything I've ever done has been for you. I've

done so much for your sake. I never expected that you would always appreciate my efforts, but you

can't blame me for caring about you. I've been struggling in this society for several years, much longer

than you. I know how to judge a person's character much better than you. You have absolutely no idea

what kind of a person Roger is. You just want to be with him, regardless of his background and personality. You even look down at me for his sake... Have you forgotten that I am your father?"

"You don't know Roger at all. You're not qualified to judge him."

Losing all control of her anger and hateful emotions, Helin raised her voice as she blurted out, "Roger is a very good man. He's extremely kind to me. You don't know what you're talking about!"

Chapter 975 Negotiation

"Shut up!" Heron flared, mad that he couldn't change Helin's mind. Looking at his daughter, he couldn't help but sneer. He said sternly, "So, do you still believe that man is a good guy? I am your father. Do you think I will hurt you?"

Helin remained silent, which only could mean that her answer was a "yes".

Heron frowned and then gave her a sardonic smile. "Good. I will let you see the true colors of the man you fancy so much," he continued.

He grabbed her wrist and urged, "Go with me. Don't you want to know what kind of person he is? I will let you know whether Roger deserves you doing so much for him."

With a look of alarm at her father, Helin gave a yelp of surprise. "Where are we going?" she asked, her voice full of shock.



"Don't you want to marry Roger?" Heron snorted and sneered again, "I will take you to him. You'll know his true feelings for you."

He led Helin into his office and opened the door to the lounge. Gruffly, he told her, "stay here. Roger will be here soon."

Heron was so used to taking little naps there in the lounge that he couldn't have imagined that it would serve multiple purposes, including being where he would show his daughter what kind of man Roger was.

Helin stared at him. "What are you doing?" she asked him impatiently.

Heron just scoffed, "You will know."

Then he left, slamming the door shut behind him. Once he was gone, Helin threw herself on the bed and closed her eyes. Her head was still dizzy and buzzing from having drunk too much the night before, and it only worsened after a short rest.

A few minutes later, she heard some noises outside the room. When she recognized Roger's voice, she hurried to the door and pressed her ear up against it.

Thankfully her father's office had no soundproof mechanics, so she could easily eavesdrop on his and Roger's conversation.

"You wanted to see me, Mr. He?" Roger asked.

"Have a seat," Heron said. "Would you like coffee or tea?"

"No thanks," Roger replied in an unemotional voice as he sat across from his boss. "Let's cut to the chase. No one is watching us. No need to act," he continued.

"Mr. Han, you are an outspoken person." Heron snorted.

Roger didn't respond or retort.

What happened last night had been reported in the newspaper. It was widely known that Helin was obsessed with Roger. 'He got the upper hand now. No doubt he is not afraid of me, ' Heron thought.

After a bit, Roger spoke. "Mr. He, you have read today's newspaper, I'm guessing? I didn't expect those reporters to make up stories like that. How is Helin? I hope she didn't take it too hard."

Heron responded snidely, "You must have done a lot for the report to be written, I suppose. It gives such a detailed description."

Roger didn't even try to defend himself. He only shrugged.

"Let's get straight to the point, Mr. He. I don't want to waste time here," Roger urged. The whole reason he had come to Heron's office was to negotiate with him. He was glad when the opportunity to do so showed itself.

Heron took a deep breath and said, "I asked you here because I want to talk to you about you and Helin. What's done is done. Now I'd like to know the feelings you harbor for my daughter."

When Roger didn't reply, he continued, "To begin with, I opposed you dating Helin because I thought you were not good enough for her. She is excellent and I thought she should find a good match. But after what happened last night... I found that she really likes you. So I decided to stop meddling myself in between you two. I just want to know whether you have the same feelings for her. If you also like her, I will not stop you. I hope you two can get married as soon as possible. What do you think?"

When Helin heard Heron's compromise, her eyes brightened with hope. She was convinced that Roger had feelings for her. She thought she and him ended up like this due to her father's meddling. Now expectant and nervous with anticipation, she pressed herself against the door waiting to hear Roger's answer.

Roger responded with a sardonic laugh, "Are you kidding me, Mr. He?"

When she heard this, Helin got a bitter taste in her mouth and her heart felt heavy.

The worst case scenario that she had imagined before was coming true. The man she loved dearly continued, his voice carrying a tone of careless indifference. "You know, all I ever did was to be able to negotiate with you. Why would I like Helin?"

Roger gave a scornful laugh and then added, "Let me make it clear to you. If she wasn't your daughter, I wouldn't have bothered speaking to her. Got it?"

His words sent Helin into a panic; she could not understand why he was saying those hurtful things.

Why was he turning into a completely different person?

'Or... he had been playing me from the beginning, ' she thought.

She wanted to rush out of the lounge into the other room. She wanted to ask Roger if he meant what he was saying. But ultimately, she controlled her emotions and collected herself. She was dying to know more.

Heron glanced at the door his daughter was behind, afraid that she would act rashly and barge out.

She didn't. Heaving an inward sigh of relief, he looked back at Roger. "Do you really have no feelings

for Helin? She loves you so much. Don't you feel guilty towards her?"

"She is too naive," Roger snapped back. "Mr. He, you are an excellent businessman. But unfortunately you are not a good father. You should have taught her not to trust others so easily. If she continues to be like this, she will get herself into bigger trouble."

Heron fixed Roger with a scornful look and sneered, "So you don't like Helin at all, right?"

"That is right," Roger affirmed Heron without hesitation "I knew she was enamored by me, so I pretended to like her. I did all of this so that I can negotiate with you. Looks like all my efforts are not in vain. I know you dote on your daughter very much. You would make certain compromise for her sake, wouldn't you?"

Chapter 976 Listen To My Explanation

"You..." It never occurred to Heron that Roger could be so shameless like this. He scoffed and then said to Roger, "Okay, let's be frank and let's make a deal."

Roger let out a cold bark of laughter and said to Heron, "The scandal between me and Helin is spreading right now. Helin's fame would be ruined if I don't clear it up. After all, she's girl. I believe that's not what you want to see, right?"

"So what do you want to do?" Heron asked, his eyebrows furrowed.

"Well, it's simple. I will hold a press conference to clarify that Helin and I were in a relationship. But then

I felt I didn't deserve Helin so I broke up with her. Unexpectedly, she is still in love with me. That's why

this happened. I will tell the reporters that she and I have made a deal. We are still friends and will

continue to be friends in the future." Roger smiled and then continued, "Does it sound good to you? If I

don't do it, it's hard for you to marry her into a good family with such a bad reputation."

"Are you threatening me?" Heron snapped.

"Why did you say that?" Roger asked. He smiled evilly and said to Heron, "I'm negotiating terms with

you. This is a win-win situation for us. How could it be a threat?"

"So what about your terms?" Heron asked. Heron knew not to expect Roger not to make high

demands. From his dealings with his employee before, he was watching him do a lot of things that

pointed to the contrary. Still, he was curious to see just how big Roger's appetite and hunger for chaos

was.

At Heron's question, Roger gained a boost of confidence. He thought himself to be the winner of the

negotiation. He laughed out loud and then smirked at his boss. "Simple. I want 10 percent of the

company's shares. Moreover, you must inform me if there are any good resources; you are to only give it to other people under my orders and permission to do so. Do I make myself clear?"

"Is that what you want? You have a large appetite."

Heron snorted, a sardonic laugh escape through his nose.

"I'm trying to save you and your daughter's fame," Roger told him with a sneer. "Unless you think Helin's reputation is not worth that."

"What would you do if I said no?" Heron asked, smiling coldly.

"Then don't blame me for being rude to you." Roger answered, returning Heron's cold smile with his own. "Don't forget that Helin is still in love with me. She will come back to me with just a crook of my finger. I have her wrapped around my finger. I'm not in love with her, though, it doesn't stop me from being with her. And what if she gets pregnant? Then, you will surely lose face."

Roger gave another laugh. "Believe me, you'll want to make this deal with me, it would definitely be worth it. Don't be silly and make this deal with me and say yes."

Heron let out a cold laugh and said, "You've already figured it out, haven't you? You know I'm not going

to watch you bully my daughter like that. That's why you count on your cards, right?"

"Yes, sort of," Roger sneered. "After all, Helin loves me with all her heart and soul. Well, Heron, I guess... that you have to endure me as much as you can."

Roger continued, his eyes fixed on Heron. "Just think about it. Honestly, I've given you a way out. I don't want her to get hurt again since I've seen her hurt while she was with me for a long time. I think the terms that I made are good for both of us. Don't blame me for being rude if you disagree with them."

"It seems that I have no other choice but to say yes." Heron scoffed.

"You are smart. Of course you know what is best for you," Roger said with a crooked smile.

"Alas, this is a big deal. I have to think about it," Heron told Roger, eyebrows furrowed still.

A glint flashed in Heron's eyes as he fixed Roger with another sardonic smile. "I don't think I can hold it off any longer... I advise you to make your decision as soon as possible."

Roger smirked, thinking that he was going to get what he deserved and wanted. Suddenly, out from the room behind them, came Helin, who marched over to his chair and stood in front of him.

Roger was startled at her presence and seemed to quickly sober up. 'She must have been there the whole time, ' he thought as he turned to Heron. "You set me up?"



"I only did the same as you did to me," Heron retorted with a sneer. "You are a wise man, Roger, but you were too smug to find out what I've been doing."

"Helin, please let me explain." Roger took Helin's hand quickly and tightened his grip on it, mustering up all of the confidence and fearlessness that her love for him had given him.

He would lose the biggest game that he could play if he lost to Helin, including all of the negotiating and the business deals that he had been doing with Heron. He could not let that happen.

Helin let out a cold smile in desperation. She shook off Roger's hand, looking at him with indifferent eyes. "Explain? What do you want to explain? Have you just made everything clear just now?" Helin said to him.

Helin was in shock. It never occurred to her that the person she trusted the most would stab her in the back and betray her like this. She lowered her eyes to the floor for a few moments, then raised them again to fix Roger with a look of grief. "I can't believe you would do this to me, Roger. Don't you feel a bit guilty?" she asked.

"Helin, please listen to my explanation," Roger said desperately.

Helin just stared at him with cold, heavy eyes. Then she laughed and sneered. "Alright, let's hear your explain. I'm dying to know what you have to say."

"Helin..." Heron said, suddenly coming up besides her. He was afraid that if given the chance to talk and explain himself, Roger would talk Helin back into his arms. Roger was very charismatic, after all, and charming and talkative; he wouldn't relent easily.

"Dad, don't worry. It's okay," Helin told her father with a smile.

Heron smiled, relieved to hear her speak those words.

He could tell that finally, Helin had found out the truth about Roger and wouldn't be easily tricked by him

any longer.

Roger glanced at Heron, frowning. Then he pulled Helin aside and said to her, "Helin, things are not what you think...I have unspeakable sorrow which I cannot tell you about right now."

"But I'm waiting for you to tell me right now," Helin replied coldly.

Slowly, Roger's expression shifted to match the coldness of her voice. He realized that this was his final chance to have his grasp on her; he had to seize it.

"Helin, I admit that I want to obtain more business opportunities and shares of the company. I won't deny that." Roger forced a smile at Helen.

"Really?" Helin smiled reluctantly. Looking at Roger, she felt a strange sensation that she couldn't easily explain. Was he still the one she had been in love for years?

Finally, she let out a cold laugh. "I didn't expect you to be so honest with me," she told him.

Chapter 977 A Conversation Between Father And Daughter

"I will always be honest with you. Please Trust me." Roger smiled bitterly and gazed at the exasperated look on Helin's face. He continued, "Helin, I know I shouldn't do like this, but..." Saying this, he hesitated for a while and then went on, "I am doing this only for your own good. Do you understand me?" Helin stared at him with her mouth wide open trying to understand Roger's stance behind such an action.

After he finished speaking, he stared at Helin, waiting to see her reaction.

"Are you saying that you are doing this for me?" Helin said. She mustered some strength to come out of the state of shock. She gazed straight into Roger's eyes and paused for a while. Then she said,

"Don't talk nonsense to me. First, you lied to me and even blackmailed my Dad. And now you told me that you are doing this for me. Do you think I will believe in what you said?"

Roger's face broke into a sardonic smile as he said, "I know you would not trust me." He looked back into Helin's eyes trying to look sincere and continued, "But this is the fact. I am doing this so that I can be with you forever."

Helin remained stern and unmoved by his word as she had decided not to trust him anymore.

Helin had already started considering Roger as an unreliable man and she could not find a reason for believing in what he said.

However, Roger did not want to give up so easily. Looking into Helin's eyes, Roger said again, "Helin, I am sure even you are aware of the fact that your dad doesn't want you to be with me. But do you know why he is against the two of us being together?"

"Why?" Helin asked creasing her brows. She explored all possible reasons inside her head to justify the accusation that Roger had put on Heron. Honestly, she could not come to a conclusion.

"It is just because I am not brilliant enough," Roger sneered impatiently. He rasped and paused for a while before starting again, "I am just a mere actor in this company. And no matter how hard I try and how much effort I make, I cannot change the fact. But you are different. The company that I work for is

your family property. Even if you quit your present job as an actor, it will hardly make any difference in your affluent lifestyle."

"So what?" asked Helin as she laughed scornfully. She glared at Roger and then said in a sarcastic tone, "No one can choose his or her own background and this cannot be the reason for you to do that. You can't convince me with such an excuse." Helin fixed her stare on Roger demanding a reply from him.

Roger screwed his eyes to suppress his frustration and then forced a faint smile. "Please let me finish my sentence first. Helin, calm down!" "It is really easy for you to call it as an absurd excuse. But if you look at it from my position, the difference between us in our family background is a gap I can never overcome. Helin, I know it does not matter to you but I have to map a huge height to come up to the level to make myself truly eligible for you. Only then, people won't think I need to live off a woman."

As he finished his sentence, Roger looked into Helin's eyes and added in a sincere tone, "Helin, I am a man. I also need to preserve my self-esteem. Can you understand me now?"

"What the hell are you trying to tell me?" asked Helin blurted immediately in an impatient tone that even

startled Roger for a moment. She glared at him and said, "Roger, just say it. Don't beat about the bush anymore. You are wasting my time. I need to get your point now." Her no-nonsense attitude, demanding for an immediate answer was not something Roger was expecting at this moment.

"Don't be so anxious, Helin. Calm down," Roger persuaded in a polite manner. He gave a wry smile and tried to explain, "Helin, I have really thought about it and this is the best way all these issues can be resolved. If I become a shareholder of this company, then we can be with each other forever. That is why I behaved like that. I just said those words on purpose, because I don't want him to regard me as a selfish person. I just want to relieve the besieged by besieging the base of the besiegers." He sounded utterly sincere and earnest as he spoke. Helin remained silent as she processed his logic in her brain.

Seeing that Helin was lost in her thoughts, Roger came forward and took her hand in his own hand.

Clasping her hand with both his hands, Roger said, "Helin, you have to trust me. I really love you so much. I want to marry you."

Heron witnessed the conversation between Roger and Helin but chose not to interfere. He knew that as long as Helin herself was ready to give in, no one could change her mind.

Helin felt the warmth of Roger's hands around her own that even warmed her heart. As she looked into

Roger's eyes, she could feel the sincerity as well as helplessness. For a moment she felt as if she was caught in a spell by his words that she was almost ready to believe in them.

Then suddenly, Roger's words and his tone of speaking as he spoke to Heron echoed in her mind.

Helin had been hiding inside the room when Roger spoke to her father and the way he spoke to him came as a hard-hitting reality to Helin who just could not get it out of her head no matter how much

Roger tried to justify.

And that was it. Helin was whipped back to reality as soon as she remembered all that. Immediately, she shook his hands off and sneered at Roger, saying, "Roger, do you still think I will believe in you after all these things I have been through?"

"Helin, don't say like this," Roger muttered in a shaky voice trying to pacify her. Roger was at a loss of words to convince her and even felt flurried as she shook off his hands without any hesitation.

Taking a glance at her, Roger said anxiously, "Helin, please give me a chance. You have to trust me this time. I am not telling a lie."

"Oh, really?" Helin smirked at Roger. She said. "Roger, you better straighten out your thinking as soon

as possible. I will never trust you again." Saying this she turned her back leaving him completely exhausted and outwitted.

Helin then turned to her father and said, "Dad, let's call the police. They will help us handle this.

He extorted such a large sum of money from you and he has violated the law. We can get him on extortion. I also recorded the words that he just said. We can give the tape to the police."

"Helin, are you sure you are going to call the police?" asked Heron after taking a glimpse at his daughter. It was both unbelievable as well as relieving for Heron to see that his daughter finally had gotten rid of her infatuation towards such a worthless fellow. However, he was not sure if Helin really wanted to do like this.

After all, she loved this man so deeply. Heron was afraid that Helin could not be so resolute, so he asked her to ensure if she really wanted to call the police.

"I am sure, dad," replied Helin without any hesitation. Her face was calm and her voice firm. She nodded her head while her eyes looked extremely determined. "I am not going to support a man with degraded morality," added Helin in a resolute tone. As Helin spoke, she turned her back towards Roger refusing to even cast a glance at him.



After hearing this, a soothing smile spread out on Heron's face. He took a glance at Helin and then dialed the number to call the police station.

Roger was completely taken aback by Helin's demeanor. After Heron finished making the call Helin wanted to leave. She just wanted to get Roger out of her sight. She just informed her father before taking her leave, "Dad, I am tired. I got to go. I want to go home and have some rest."

"Okay," replied Heron nodding his head slightly. Heron felt so peaceful and sorted to see his daughter finally walk out on Roger. Roger became so desperate to see the stiffness and indifference in Helin. It was as if a wall had come between the two of them that he could not break through. He turned to Helin and said, "Even if you don't trust me, you don't have to do this to me. Try to think about our tendresse. I love you so much, Helin." He pleaded in front of Helin and sought respite, but in vain.

"Our tendresse?" Helin laughed scornfully and asked, "What's the relationship between us?"

Roger was now a fallen man in Helin's eyes. She had given him a very high position for him in her life.

Little did she think that he would turn out to be like this! She could not bear the sight of him anymore.

All she wanted was him out of her sight.

Now she finally understood why her father always opposed her to be with Roger. It was because he was a completely graceless man.

It sounded so absurd, but fortunately, her eyes opened at the right time.

Every time when Helin recalled how much she had attached herself emotionally with this unworthy man, she felt like she was a fool. How could she not see the truth behind his contriving ways? She could not stop blaming herself.

Helin walked out of the company and headed straight towards home. She locked herself in her room and refused to meet anyone or even eat anything. She needed some time for herself. Seeing this, the housemaid got very anxious. She rushed to Heron as he returned and said anxiously, "Sir, thank goodness! You are finally back."

Your daughter locked herself in her room for the whole day without eating anything. She is reluctant to give me a response. I am afraid something would happen to her if she stays locked in the room alone."

"Don't worry. I will handle this. Go back to your work," replied Heron in a casual tone. He knew that

Helin must be frustrated at the moment since she suffered a psychological blow.

Heron also understood that Helin must be finding it difficult to cope up with it. However, he had faith in

his daughter who would never do silly things.

At the thought of this, Heron stepped up and knocked the door gently. "Helin, I am back. Open the door." His heart started pounding as he heard no noise from the room. He knocked again hoping to get a response from Helin.

After a few seconds, Helin's footsteps could be heard. She opened the door and then she walked back to her bed and lied down silently.

Looking around the room, Heron's eye went wide as he was completely appalled by the sight of the room.

Each and everything in the room was broken into pieces. The curtains were drawn blocking the lights to enter the room. The room was in a complete mess. As Heron roved his eyes around the room and looked at Helin who was lying on the bed shattered, he felt sorry for his daughter. Helin had been in love with Roger for so many years and she was devoured on him, but now she found that he was a liar.

It was natural for her to vent out her frustration in a rather excruciating manner.

Chapter 978 Baring Their Hearts

"Helin, come on. Get up and eat." With a soft and gentle tone, Heron urged his daughter to get out of

her slump as she lied in bed.

"No. I don't want to eat anything." Her voice muffled by the pillow she had her face pressed against,

Helin refused to acknowledge her father's attempt at comforting her. How could she have an appetite at

a time like this?

With a wry smile, Heron simply said, "You can't avoid eating forever." Looking at Helin, he felt bad and

added, "I know you feel sad inside right now. But you've also seen what kind of person he is, haven't

you? Does that kind of man truly deserve your love? You can't torture yourself for him. He's too

unworthy."

Patting his daughter on the shoulder, he continued, "I didn't let you be together with him before

because I knew that sooner or later you would find out his true nature and the one who would suffer

most would be you."

"Why didn't you just say that earlier?" Helin hesitated as she asked, but she couldn't help it.

Heaving a deep sigh, Heron continued, "I love you most, Helin. Since your mother passed away, I've

played both roles of mother and father. I did my best so you wouldn't feel like you were deprived of

something other kids had. I've done everything I can to give you the best. How could I stand to let you

feel heartbroken over a man?"

Smiling wryly, he added, "I have to admit, though, you were truly courageous in loving that man. You fought for him against all odds. Even if he isn't the right one for you, I hope you can still look back at this as a good memory of the romance you two shared. I don't want you to get disillusioned about love so negatively too early. Do you understand what I'm trying to say?"

With choked sobs, all Helin could blurt out was, "But Dad, you not telling me about it just makes me feel worse."

It was unavoidable so Heron just smiled bitterly. "I know."

Expressing his regrets, he went on, "I know I've done you wrong there. I should've told you what I knew right away. You can fault me there. But please don't hurt yourself like this. It makes my heart ache to see you torture yourself."

"Dad..."

The feeling of being wronged taking over her heart. Helin just threw herself into her father's arms and burst into helpless sobs.

For the long time during her cry, Heron kept comforting her and patting her back. "It's okay, you're okay.

Don't cry now, okay? How about eating something? I can introduce you to a better man later on. Let's

just put him in the past, okay?"

Her father's playful words made Helin feel shy and pout, "Dad..."

Staring at Heron helplessly, she wondered how her father could still pull her leg when she was clearly

so sad. In spite of that, it still made her smile through her tears.

Finally seeing Helin smile, Heron sighed in great relief. As he gently stroked her hair, he said, "You're

fine. Don't cry anymore, okay?"

As her father's words comforted her, Helin wiped her tears away. After calming down a bit more, she

carefully asked, "How about... Well, how is he now?"

With a careful look at Helin, he replied, "He was already taken in by the police. He may face several

years in prison. My sweet daughter, just forget about him. He isn't worth your misery."

"I know," she wryly smiled in spite of herself. She looked at Heron, a trace of sadness still in her eyes.

"Dad, do you blame me?"

If she only listened to Heron from the beginning, maybe the whole thing wouldn't have escalated so

much and she wouldn't have been slandered to such an extent. Moreover, Heron wouldn't have to feel ashamed of his daughter. The company's shares would be untouched as well.

As she kept thinking about it, Helin felt overwhelmingly regretful that she had caused so much trouble.

"You silly girl." In spite of Helin blaming herself, Heron simply patted her head gently. "All that matters is that you're safe and sound. That's more important to me than anything else. As for everything else...

Well, money will always be there as long as we strive for it. Everything will be fine later on when the attention leaves us."

To reassure Helin, he put on a beaming smile. "As for me, you don't have to worry one bit. I'm fine."

Wanting Helin to eat properly, Heron held her hand as he led her to the dining room. "From now on, you must eat meals regularly. Don't be so wayward like before, alright?"

Though she tried to take a bite of food, Helin had to put the chopsticks down soon as she truly didn't have any appetite at the moment. Instead, she stared at her father seriously and announced, "Dad, I want to go abroad."

"Okay," he simply nodded his head. Taking out his card, he handed it to Helin. "The money in this card

will afford you some travel time. It's normal that you want to relax and get away by yourself for a bit after going through such a thing. I think it'll be good for you."

"Dad, I don't mean to relax." Not taking the card, Helin shook her head. With a smile on her face, she continued, "I want..."

I want to further my study abroad."

"You want to study?" The news was rather surprising to Heron. Furrowing his brows, he inquired, "Why do you suddenly want to continue studying?"

"Actually...it's not a sudden decision," she said with a smile. "I've always loved music and planned to study abroad a while back. If it wasn't for Roger, by now, I might have been a graduate of a music academy already."

Narrowing his eyes, still a bit puzzled, Heron asked, "I know you love music. But you're not as young as you were. If you start learning music now...well, isn't it a bit too late?"

What's more, your job is good now, isn't it? And as long as I'm here, you have access to whatever resources you want. It's a privilege many people would kill for but can never have. Do you really want to give this up?"



Giving her father a wry smile, she answered, "Dad, you should also know that I engaged in the entertainment industry so much before because I wanted to be with Roger. To be completely honest, I don't really feel suited to the industry.

Of course, if I stay here, I can climb my way up to the top faster than most because you'll be able to pave the way for my future. Although it's a privilege indeed, it's also the reason why I feel it's even more necessary for me to leave." With a soft smile, she continued, "From childhood to adulthood, you never allowed me to do anything arduous. And you always arranged everything for me. As a result, I got played by Roger too easily. Dad, I've grown up. I want to try depending on myself now."

Hearing Helin's sentiments, Heron had mixed feelings. On the one hand, he didn't want to let her go and risk her suffering again. But on the other, he could see that his daughter had truly grown up.

For the sake of confirming once again, he gave her a serious stare and asked, "Have you really... Have you really made up your mind?"

"Yes, I have." With determination evident in her eyes, Helin nodded her head firmly. In a confident voice, she continued, "I don't want to stay here under your protection forever. I want to go and

experience the world by myself. Dad, I hope you understand."

"Well, now that you've decided, how could I say no?" Ever the supportive father, Heron simply smiled wryly as he gave into his daughter's wishes. "Since you insist on going out there on your own, I won't stand in your way. Still, I want you to remember, our family door is always open to you. If you ever feel wronged, cheated, or you just miss home, remember that you can come back immediately, any time. Do you understand?"

"Thank you, Dad." Nodding her head eagerly, Helin expressed her gratitude. Looking back, she could see clearly how lucky she was to have such a caring and accepting family. Neither of the two expected their relationship to grow stronger and more harmonious because of the trouble Roger caused. Maybe the whole thing was a blessing in disguise.

In a press conference Helin held, she explained what happened that night while also announcing that she would withdraw herself indefinitely from the entertainment industry. The news caused a chaotic buzz among everyone involved.

Chapter 979 Meet Holley Again

Several young female employees of Cloud Advertising Company were Helin's fans and they were upset to know that their idol quit the show business.

On the other hand, Sheryl felt glad for Helin upon hearing the news. 'The wayward girl finally grew up, ' she thought.

She was about to return to her office when she heard some noises coming from the exit.

It was only through the TV that Helin's crazy fans watched her press conference. The situation was so different now that the star was standing before her fans face to face. They swarmed towards their icon and screamed, "Miss He, I really like you! May I get your signature?"

"Me too."

Surrounded by people, Helin gave a subtle smile and started signing autographs. Then she politely said, "Excuse me, may I leave now? I have something for Sheryl."

The employees instantly cleared the actress' way upon hearing their lady boss' name. Meanwhile, Sheryl was smiling broadly while watching Helin walk towards her. She waited for the lady to reach where she was before asking, "What are you doing here?"

Helin seemed to have turned into someone else. She looked tamed and less aggressive. She was oozing with elegance and mildness.

She glanced at Sheryl and asked, "May I have a word with you?"

"Sure. Follow me," Sheryl agreed instantly. She led Helin to her office. As the latter settled herself on the couch, she poured a glass of water and handed it to her visitor. She then took a seat, looked at Helin, and said, "I just watched the news about you. I didn't expect that you stop since you're at the peak of your career. I feel sorry for you."

She made a slight pause and then continued, "I don't think that this is a good idea if you're just doing this because of Roger." She observed the star's facial expression after she said those things. She badly wanted to know what was in Helin's mind.

With a slight smile though, Helin replied, "No. I did this for myself."

She glanced at Sheryl and then looked away. There was a tinge of sadness in her eyes when she said calmly, "I... I already let go of Roger. I will never do this for him. He doesn't deserve this." Pensive, she explained, "It's just that my job is beginning to bore me. I had a dream before I met Roger. Now I planned to go to the place I long to go and pursue my dream there."

What she heard made Sheryl look at Helin with delight. "Well, good luck to you. I hope you will achieve your dream."

"Here is the balance, Sheryl," Helin said as she took a bank card out of her handbag. "I really like the party you organized for me but I ruined it."

With a smile, Sheryl said, "At least, you learned something from it. It isn't that bad after all."

"Yes, you are right." Helin burst into laughter. She was a bit teary-eyed when she finally stopped laughing and changed the subject. "I decided to study in German. I will need your service again for my welcome party once I come back."

"That's the deal," Sheryl beamed. "I will organize a better party for you. I'm sure you are gonna love it."

Another laugh got Helin. Focusing her earnest gaze on Sheryl, she said cordially, "Thank you, Sheryl."

"What do you thank me for?" Sheryl asked.

"I already know the reason why you refused to do me the favor I asked from you. You knew that Roger isn't a good guy. You refused it for my sake." She smiled bitterly and continued, "But I was silly. I didn't know your good will and I even snapped at you. I am so sorry."

That made Sheryl smile and reach for Helin's hand. She said tenderly, "What's done is done. Just let it go."

Knowing that Helin was leaving, she added, "I wish you a safe journey. Don't forget to call me when you have time."

"Thank you. I will," said Helin. It was then that the actress' eyes suddenly widened as she realized something. She exclaimed, "Oh, I almost forgot! I have something for you!"

She took out a thick pile of documents from her handbag and said, "I got nothing else for you. So I brought you a contract as my present. From now on, your company will be responsible for all the activities in my father's company. I hope for you to have a pleasant business with my dad."

"But," Sheryl hesitated, "this is too much."

"It's okay," Helin said with a smile. "I believe in your capability. Just accept it."

Sheryl finally smiled at her and agreed, "Well, then thanks."

She signed the contract and kept one copy. She then turned to Helin and said, "I am looking forward to your return."

"Ummm," Helin responded as she gave a bright smile.

A few minutes after and Sheryl saw Helin off. She was sincerely happy for the girl. A long time later,

Sheryl learned that Roger had gotten arrested for blackmail. The bad guy would be spending a lot of

years inside the prison.

Nevertheless, Sheryl was too busy to bother herself about that. She had another project to handle after Helin's birthday party. She started to prepare for Cary's charity dinner. During the period, she hadn't contacted Susan. There was only one hour left before the charity dinner when she finally had the chance to dropped Susan a call. "Hello, Susan. I sent an evening dress for you. You can attend the party in that dress," she said.

"No, thanks," Susan answered. She then went on with a bitter smile. "Cary sent people to bring me a dress and asked me to wear it. Besides, he sent a driver to pick us up. Now, my parents are more fond of him."

Sensing the helplessness in her friend's voice, Sheryl tried hard to hold back her laughter. It took her a while to recover herself. She then said, "Well, I see. I will see you at the party then."

Sheryl went straight to the dressing room after her call with Susan. She changed her clothes. She found that almost all the guests were already present the moment she went back to the lobby.

She approached one of her employees and asked her to keep an eye on the charity party. She then left

her subordinates and looked for Charles. However, it was to her surprise that Holley and George were invited here too!

She instantly froze for a moment upon seeing the couple and then walked past them.

She was already some steps away when Holley suddenly called her attention and greeted, "Long time no see, Sheryl!"

Sheryl paused a while. Then she turned and shot Holley a scornful look. She responded, "Save it. I'd rather not see you for the rest of my life."

Holley didn't feel embarrassed about her reaction at all. With a subtle smile, she said, "What happened before is just a mistake. I know you are a kind girl. Please don't get mad at me."

That made Sheryl throw the woman a sidelong glance and ridicule, "Would you forgive me if I hurt you and apologized to you absently?"

"You..." That was it. Holley finally lost her mask and furiously glared at her. Exasperated, she narrowed her eyes at Sheryl and went on, "I already made an apology to you. What else do you want me to do?"

"I want you to stay away from me," Sheryl replied coldly. "I'm not the type of person who messes with others. But if someone tries to hurt me, I will not let him or her go easily. If you continue to pester me, I



will make you pay a price."

"Oh? What are you gonna do?" Holley countered with interest. Watching Sheryl flared up, she felt excited.

Chapter 980 A Charity Dinner (Part One)

"You will know once it happens," Sheryl said to Holley without any emotions in her voice.

After completing her words, she turned around and left immediately. Holley stared angrily at her direction like she wanted Sheryl dead right now.

'Why can she get whatever she wants so easily? No matter how hard I try, I am always the loser against her!' Holley's evil thoughts echoed in her head.

'It would be Wendy's death anniversary in a few days. I once swore before her tombstone that I would make Sheryl pay for what she did before that day. However, it seems to be unlikely to happen now.'

Holley seemed to be spacing out as she remained looking at Sheryl.

Then she thought, 'No, I can't give up so easily!'

She was still in the middle of her thoughts when something caught her attention from the crowd of that auction party. It was Donna and Sula together.

George started walking to the two at once to welcome them. He was a little surprised to see the two women at such an event. "Mother, I didn't expect you to come here."

"We arrived a little while ago," Donna laughed and said to George.

Then she glanced at Holley shortly before looking away. She was acting as if she didn't even notice Holley standing next to her son. She just witnessed the quarrel between Holley and Sheryl and found it was interesting.

Although Donna didn't know what was wrong between Holley and Sheryl, she was sure that they knew each other before and didn't get along very well. 'Maybe Sheryl can be one of my allies to get this bitch away from my son.'

On the other hand, it was obvious that Holley wasn't pleased to see Donna either. However, she could not do much when they were surrounded by many people. She was left with no choice but to walk towards the aged woman and greet her with respect.

As expected, Donna did not respond to her at all. Seeing this made George confused. Thus, he said to Donna, "Mother, when did you..."

'When did she know Cary? What is she doing in this auction?' he thought to himself.

Watching how confused George was, Donna laughed and said, "Have you forgotten that BM Corporation is also doing business with Cary's company? Besides, he's your classmate in college. That's actually why he sent me an invitation upon finding out that I'm in the city. What's so surprising about that?"

Holley couldn't bear to stay here and talk with Donna for one more second. Thus, she grabbed George's arm and said, "George, let's go and greet the other guests."

"Mother, I..." George hesitated. It would be a little embarrassing to leave his mother here. It was really difficult for him to choose between the woman who gave birth to him and the woman he loved.

However, he chose to go with Holley in the end.

"Go ahead, my son," said Donna. Donna smiled like she didn't care about it at all. Then she acted as forgiving as she could and said to George, "Don't worry about me. Sula is here with me."

George nodded upon hearing her and walked away with Holley.

Nevertheless, Sula, who was standing just next to Donna, wasn't as kind as Donna. She glared at the couple angrily with jealousy in her eyes.

"It doesn't matter," Donna comforted her and gently took her hands. "Don't worry. Sooner or later, George will be with you and not with that bitch. But now, you need to wait patiently."

"But..." Sula groaned and stopped whining. She managed a smile and looked at Donna. However, she looked very sad that her smile didn't even reflect in her eyes. She then continued, "Aunt Donna, he loves Holley and I know that. There's no chance for me to even be noticed by him."

"No, that's not true," responded Donna as she looked at Holley again. 'Holley has seduced my son with her little tricks. I don't care about that anyway! That won't last for so long. Sooner or later, I will let him know how shameless and evil that bitch is!' she thought to herself.

"Sula," said Donna as her hold on Sula's hands went tighter. Then she whispered to her, "If I know a way for you to be with George, are you willing to do whatever I tell you to do?"

"I..." Sula was confused for a moment as she didn't know how to respond to the question.

"That's all I need to know. If I really have a way to make him be with you, are you going to do as I say?"

Donna repeated her question.

Sula glanced at George, who was already far away from them in the crowd. She took a little more time staring at him as she thought of Donna's question. He was as handsome as how he used to be. She

had loved George for so long, yet her feelings for him didn't even fade away. That unyielding wish to be with him was still as strong as how it was the first time they met. Thus, she asked herself, 'Am I willing to do everything for him? Am I willing to give all that I have to be with him?'

The answer she got was "yes".

That was it! She took a deep breath, turned her gaze to Donna, and nodded, "Yes, I am willing to do anything."

"That's great," Donna smiled in satisfaction. She looked at Sula and promised her, "Believe me, I won't let you wait for too long."

Holley had been uncomfortable the whole time since she saw Donna. Although she had made an excuse to leave her, she couldn't just easily wipe Donna out of her mind. Noticing her long face, he frowned and asked, "What is wrong with you? Are you uncomfortable? Are you ill?"

George loved Holley very much and truly cared for her. However, he found out that Holley was completely different from how he thought of her from the private detective he had hired. He wasn't even

sure if Holley was really the person he knew anymore.

He felt like there was a deep gap between him and Holley. That kind of gap which none of them could pass even if he tried to.

"Why did you bring her here?" Holley asked him angrily. "You know that we do not like each other. You also know what she did to me. Don't you think that you haven't made enough troubles for me?"

"What are you talking about?" asked George as he frowned harder. He looked at Donna and then looked back at Holley. "Didn't you hear what my mother said? It was Cary who invited her to this auction. I didn't even know that she would come."

George got impatient and added, "Don't make unreasonable assumptions. No matter what she does, she's always my mother. You are just attending the same event. It doesn't mean that you will be seeing her all the time. What is wrong with that?"

"Don't even try to lie to me," Holley sneered. "If you didn't tell Cary, how could he invite your mother?"

"Don't make me a fool! I'm not that innocent to be tricked and I know exactly what you are thinking about."

Holley kept saying with a smirk on her face. She didn't know why but when she saw Donna, she felt so

uncomfortable like she couldn't even bear to stay in that auction anymore.

George also smirked, "You must be insane. There's no reason for you to think about it like that."

He then looked at Holley with displeasure. "You should take some time to calm down."

Then, he left Holley there and walked away without any ado. He couldn't understand why Holley had changed so much after she came back to Y City. However, he knew that there was nothing to say to her at that moment.

'Was it because Holley was too good at faking? Or was it because I was so blind that I couldn't see who she really is?' George asked himself.

"I don't know," he responded to his own thoughts. After finishing some bottles of wine alone, he noticed Susan walking in through the door.

Susan was in a pink chiffon dress. It was a strapless dress which exposed her beautiful shoulders and neck. She also got an adorable bow around her slim waist and some elegant lace decorating the hem of her dress.

Her aristocratic eyebrows and long eyelashes made her shine in the crowd. Her eyes were shining like an adorable deer who was curious and frightened among strangers. She was looking for someone in

the hall, someone she knew. And after she found the one—Sheryl, she finally felt safe and stopped

being so afraid.