

Wedded Bride 601

Chapter 601 Charles' Obsession

"Okay," Sheryl replied. She hesitated for a moment before she asked one question, "When are you

coming back?"

"I've been doing my best to finish my work faster. Unfortunately, even though things have been going

well here, I might still need to stay for a week or so," Anthony answered. Sheryl could sense the

loneliness in his voice.

After a short pause, he continued, "I couldn't wait to see you, honey. You just don't know how much I've

missed you. When I return to China, I need to visit my parents first. I couldn't wait to tell them about

you. Afterwards, I'd bring you to see them."

Sheryl let out a laugh. She only asked a short question, yet, Anthony already narrated his plans to her.

She just said, "Okay, I'd be waiting for you. Please give me a call and let me know your flight number in

advance. Shirley and I will pick you up at the airport."

"Of course," he replied briskly. Anthony wanted to talk to Sheryl a little longer but it was already late in

China. He was afraid that she might get sick if she didn't get enough rest. Thus, he decided to end their

conversation, "It's late. You should rest now. I'll just call you again tomorrow, honey! I love you!"

Sheryl put her phone in her pocket and decided to go back inside Shirley's room. Shirley was still

sleeping soundly on the bed. She felt relieved to see Shirley sleeping peacefully.

On the other hand, Charles didn't go home after he left the hospital with Charlie. Instead, he took

Charlie to a restaurant for dinner. So, it was already late when they arrived at Dream Garden.

Leila had been coming to Dream Garden every day after Charlie lived with Charles. She was hoping

that she could get the child back to her place. However, several days had already passed but she still

didn't get a chance to see Charlie. She couldn't even enter Charles' home.

Today, she came early in the morning and waited outside the whole day. But she still failed. It was

already late but Charlie hadn't showed up yet so she decided to go home. She planned to call Charles

first thing in the next morning. If Charles would still refuse to see her, she would call the police.

Anyway, she had raised Charlie alone since he was born. Even though Charles was his father and he

was affluent, he could still not separate a mother from her son just like that.

The moment she turned around to leave, she was blinded by the headlights of a car coming to her

direction. She peered at the car and realized that it was Charles's. As the car was moving slowly, she

clearly saw Charlie at the back seat. When she thought that the car would stop, she couldn't help but rush over.

Meanwhile, Charles was shocked when he saw someone come out of nowhere. He stepped on the brake hardly to stop the car. However, even though he was quick enough to step on the brake, they still heard a bang. Someone was knocked down.

"What happened, Dad? Did we run into someone?" Charlie asked worriedly. He was dozing off just now so he didn't see what was going on outside.

Charles knitted his eyebrows as he unbuckled his seat belt. He turned to Charlie before getting off and said, "Stay in the car, son. I'll go and see what was going on."

"Yes, Dad!" Charlie replied and nodded to him. He understood that it would be much better if he stayed inside to avoid giving Charles more troubles at this moment.

Charles opened the door and walked in front of car to check. Then he found Leila sitting on the ground. She was rubbing her ankle and she looked miserable. From what Charles could see, he knew she was not badly hurt but just twisted her ankle.

The moment he recognized it was Leila, Charles was immediately boiled with anger. He frowned and

shouted to her, "Were you insane? Did you want to kill yourself? Why would you run into my car just like that?"

"Me? It was you who tried to kill me, right?" Leila sneered. "You already killed me when you took my

son away from me," Leila added sarcastically. "If you only knew what I've been through in raising him

alone. And after all those sufferings, you just ruthlessly took him away from me. My son is my life. And

since you've taken him away from me, didn't you already kill me?"

Full of rage, she struggled to stand up. Fortunately, she wasn't badly hurt so she still managed to stand up.

Charles admitted that it was wrong to take Charlie away from Leila. But he couldn't have them both. He

couldn't leave Charlie to Leila because he knew that she was incapable of giving him a better life but

he would never want Leila to live with him.

"Look, I know it's hard for you to accept that Charlie is not with you anymore. However, he's happy to

live here. Don't you want him to be happy?" Charles retorted. "I can let you visit him anytime you want.

But, if you'd continue insisting on taking him back, I'm afraid that would be impossible." Charles made

sure that he said those words clearly.

"That iss unfair!" Leila protested. "I know that you're rich, Mr. Lu. You're powerful and influential in this

city. With just a stamp of your foot, the entire city would definitely shake. But I don't care!"

She continued, "You can never change the truth that Charlie is my son. I gave birth to him and I've

brought him up. Yes, you are his father. But, did you really serve as a father to him after he was born?"

"No, you didn't," Leila answered her own question.

Leila didn't want to give Charles a chance to butt in so she continued, "Since he has survived many

years of his life without a father, he can still manage to grow up without you in the future. I believe that
I

will be able to send him to college even if I don't earn too much. My income will be enough for us to live

comfortably even if not luxuriously. And I will never ever treat him badly. I know you like Sheryl and you

want her to be your wife. I won't interfere on that. But, just give Charlie back to me because I will never

allow him to live with a stepmother!"

Leila's voice was full of disdain. "'m warning you, I will never let my son live with another woman.

Never!"

Now that Charles heard Leila mention Sheryl, his face turned red in anger. He suddenly remembered

that Leila slapped Sheryl the other day. The picture in his mind added fuel to his burning anger. He

yelled at Leila at once, "Stay away from Sheryl! I'm warning you the last time, Leila. If you keep

harassing her, I won't hesitate to show you what I'm capable of doing!"

He continued, "I know that you despise the women in my life. First, Autumn. Now, Sheryl. I'm telling you

now, if you dare to hurt her, you'd be sorry. You gave birth to my son and I owed you for that. But I'm

very willing to pay you. Just name you price. I can give you any amount you want."

Looking through her eyes, he continued warning her, "Sheryl has nothing to do with this and she barely

know you. So, don't ever show up in front of her. Don't you dare lay a finger on her because if you'd do

so, you will be in a serious trouble."

Charles felt awful every time he thought of how Leila had slapped Sheryl. He wasn't able to protect and

defend her when she needed him. He felt guilty and he blamed himself so bad. When she was Autumn,

he wasn't able to protect her. Now that she was Sheryl, he still couldn't do so.

"Serious trouble?" Leila laughed loudly. "I don't understand it, Charles! There is nothing special on that

woman but why are you so obsessed to her?" she yelled with tears in her eyes.

She stepped forward and grabbed his hand, "Look at me, Charles! I am a woman too, and we have a son. I believe that I'm also beautiful like her. But why haven't you even laid eyes on me? Why do I always mean nothing to you? Why?"

She looked at him desperately and continued, "Do you find any flaws in me? If you do, please tell me and I can change for you. Sheryl is already engaged to Anthony and they're happy together. Besides, Anthony also take Shirley as his own daughter. Why can't you just leave them alone? Why are you running after somebody else's fiancee?"

Chapter 602 Let Me Stay With My Child

Leila stretched out her arms and hugged Charles tightly. In a sob, she said, "If you want, you, Charlie and I can live a happy life too. I will take good care of you and our family. Charlie is a sensible and considerate child. For sure he will be very happy if we live together."

Charles got annoyed of what he heard. All the while, Leila had been saying that the reason why she kept on coming every day was to visit Charlie. But now that Charles was in front of her, all she could say was about their future. He forcefully broke free from Leila's hug and pushed her away. Since Leila already had a sprained ankle, she easily lost her balance and fell to the ground again.

Her hands were cut by some pebbles on the ground. Blood started to drip but she seemed not to notice

it. It was also painful but Leila had already became numb. She didn't mind the pain. She just stared at

Charles who was standing in front her. Charles' indifferent behavior was more painful than the cuts in

her hands. She bitterly asked,"Charles, do you... do you really hate me this much?"

"Yes," Charles replied curtly. Then he continued,"At least you are smart enough to know that I hate you.

And I'm telling you this only once: Even if you were the only woman left in this world, I would rather die

alone than marry you."

Charles felt so stupid for thinking that Leila might have already changed. Now, he realized that this

woman was hopeless. Leila was getting more and more annoying in his eyes.

"You..." Leila was too angry to utter a word. She clenched her fists and was finally able to shout,"Fine!

Since you have admitted to hate me that much, then, give my child back to me. We will leave this city

forever and I will take care of him alone. We will stay away from you and never bother you and Sheryl

for the rest of our lives."

"If you want to leave, then go!" Charles shouted back. "But, I will never let you take my son. He's

staying with me." Charles continued,"You don't own Charlie. You hid him from me for so many years

and I didn't even know his exist. Now that he's with me, you can never take him away anymore."

"Are you trying to make me lose everything?" Leila glared at Charles furiously.

"If you want to see Charlie, you are always welcome to see him," Charles answered. Charles wasn't

that cruel. After all, Leila was Charlie's mother. So, he didn't intend to totally tear them apart.

"No way!" Leila obviously didn't agree to Charles' idea. Then, she added firmly, "No matter what, I'm

already determined to take Charlie back. I've never wanted your money. All I ever want is my child."

"Leila..." Charles was getting impatient. Deep creases had started showing on his forehead. "You gave

birth to Charlie without my knowledge. I should have blamed you for hiding it from me but I didn't.

Anyway, things already happened. However..."

Charles paused for a while before he continued, "Now that I know about him and I have acknowledged

him as the child of the Lu family, there is no way that you can take him from me again. I hope you are

clear with that."

"You are really forcing me to die, aren't you?" Leila was already frustrated. She had spent lots of efforts

and she had done so many things in the past just to have Charles. Otherwise, why would she take

Charlie away from Autumn?

In the past few years, Leila brought up and took good care of Charlie. She did everything for him. And she would never allow Charles, Charlie and Autumn to live happily together while she went down the drain. No!

Leila took a deep breath and calmly said, "Charles, the reason why I came here today is to ask Charlie to go with me. He is my child and no one can ever change that fact." Leila realized that shouting and getting angry would only make the situation worse. Charlie became more persistent in keeping Charlie. So she thought of changing her tactic. "As for you," she paused for a moment before she continued, "you and Sheryl will have your own child in the future. You can even have more children. As for me, I only have Charlie. He is my only child. I hope you could understand now why I am very eager to get him back."

"But come to think of it," Charles replied. "Charlie will have a better future with me. I can send him to reputable schools and he will get a lot of connections. If he lives with you, what could he get? What could you give him?" Charles wanted Leila to understand that Charlie's future was all that mattered to him.

However, instead of giving in, Leila sneered, "He has been doing great when he was still with me. I know all along that I can't give him the same level of education and the resources that you can. But at least, he won't suffer being bullied by another woman."

"You don't need to worry about him. I can promise you that I will take good care of him and give him only the best things in this world," Charles assured.

Leila didn't want to listen to Charles anymore so she stood up and tried to open the car door. She would never give Charlie back to Autumn after taking care of him for so many years. However, Charlie had already locked the car door when he saw what Leila was about to do.

'What the hell?' Leila was struck dumb. She couldn't believe that Charlie would do such thing to her. Leila knocked on the window and yelled at him, "Charlie, open the door! This is mom. Open the door and get out. You must go with me right now."

But Charlie just remained seated and focused on his smartphone. He pretended not to hear Leila at all. Hopeless, Leila turned to Charles furiously. The calm expression she tried hard to put in earlier was now gone. She shouted, "I'm warning you, Charles! Open the door for me now! I've already told you

many times that I would bring Charlie with me today!"

"You have already seen it yourself. Charlie doesn't want to go with you." Charles was never moved by

her warning. All Charles wanted to do right now was to end this conversation and get inside the house

so he said, "Leila, I won't make any compromise on this issue so let's end this up. You can do anything.

You want to sue me? No problem. You can hire the best lawyer to help you. I'm not afraid of it."

Leila felt like it was no use arguing with Charles anymore so she turned back to Charlie. "Charlie,

Charlie!" She kept on knocking the window again as she yelled at Charlie. "I'm your mom, Charlie. I

brought you up and I took care of you since you were a child. Could you really abandon me just like this

since you found your father?"

Charlie furrowed his eyebrows. As much as possible, he didn't want to get involve in his parents' fight.

But Leila already became so annoying that he could't take it anymore. So he shouted back, "Leila, I've

been doing great since I came to live with dad. And my life has even become better without you. So, I

will never want to live with you anymore. Please, stop disturbing my life and just leave me alone."

Leila was once again struck dumb by what Charlie said. She never thought that the kid who she had

taken care for so many years would be this ungrateful.

She smiled bitterly and asked Charlie, "Son, did you hate me too?"

Charlie knitted his eyebrows more. Leila was really annoying. She always liked putting the blames on other people. She could never accept her mistakes.

Charlie just glared at Leila outside the window without saying a word.

Leila became more furious but hopeless. So she turned to Charles again for help. She didn't want to give up just like that. She grabbed Charles's hand and begged, "Charles, I know I've done so many mistakes in the past. I would be willing to make things right as long as you would let me stay with my child. Please, Charles. I'm begging you."

Chapter 603 A Talk Between Father And Son

"Enough, Leila!" Charles shouted. Charles shook her hands off and said, "I think you could clearly see now. My son and I don't want to be with you. So, if I were you, I would leave now and think over the offer. Once you've decided, you could come back anytime and tell me."

Charles threw her a contemptuous glance before getting in the car and leaving.

When the father and son entered their home, Charlie rushed to his room to take a bath. Charles followed inside Charlie's room and patiently waited for him to finish. He turned off the lights inside the

room, leaving only the bedside lamp on. When Charlie went out of his bathroom, Charles softly

said, "Charlie, dad wants to have a talk with you."

"Sure dad," Charlie replied. His voice was so calm.

Charles hated Leila because of the countless evil things she had done in the past especially to Autumn.

He even felt a little annoyed to Charlie knowing that he was Leila's son. However, Charles later on

realized that Charlie had nothing to do with Leila's deeds.

It was true that Leila raised Charlie alone. They depended on each other for some years. Charles knew

Leila cared about Charlie. It was very clear that she loved this boy very much.

Of course, Charles expected Charlie to love Leila back as much as she loved him. That was why he

was confused when he heard what Charlie said to Leila earlier. If Charlie loved his mother, why would

he refuse to live with her?

"You and Leila..." Charles hesitated for a moment. He found it difficult to utter his question.

But Charlie was a smart boy. He could already sense what was Charles trying to ask. "You wanted to

know why I chose to live with you rather than Leila, right?" he asked. Charlie was in his pajamas and

his face was still reddish like an apple because he just finished a warm bath so he looked very cute.

Although Charles was a little embarrassed, he nodded his head. Charlie guessed it right. He only

wished that they would be able to solve this problem tonight, or else, he wouldn't be able to sleep.

"Actually, I didn't know either," Charlie answered honestly. Charlie tilted his head and gave Charles an

earnest look. Then he continued, "I have never liked her. Since I was young, she kept on telling me

things about you. Then she wanted me to convince you to accept her once we were together. She

badly wanted to be with you and she wanted to use me as her way to live here. She kept on repeating

it to me over and over again. She was really annoying."

Because of what Leila did, little Charlie couldn't help but also hate Charles. Until it came to the point

that every time Leila mentioned Charles' name to him, he would just keep quiet and wouldn't react

anymore. Leila noticed the sudden change on his behavior so she minimized mentioning Charles'

name in front of him.

"Before we met, I hated you, because Leila had nothing to say to me except about you. I got tired of

hearing your name and listening to her stories about you over and over again for many years. But now

that we are together, I can understand why Leila keeps on going after us. I know she isn't afraid that I

might forget about her. What she fears is that you will never care for her at all anymore because you've

already gotten me." Charlie paused for a moment and smiled bitterly. Then he continued, "I can tell that

you don't love her. You didn't even know that you had a son before you found out about me. And Leila

is already getting crazy. I've found her actions ridiculous so I want to stay away from her."

What Charlie said to Charles was half-truth. He couldn't tell Charles the real reason why he refused to

live with Leila. Deep inside, Charlie suspected that he wasn't Leila's son. However, he didn't have any

proof yet so he couldn't tell Charles about it.

"So, did she really treat you well?" Charles asked. Charles was worried that Leila might maltreat

Charlie in the past so he asked with full concern.

"Not bad," Charlie answered. Then he added, "If she hadn't been so annoying, greedy and selfish, I

would have had liked her."

Charles smiled and thought, 'Even a child like Charlie could tell what was wrong with Leila. Sadly, Leila

herself couldn't admit it.'

Feeling relieved, Charles decided to end their conversation so he said, "Okay. It's getting late. You'd

better go to bed now." Charles tucked Charlie to bed. When he was about to hide Charlie's hands

under the quilt, he noticed a black mark on Charlie's wrist. He tried to wipe it thinking that it might just be a dirt.

However, Charlie stopped him. "You couldn't wipe it out because it's a birthmark."

"Really?" Charles was a little surprised. Charles checked it in the dim light and saw that it looked like a smiley. However, the mark was very light so it was not so discernible. Charles didn't mind it that much so after making sure that Charlie was already lying comfortably, he went out and closed the door carefully behind him.

On the other hand, when Leila left Dream Garden, she didn't go straight home. Instead, she stopped at the side of the road and decided to call someone.

She dialed a number on her phone. It had been a while since the last time she called this number. She thought she would never contact this person again for the rest of her life. But now that she didn't have any choice, she needed him again.

The call got through immediately and a man answered with a harsh and cold voice. Leila couldn't help but shudder when she heard it. "Ferry, I met some trouble."

She told everything to Ferry and he said something to her in response. She kept on nodding her head

while listening intently. Before she hang up, she said, "Okay, I know what to do now."

'Now that Charles has blocked all my way out, I wouldn't just let him go that easy. Not even Sheryl,'

she swore to herself.

After the call, she decided to head home directly.

The next morning at the hospital, Shirley was playing on the bed and Sheryl was brushing her teeth,

when Amy arrived with a breakfast for them.

Shirley, who looked more energetic now, immediately gave Amy a big smile when she saw her entering the room.

Although they had only known each for a short while, Shirley could already tell that Amy liked her.

"Hello, Shirley! Look at what I brought you," Amy said with a bright smile, pointing to the food she

prepared for her. Shirley's face showed a delighted expression when she saw the food. Then, Amy

began to feed her. When Sheryl finished brushing her teeth, she said to Amy, "Amy, you shouldn't spoil

Shirley that much. She actually knows how to eat by herself."

"Don't mind it, Sher. I also like what I'm doing," Amy replied. Then she added, "Besides, Shirley's still a

little girl and she still needs our care."

Sheryl had no other choice but to let Amy do what she wished to do. Actually, she also found Shirley

acting weird recently. Shirley had been eating her meals by herself even when she was small. But

since Amy started feeding her, she also started to act like she couldn't really eat by herself alone.

Sheryl could feel that Shirley liked the way Amy was pampering her.

A little while later, Sue arrived. She immediately dragged Sheryl to the corner of the room after she

greeted Amy. She then reported to Sheryl, "Sher, Mr. Han informed me that we will be having a meeting

this afternoon. I tried to ask a leave on your behalf since Shirley is still in the hospital but he didn't allow

me to do so. He said you must also attend the meeting."

Sue frowned when she remembered her conversation with Mr. Han. Then she added, "He said that this

will be the first meeting after we signed the contract with BM Corporation so it would be inappropriate to

ask for a leave at such a crucial moment."

"I know that," Sheryl answered with concern. "But as you can see. Shirley hasn't fully recovered yet. I

can't just leave her alone in this hospital to attend the meeting. What should I do?"

Chapter 604 Another Big Favor

Now that Anthony was far away, Sheryl was worried about leaving Shirley unaccompanied in the hospital.

"But BM Corporation will..." Sue wanted to remind Sheryl of the consequences if she would ask for a leave of absence but she held back. She understood Sheryl's concern as a mother of a sick child. No one expected Shirley to fall ill at that time.

For a moment, the two women grimaced at each other. Amy was chatting with Shirley when she caught a glance of their facial expressions. She came over and asked, "What's going on, ladies? Why are you both looking so disturbed?"

"Sorry Amy, we are just worried about..." Sue was about to tell Amy the truth but Sheryl interrupted her.

"Oh, it's nothing serious. Never mind, Amy," Sheryl said lightly to Amy. "What the hell is going on here?" Amy asked while seriously looking straight at Sue. Then she turned her eyes on Sheryl and demanded, "Do you consider me as a stranger?"

"No... of course not, Amy. I didn't mean it that way..." Sheryl hastened to explain with an anxious

face, "How could I think of you like a stranger? I... I just... "

Sheryl held back the words which sprang out of her lips. She really wanted Amy to be spared from any more hassle.

"Oh dear God! Please allow me to tell you what just happened," Sue said impatiently. "Amy, we will be having a meeting in our company this afternoon. Our boss has declared that it's compulsory for all of us to attend. So, Sher cannot ask for a leave. But we don't want Shirley to be left unattended here. She hesitated to tell you because she wants to bother you no more."

"Is that true, Sheryl?" Amy asked and stared into Sheryl's eyes. Under her clear gaze, Sheryl had to give in. "Yes. Amy. You already helped me a lot. I really can't bother you anymore," she replied after a nod.

"Bother me? Not at all!" Amy cried and shook her head lightly. "In my opinion, you really regard me as an outsider."

"No, that's not true," Sheryl immediately denied, but the more anxious she was, the more incoherent she became. Finally, Amy motioned her to stop the explanations.

"I've always enjoyed being with children. I have a six-year-old granddaughter and a three-year-old

grandson. They are about the same age as Shirley. I play with them at home every day. So, you two should go ahead with your company meeting. I'll take good care of Shirley here," she said in a soft voice.

"I'm already ashamed to ask another favor from you..." Sheryl said, wrinkling her brows but Sue

abruptly interrupted her, "Thank you so much, Amy! Can we treat you to dinner later to show our gratitude?"

"You don't have to do that," Amy said, smiling. "We are together here for a reason. It's normal for you young people to be busy with your work."

Sheryl tugged at Sue's sleeve. "Mimi," she opened her mouth in a grumbling?tone, "now that you told her everything, I'm pretty sure, Amy is already embarrassed to refuse us. We've been bothering her so much lately, I..."

"Well, let's stop arguing now," Sue butted in. "Tell me who else can look after Shirley at this moment besides Amy?"

"I..." Sheryl didn't want to admit it, but it was true that she really couldn't find anyone else to take care

of Shirley besides Amy.

"Okay, it's settled then," Amy said decisively. "You go to your meeting and leave Shirley with me."

"Well, thank you for being so helpful, Amy." In the end, Sheryl had no choice but to accept Amy's offer of help.

"Is Shirley Xia's immediate family here?" Sheryl was still thanking Amy when a nurse suddenly entered the ward. Sheryl slightly raised her hand to indicate that she was the one the nurse was looking for.

"Ma'am, Shirley can leave the hospital now. Please pass by the nurses' station and sign the discharge papers," the nurse added.

Sheryl was so surprised that she froze in the spot. After a moment, she asked with a perplexed look, "Now?"

"Yes, Ma'am," the nurse answered with a quick nod. "She is now stable enough to go home. If you are really worried about her health, just bring her in for a follow-up check-up tomorrow."

"But..." Sheryl was a little lost about the unexpected news.

Amy took Sheryl's arm and gave her a reassuring smile. "Don't worry. I'll bring her back to my house.

My two grandchildren happened to be at home. Shirley can play with them. You can pick her up from

my house after the meeting. What do you think?" Amy warmly put forward a suggestion.

Sheryl agreed after she thought about the idea.

After processing Shirley's discharge papers, Sheryl and Sue accompanied Amy and Shirley to Amy's

house. As soon as they opened the door, Cindy and Rick expectantly came out together. At the sight of

so many people, Rick grew timid. Shirley said hi to the two kids, but Cindy walked directly to Sheryl and

tugged at her dress.

"Hello, anything wrong, little girl?" Sheryl's attention was immediately attracted by the pretty and cute

girl. She smiled kindly and crouched down. Just as she was about to continue talking to Cindy, Sue

pulled her up and promptly said, "Sher, we must hurry or we'll be late for the meeting."

Sheryl instantly turned to Amy and said, "Amy, please take care of Shirley for me for a few hours. We'll

have to go now."

"No worries Sheryl. Just go," Amy urged, holding Shirley in one hand and Rick in the other.

They then sent Sheryl and Sue off in the front yard. As the two women turned and hurried away, Cindy

remained at the front yard where she gazed at the leaving Sheryl intently. She wondered why the

beautiful lady whom she clearly remembered did not seem to recognize her.

"Cindy, what are you looking at? Hurry back inside, it's too hot in there," Amy called out and interrupted

Cindy's thoughts.

Shirley was an outgoing girl with a sociable nature. Rick was a generous boy and shared his toys with

Shirley. Although they met for the first time, they already bonded with each other. Cindy pensively

entered the house. After a brief hesitation, she approached Amy. "Grandma, wasn't that Autumn?" she

asked, puzzled.

"You remember her?" Cindy's words startled Amy. Little did she know that Cindy still remembered

Autumn. After all, Cindy was just a three-year-old kid when Autumn disappeared.

"Yes," Cindy said with a nod. "But why didn't Autumn remember me?"

"Because..." Amy paused and gave a deep sigh. "She got so ill three years ago that she forgot all

about her past, including you," she explained briefly.

"Oh, I see. Will she remember me again later?" Cindy questioned worriedly, looking up at Amy.

Amy pondered for a few seconds, and then shook her head and said, "I don't know sweetie. Maybe she

will or maybe she won't."

Then she gently patted Cindy's head and said, "Go now and play with Rick and Shirley. I'll cut some fruit for all of you."

Soon, Abby walked down the stairs. She noticed that there was a new girl in the room. She had never seen the little girl, but when Shirley looked up at her, she immediately concluded that she was Autumn's daughter.

The girl was the image of a little Autumn.

Chapter 605 Out Of Reach

"Mom!" Rick called out towards Abby. "This is Shirley. She's my new friend," he continued.

Abby looked at him hesitantly, unsure how to answer. She knew right away who the little girl really was.

Fate was so ironic!

Shirley also wasn't shy at all. She kept staring at Abby with her big, bright eyes, which made Abby's heart melt.

She decided to kneel down on the ground beside the two kids and join in their games. Playing with them made her feel all warm and fuzzy inside. Amy came over and laid down a plate of fruits nearby the children. With a tender smile, she commented, "Look at you, fooling around with them like a child."

Abby looked up and raised her eyebrows in acknowledgment while softly voicing, "Mom..." She then

promptly stood up, wiped the sweat off Rick's forehead, and cautioned him, "Be careful, please; don't go too wild."

Rick was a bit different. His precarious health and his previous surgery meant that he would exhaust himself quicker than other children. Therefore, he had to take it easy when playing.

Abby sat next to Amy on the couch and, looking in Shirley's direction, she asked, "Is this Autumn's child?"

"Yes," Amy answered smiling. "She looks very much like Autumn, doesn't she?"
"Yes, she does," replied Abby reciprocating the smile. "I didn't expect to see her and her daughter again..."

Caught in her memories all of a sudden, Abby bowed her head and inquired, "Mom, Autumn was pregnant with twins. Have you ever inquired on the whereabouts of the other child?"

Amy sighed loudly and reminded her, "As you know, she has lost her memory. How could I ask her about that? The last thing she needs is more confusion or worry."

She was right. Abby nodded and pondered out loud, "I wonder how the other child is doing now."

Back at the hospital, Charles showed up with Charlie to check on Shirley, when he was greeted with

the news that Shirley and Sheryl had already checked out.

Disappointed and stripped of all hope, Charles couldn't even fake a smile any longer. He and Charlie

left right away to Shining Company, where Charles handed Charlie over to Alice to take care of him.

He then strode over to the meeting room, where one of his managers was waiting to report to him on

the latest state of affairs. However, Charles's blank stare that day disconcerted the manager, who was

wondering if there was something wrong with his presentation. He was having such a hard time, in fact,

that he put down his laser pen and paused for a short moment.

The air conditioner was blasting cold air, but the manager was still sweating. Feeling as if the walls

were closing in on him, he wiped the sweat off his forehead and nervously addressed Charles, "This is

the situation, Mr. Lu. Would you..."

"Not bad," Charles interrupted. With a sheer disregard toward his planned presentation, Charles

asked, "How's our women's wear brand doing?"

"The preliminary design draft has been completed. You will get to see it in a few days. If there are no

problems, the next step is to find a manufacturer, start production and then enter the market in a

month," explained the manager. One month felt a bit too long for Charles.

Frowning, he continued questioning, "How about BM Corporation?" The manager had to be honest

about their competitor's success. "BM Corporation's Spring and Summer Fashion Show has received a

lot of praise. By now, they have half of the market share, and the remaining half is split between several

old fashion factories."

Noticing Charles' discontent, he scrambled to address his concerns, "Mr. Lu, it's not an easy task for us

to crack into the market at this time. The emergence of this BM Corporation was so unexpected that we

haven't fully prepared for it."

"Then prepare quickly," revolted Charles. Fed up by their excuses, he mockingly commented, "All it

takes are some minor challenges from a newcomer to get you all frazzled and gasping? You have no

spine? We are an elite company, not a nobody."

The meeting room was quiet after Charles' words. Yes, BM Corporation had just entered Y City, but

they were experienced in fashion, unlike Shining Company which had no solid background in that

industry.

After a small pause, Charles decided to set things straight. "Mr. Zheng, one month is too long. Before leaving work tonight, I want the new design draft on my desk. Do you understand?" Mr. Zheng did not dare to say another word. With a quick nod, he agreed to Charles' request.

After the meeting, Charles went over to David's office and instructed him to send Charlie back to

Dream Garden. He needed to get closer to Sheryl as soon as possible; so he had to go all out.

Noticing his long face, David decided to investigate. "Mr. Lu, Alice and I went to the BM Spring and Summer Fashion Show." Charles gave him a half smile, as he could guess where David was going with that statement.

Alice and David couldn't believe their eyes at the sight of the last model in the show. Once all the

models came out on the runway, they couldn't stop staring at Sheryl. Was she really Mrs. Lu? He couldn't have been mistaken.

Seeing that Charles figured out his doubts, he indirectly inquired "Did I see right?" Charles continued

smiling and encouraged him, "Be straightforward David. What do you want to know?"

"That woman... Is she really Mrs. Lu?" David finally let out. It wasn't only that he was confused. He also

felt sorry for Charles. What a contorted situation he was in! First, there was Leila who had been involved with him, then came a son out of nowhere and, as if that wasn't enough, Autumn suddenly showed up too. How could he cope with it all?

"Yes, she is," Charles replied with a subtle nod. He had no intention to hide it. However, the lack of excitement in his voice was obvious. He was upset because Sheryl didn't talk to him. He had no clue what to do about it.

Realizing David's confusion, Charles proceeded to explain, "But she isn't the same." He paused in search for the best words and then went on, "Autumn has lost her memory. She doesn't remember anything prior to three years ago, including me. But worst of all, she has been pushing me away and I'm not sure what to do about it."

In spite of his disillusionment, Charles was not a quitter. She was his wife, after all, and he was determined to get her back. It was just that he had never romantically pursued nor been rejected by anyone before. Those were two foreign concepts to him, and he wasn't sure how to approach them.

"That's not a bad thing actually," uttered David to himself. He then looked over to Charles wondering if he had heard him.

"What do you mean?" asked Charles with a cocked eyebrow. David's remark almost made him mad.

"No, I didn't mean that," David justified himself. Seeing Charles' confused look, he hastily clarified, "I

mean, when you married Mrs. Lu, you two had never seen each other before. You jumped right into

married life. Yes, you still fell in love with each other, but you missed out on the whole dating before

marriage part. Now that Mrs. Lu can't recall anything, her appearance could be a heaven-sent

opportunity for you. You could court Mrs. Lu and make up for all the romantic things you two never had

together."

Charles' face lightened up briefly. He had not thought about it that way, but David had a point. His only

concern was that he had zero experience in courtship. He found it a bit funny, in fact. There he was,

one of the biggest business magnates out there, and yet, when it came to matters of the heart, he was

a novice.

He hesitated for a few seconds and then reluctantly commented, "I suppose I could. David, how did you

and Alice do it?"

Chapter 606 The Meeting

David was surprised and scratched his head out of embarrassment. He replied to Charles, "Of course, I

courted her! You know, she was very cold with me back then, but I still managed to get her!" David answered with pride.

Charles thought for a moment and said, "It seems that you are very good at courting girls."

"I can't say that I am an expert at courting girls," David said. Then he added with a smile, "But I know clearly what girls like."

"Very well then, David. From now on, you will be my teacher. Please help me win back my wife's heart."

Charles patted David's shoulder as he gave him the unexpected assignment.

David was petrified because he immediately fathomed that the assignment was impossible to accomplish.

"Well, Mr. Lu. Actually, Alice..." David scrambled to find an excuse to refuse the task. He regretted what he had bragged about that very moment.

He had mingled with Autumn for some time before. She was like a pure goddess in his mind. So his tricks to attract the usual girls wouldn't work on her.

Charles interrupted his thoughts and uttered seriously, "That's an order David!" He didn't give David a single chance to reason out with him.

David felt cornered and then agreed reluctantly.

"Hey, Dad!" Charlie stood up from his seat when he saw Charles return. Charles approached his son

and said, "Charlie, I need to stay here and work tonight. I have lots of things to finish. I'll tell David to

escort you home so you don't have to stay up and wait for me, okay son?"

"But Dad..." Charlie frowned. He still wanted to be with his father's company. But based on how his

father uttered the words, it was clear that he wouldn't agree. So he nodded his head and said, "Fine

Dad. I'm leaving now."

When he was about to leave the office with David, he turned around and said to Charles, "Dad,

tomorrow... Can I visit Shirley and play with her?"

"Of course you can!" Charles nodded approvingly. But he was worried that Sheryl would refuse Charlie

because of him.

Upon hearing Charles' answer, Charlie left joyfully.

In BM Corporation

It was the very first meeting after the models had signed their contracts with the corporation. So, both

Sheryl and Sue dared not be late for it. They came earlier by a few minutes and waited at the lounge outside the meeting room.

Sooner than expected, George and Holley arrived. While the other models immediately gave way to both, Holley smiled at Sheryl as she passed by her.

Somehow, Sheryl surmised that the smile was very familiar. Deep inside, she knew that she had seen that smile before but could not instantly recall where.

"What's the matter, Sher?" Sue asked her. Everybody had followed George and Holley inside the meeting room but Sheryl remained motionless. Sue was very puzzled by Sheryl's facial expression.

"I'm... I'm fine," Sheryl answered as if she just daydreamed. Sheryl finally regained herself. She was still uneasy but pretended to be calm.

She entered the meeting room together with Sue. Both sat down side by side at the corner of the room. However, Holley waved her right hand towards her and called, "Come here, Sher."

George was seated at the middle of the conference table while Holley was at his left side. The seat she pointed for Sheryl was at George's right.

A young model already occupied the chair that Holley motioned to Sheryl. It was the girl who had a

conflict with Sheryl during the fashion show.

Holley said to the girl with a smile, "Excuse me, honey, can you exchange your seat with Sheryl?"

Holley would be the boss' wife soon enough, so the girl dared not say no to her. But she gave a very

angry look at Sheryl. When she vacated the chair, she stared at Sheryl, very annoyed. If stare could

kill, then Sheryl would be dead at that time.

Sheryl hesitated for a moment. She couldn't refuse Holley's order with so many people present in the

room, so she walked and sat on the seat reluctantly.

Holley began talking with Sheryl in a friendly tone. Except for Sue, every other model in the room was

jealous of Sheryl.

The other models had been envious of Sheryl when they learned that her contract conditions were

better than theirs. They got more insecure when they saw the boss' wife think highly of her.

George looked around and cleared his throat.

"Everybody..." He glanced at all the models and continued, "I'm so happy to have this chance to be here

with all of you. From now on, we'll be colleagues."

George gave a smile and added, "The reason why we have this meeting is quite simple. Listen, I just

want to clarify and announce something to everybody here."

He paused for a while and added, "Firstly, although you are now members of BM Corporation, you

models belong to a separate department. Your department is going to be managed by no other than

Holley Ye. On my behalf, Holley will handle all the issues and concerns in your department. I hope that

you will extend to her the same respect and cooperation that you give me."

George looked at Holley proudly and then with a wide smile said, "Okay, congratulations Holley! Now,

let me give the chair to your new manager. She will announce and let you know the details about your

work here at BM Corporation."

With warm applause, Holley stood up with a big smile and started her speech, "There are two reasons

why BM Corporation has created this department. It's a fact and for its benefit that BM Corporation is

closely related with fabulous, trendy and high fashion dresses. It holds several highly acclaimed runway

shows every year, so it's necessary for our company to have our own group of models."

Holley paused for a moment and then continued, "But our department is separate with the other

departments of the corporation. I should say that apart from the shows being held by our company, you

would also take part in other shows of other companies. Aside from your fixed salary, you can also earn extra money from those shows. But the income that you will earn from those shows should be divided and shared with our company. My colleagues, you don't have to worry that you won't earn enough money. I promise that you would earn more and get rich as long as you work hard."

Holley's words surprised everyone in the meeting room. They never expected that they would be allowed to work with other companies from time to time.

Sheryl also arched her brow in response to Holley's announcement.

Chapter 607 A Call From A Stranger

It was the time for the big announcement and the entire crew was anxious about it. Holley knew what bothered her staff the most. She smiled as she addressed the staff and said, "As you know, we have

decided to provide you a better platform and better working conditions. Besides, since our company will do business with each big film corporation, if anyone wants to make career change, we can offer a hand."

Holley's words assured everyone except for Sheryl. She could sense something wrong but she couldn't tell exactly what it was.

Holley waited for a while watching the reaction of the staff. Then she smiled and continued, "I'm an easy going woman. I'm more of a friend to you than your superior or your boss. I will protect you no matter what. You can be assured that you can come to me for anything whenever you want. I will always be easy to speak with. But there's only one thing I'd like to remind you..."

Suddenly the smile disappeared into a grave expression on her face as she sneered and continued, "I hope that the one who is cultivated by me will be well behaved. If she doesn't, I will definitely make her regret for her entire life. Don't blame me for that."

As Holley spoke, she cast a subtle glance at Sheryl as if the words she said were intentionally aimed at Sheryl. Sheryl stood there with her head lowered as if even she could very well understand that Holley's speech was directed towards her. From the corner of her eyes she could see Holley glancing upon her which made her quiver. She had this weird uncanny feeling which stopped her from feeling secured unlike her other colleagues.

Some brown-noser immediately declared her determination. "Miss Ye, please be assured. We will be well behaved."

Holley laughed as her face changed once again into a satisfied and benevolent look. "That's all I want

to say. All in all, I wish we could get along with each other in the following days."

After Holley took her seat, George stood up and smiled as he addressed the staff, "I think it is clear by

now that this department will be under full charge of Miss Ye. I hope everyone will be get along with

each other."

After the brief meeting ended, everyone surrounded Holley, licking her shoes. Sheryl stood at one

corner as her mind remained preoccupied with her Shirley's ill health. She had no interest in taking part

in such activities.

She stood there for a while and planned to leave secretly. But just then, Holley squeezed out from the

group who surrounded her and walked to Sheryl. With a beaming face, she said, "Sheryl, we're going to

have a bar party this evening. It's my treat. How about joining us tonight?"

"Well, I'm afraid you have to count me out." Sheryl declined the invitation politely. Holley's face changed

instantly into a resentful expression which made Sheryl quivering. She removed her eyes from Holley's

face and looked towards her sleeves to avoid eye contact. She didn't even like those social activities.

"Come on. Don't be such a spoil sport. We will be friends. It's good to hang out and communicate with

each other. Don't stay at home all day long. Come out and have some fun with your colleagues. It will

only help you to develop a better working relationship with them." Holley smiled and tried to convince

Sheryl. "If you continue being alone, I'm afraid you will fall ill very soon."

"Please don't force me to come." Sheryl rejected Holley's suggestion with a smile trying to maintain her

politeness. Even if Shirley wasn't ill, Sheryl wouldn't have taken part in such activities.

"Come on in. Join us, please?" Holley came closer as she pulled Sheryl's hands and spoke to her in an

intimate voice.

Holley's intimate voice made Sheryl sick. It made her feel like a fish out of water. She pulled her hands

off pleading, "Miss Ye, I really can't go. I..." But before Sheryl finished their conversation, she was cut

through by another voice.

"Miss Ye, she gave her answer already. We don't have to show warm feelings to meet her cold rebuke."

Both Holley and Sheryl turned around to see where the voice came from. The statement came from

one of the models named Kiki.

Kiki disliked Sheryl since the time she met her. She could not comprehend the reason behind Sheryl

being the highest paid model of them all. Sheryl was neither the prettiest, nor the tallest and certainly

not the most professional model. Since Sheryl was not the best in any aspect, how came she was so

much favored by George and Holley? Kiki felt it unjustified and unfair!

"Sheryl is different from us. She doesn't like such activities. She didn't join us the last two times. This

time she won't go, either," Kiki spoke curving her lips into an ironic smile.

Her voice was so loud that even George turned around and gave a disapproving glance at Sheryl.

"Sheryl, you are one of us now. All of you are working in one company. I don't care what happened

between you earlier, but from now on, you will have to get along with each other. And for that you have

to take part in such team-building activities," George said in a cold voice.

"Mr. Han, I..." Sheryl was bewildered and tried to explain but was interrupted by Holley. "Sheryl, please

join us. You didn't participate any before and it's time for you to show up."

"No, I can't. I..." Sheryl tried to say that she had to pick up her daughter but George didn't give her any

opportunity to finish. He glanced at her once and said, "Okay then. It's a deal. Tell me the number and

I'll make a reservation."

Holley held Sheryl's hands with a beaming face and said, "Don't be so upset. Cheer up. believe me, you

will have a good time with us tonight."

"Miss Ye." Sue, who was standing at a distance witnessing the entire episode for so long, could not

remain silent at the face of her friend being embarrassed in front of everyone. She came up and

explained for Sheryl, "To Sheryl's defense, it's not because she doesn't like to join such activities. The

truth is she can't because of some particular reason." Sue came forward and held Sheryl's hand as she

spoke to Holley.

"Which is?" Holley paused for a while, staring at Sue, waiting for her to give an explanation.

"Miss Ye may not be aware that Shirley, Sheryl's daughter, is sick and has been in the hospital for two

days. Sheryl has to look after her in the hospital. Today she asked someone else to do the job, so she

could take some time off for this meeting. And now that the meeting is over, she needs to rush back for

her child."

"Is it true?" Holley turned towards Sheryl and asked for a confirmation with a puzzled look.

Sheryl nodded her head and remained silent. Holley frowned and said, "Why didn't you tell me the

truth? I wouldn't have forced you to join us if I knew it earlier."

Holley let out a sigh and continued. "Take good care of your daughter. Forget about the bar party

tonight. We'll do it together some other time in the future."

"But..." Sheryl hesitated for a moment thinking about George's ultimatum that everyone would have to

go. Holley marked the perplexed look on her face and smiled in a reassuring manner.

"Don't worry. I'll take care of it." Holley seemed to have guessed Sheryl's cause of concern. She then

smiled and said to Sheryl, "The most important thing for you now is to take good care of your daughter.

Go ahead."

"Okay then. I'm leaving now." Sheryl heaved a sigh of relief. However, she knew that even though she

had dodged a bullet this time, she would definitely not be so lucky next time.

When Holley looked at Sheryl's back as she walked towards the door, a weird smile came on her face.

It was still too early for the party. Everyone dispersed to go home and get dressed up. Holley planned

to take some rest at home with George. Just as she sat on the car and motioned the chauffeur to drive

her home, she received a phone call.

Though the call was not from a saved number, staring at the number for a while made her go

completely pale on her face and her eye balls literally popped out. A chill ran down her spine and she

sat erect in her car seat staring at the number as her phone kept ringing.

Chapter 608 Find You An Ally

"Honey, your phone is ringing. It has been for sometime. Can't you hear it? Why don't you answer it?"

George casually and absent mindedly told Holley.

"Oh, I didn't hear it. Sorry!" she mumbled and stiffly straightened her back. She told George

reluctantly, "Please give me a moment to answer this call."

She hurriedly got off the car and walked away as she picked up the call. She heard a cheery greeting

as soon as she answered. Her hair stood on end in fright at the sound of the voice coming over her

phone. She could never forget that voice her entire life. She was often frightened awake by the sound

of that voice in her dreams at night.

"Hey, long time no see, Yvonne," the man on the other side of the phone greeted her. At once, her

unsavoury past, which she had tried hard to forget in the past three years, overwhelmed her mind.

Holley held her phone in a firm grip so as not to drop it.

The voice was the reason for her many nightmares.

"Why are you calling? How did you get my number?" Holley asked in a quivering voice. She pressed

the phone nervously and tightly against her ear.

She was scared of the man and hated him deeply from the very depths of her heart.

"Hey, that's a silly question. I am missing you so much. It has been a long time since we met each

other. So, I'm just calling to catch up," the man replied drowsily. It was none other than Ferry. Three

years ago he took Charlie away from Autumn. Thereafter he went abroad and hid himself on a small,

remote island. Even though Charles had tried every means to seek him, he would not have found any

trace of Ferry.

The small island had been located and chosen by him as his hideout much in advance of his flight.

Everything he needed for a comfortable living was available there. He had lived a good, carefree life for

the past three years.

"Listen carefully to me, Ferry! I'm no longer the same person I was three years ago!" Holley nastily

hissed between clenched teeth, "And I don't want to receive any calls from you. Please leave me alone!

Or, I'll..."

Abruptly, she stopped talking.

She just realized that she was on shaky ground. Much as she wanted to warn him and threaten him not

to call her, she was at his mercy.

Ferry knew all her secrets and shortcomings. She couldn't do anything but only follow his instruction

like a puppet. She was helpless and bound to him.

Apparently, Ferry knew he had her in his grasp. He burst into laughter upon her reaction and said in a

leisurely manner, "Relax! I just called to catch up with you. To tell you the truth, I'm actually offering you

my help."

"Help?" Holley murmured with a cold smile on her face. She recalled with bitterness all she had gone

through because of him. He had done his best to torture her before throwing her to an unknown county.

He never helped her and instead had vanished from the surface of the earth.

Today, she cherished everything she had. God knew how hard she had worked to get here. She felt

proud to achieve her dreams all by herself. Also, she was close to victoriously tramping Autumn

beneath her heels. To her immense surprise, Ferry called and offered to help her at this point. It was so

ridiculous and could she ever believe him again?

Holley tried hard to hold back her bitterness and said lightly, "You know what Ferry, I think you are not in

your full senses just now. Listen, I don't need any help and especially not your help. Please leave me

alone and never call me again. This is the only help I need from you!"

After living a stable and carefree life, she was very afraid of losing what she had now. The more she

worried, the more she hated Autumn and held her responsible for it. George had been great to her ever

since they were together. He was so sweet and she felt she was really lucky to have him in her life.

She only had two more very important things to do in her life now. One was to take her revenge on

Autumn. The other was to live in peace with George in her life.

She was fully aware that her current life would be ruined if her past was known to George. She would

rather risk her own life than allow her past to be revealed to George. She had long disassociated from

her old self.

She was about to hang up, when she heard Ferry sneer over the phone, "Don't hang up in a hurry! Let

me explain the kind of help I'm offering you!"

"Don't bother, Ferry! I have gotten my own plans. I'm not in need of help. Understand?" Holley hissed

and sounded slightly hysterical. But she dared not shout at Ferry. She knew that she couldn't afford to

upset him.

"I know that you're dating the president of BM Corporation with the hope of marrying him. Do you think

you can get rid of me in this manner? Don't be a naïve little girl!" Ferry said in a cold voice, "Never

forget, I can return you to your original state at any point of time. You're nothing but a petty criminal.

Would you like to go back your cold cell again?"

Holley was struck silent by his words. What he said just then was the thing she feared the most. Ferry

always knew how to deal with her.

"Now, I believe you're willing to listen to my offer, right?" he continued as if the threat he made just then

was not a big deal but commonplace.

Holley, on the other hand, was totally defeated by him. Since he had her tight at his mercy, she had no

other choice but do whatever he asked her to do. It seemed that her worst nightmare had come true.

"Fine. Let me know what your offer for help is," she replied in a low and ungracious voice as she pulled

on a long face.

"As I just told you, I called you to offer my help to you," Ferry replied lazily, "I know that you are trying

your best to become the wife of the president of BM Corporation. After that, there are things that will

not be convenient to do by yourself. I have found an ally for you. She'll do whatever you ask her to do."

"Found me an ally?" Holley mumbled surprised. Then she asked, "Who's she?"

"Leila Zhang," Ferry replied briskly as he was anticipating her question. Holley frowned as she

remembered everything that had happened between Leila and her. It was definitely not a friendly and

agreeable relationship they shared. She retorted, "Ferry, are you sure you are finding me an ally and not

a major headache?"

"Yes, I admit she is stupid. But she's bold, right? I believe she'll do whatever you ask. I don't think her

stupidity will be a shortcoming to you," Ferry spoke straight and to the point, "Just listen to me. She will

be a lot of help some day. Think of her as a tool, your secret tool."

Holley hesitated for a while before she agreed, "Okay fine, I will accept her. However, first you must

assure me that she will listen to me without question. Otherwise, I will kick her out without notice!"

"Of course," Ferry spoke in an offhand manner, "I hope you two cooperate perfectly in the future. I will

be waiting for the good news."

"All right then. I am done here," he finally said, "I've done what I needed to do. I'll leave everything in

your capable hands now. Since I didn't kill Autumn three years ago, I hope to do so this time. Don't let

me down!"

As they had a common enemy, they should unite to bring Autumn down mercilessly.

The moment she hung up, George came to her and called out, "Come on, Holley! Let's go!"

She walked up to him hurriedly, but paused instead of getting in the car. "George, I am sorry but you

have to go home alone. I need to see a friend. It's urgent!" she said.

Chapter 609 An Old Acquaintance

"See a friend? Who is it?" When George asked. George was surprised to know that Holley meant to

meet someone because as far as he knew, Holley didn't know anyone here. Holley had told him before

that she didn't have any acquaintances here.

"Don't ask too much. I won't take long." Instead of answering George's questions, Holley hurriedly

kissed him on the cheek and said her last words, "I'll be back soon."

Actually, Holley was in a hurry because Ferry told her that Leila was waiting for her. It had been three

years since she last heard about her. She didn't have any idea if everything had been well for Leila

these past years.

Holley once considered Leila as an enemy. But now that they had the same goal, she wanted to treat

her as a friend.

Just like what the saying goes, 'The enemy of my enemy is my friend.' Now they would be working together against a common enemy.

Now that Charlie was taken by Charles, Leila's chance of getting together with Charles became impossible. She felt bad that all her efforts to be a single mother these past years had just gone to waste.

That was why she called Ferry to ask for help. She told him that Autumn was still alive.

Ferry was exasperated when he heard the news. But he tried his best to stay calm. He instructed Leila to go to a certain place and wait for someone who used to be her acquaintance.

Leila thought hard but she couldn't really figure out who Ferry was referring to. She couldn't tell who this old acquaintance really was.

Leila had been waiting for half an hour now but no one arrived yet. She got impatient so she finished the cup of coffee she ordered and prepared to leave. However, before she could stand up, a beautiful woman suddenly sat down beside her. She was wearing a pair of sunglasses and looked a little restless.

Leila stared at the woman trying to analyze her. She wanted to recall if she had ever seen this woman before. But no matter how hard she thought, she couldn't really remember her so she asked in an unfriendly tone, "Excuse me, you may have gotten the wrong table."

"I came here for you," the woman replied firmly. Holley removed her sunglasses and looked into Leila's eyes. "You look much older than before."

Holley stared at Leila intently while the latter also did the same. After a while, Leila shook her head and frowned. She said, "I'm sorry. I really don't know you. You are?"

"Leila, you are still so blind and silly! I find it so ridiculous for a woman like you to dream of marrying Charles!" Holley didn't care if Leila couldn't recognize her. She just said what she had been wanting to say. Holley's voice was stinging satire.

Suddenly, Leila remembered someone who had the same expression and tone as this woman beside her. Leila couldn't help but shudder upon recognizing her. "Y... Yvonne?" she stuttered. She couldn't believe her eyes.

"Yes, it's me!" Holley admitted frankly. Since she already considered Leila as an ally, there was no need

to hide from her anymore. "Nice to see you again, Leila," she said.

"Oh! You're really Yvonne!" Leila said, her eyes bulging in surprise. Then she added, "It has been

three... no... four... It had been four years that we haven't seen each other. How have you been? Why

do you look so different?" Leila asked a lot of questions. She was still overwhelmed with shock.

Leila sat closer to Holley and whispered, "Did you have a plastic surgery?" When Holley was

nonreactive, Leila continued, "You look more beautiful than before." She couldn't help scanning the

woman's face beside her. "However, there are still some signs of surgery left on your face. They don't

look natural."

Leila looked at Holley's face in awe. She asked Holley more, "The plastic surgery must have cost a lot

of money, right?"

Leila stretched out her arm and was about to touch Holley's face but she was stopped by her midway.

Holley loathed, "Get your dirty hand off me!"

Leila felt a little embarrassed. With a hurt voice, she asked, "We used to be friends, remember? Isn't it

inappropriate for you to speak to me that way?"

Leila's voice was full of conviction. "We're on the same boat now. We're on the same situation. Should

you really despise me?"

Holley gave Leila a cold smile. "I think you have forgotten who you are. Don't forget that you are just

my partner. You should only follow my orders. You have no right to express your opinions or ask

questions. Just mind your own business. Don't get yourself involved in things not related to you. Do you

understand?"

"What nonsense are you talking about?" Leila suddenly stood up. She felt furious after hearing what

Holley said. "As I have said, we're on the same boat and we have the same goal. So why should I just

listen to you? Who do you think you are?" They were rivals back then so it was just normal for them to

have resentments toward each other.

But how could they work together if they still acted like this?

Holley sneered and said to Leila, "You can call that man who told you to come here if you don't believe

me."

Leila hesitated for a moment but eventually called Ferry. Unfortunately, Ferry just confirmed what

Holley told her. She felt so bad. "Why should I listen to her?" What Ferry replied seemed to be

unacceptable because she firmly shouted, "No! I couldn't do it!"

What she needed was someone to help her, not a boss to only give her orders.

"Leila!" Ferry rebuked her. "You need her help to achieve your goal. Think it over. I have already given

you the easiest way. But if you want to waste your time and energy looking for other ways, go ahead!"

Ferry paused for a moment and continued, "If you want Yvonne to help you, you must listen to her. Take

her orders as mine. If I come to know that you make your own move, I wouldn't let you go!"

"Oh, I have forgotten something," Ferry added. "You have lost Charlie now. That means, you have also

lost your chance to be with Charles. That must have made your goal more difficult to achieve. So, why

not give it a try if you could make it without my help."

Leila was convinced by Ferry's words. She frowned while Ferry was still trying to persuade

her, "Everything would change if you cooperate with Yvonne. She's the future wife of BM Corporation

CEO. She has the wealth and the position that you need. And even Autumn is working for her so it

would be easy for her to help you achieve your desire."

Ferry left some time for Leila to decide. A little while later, Leila agreed and said, "Fine! I would listen to

her. I'd do anything for her as long as she could help me."

"Okay, that's it!" Ferry said with satisfaction. Then he urged her, "Now, go back and talk to her. It's your time to make a plan together."

Chapter 610 Reaching An Agreement

After Ferry hung up, Leila took a deep breath. She came over and sat in front of Holley. Ordering two cups of coffee, she said, "Come on! Tell me what you are going to do next."

Leaning back in her chair, Holley looked at Leila and said in a playful tone, "Well, so you now believe what I have said, huh?"

"Stop this nonsense, Yvonne!" Leila snorted and said, "Even if I have to follow your instructions now, it does not mean I'll do it forever. My current bad luck will change for the better at another time. You might

have to follow my instructions some day in the future, who knows?"

Mentally she took an oath that if she became Mrs. Lu, she would find an opportunity to humiliate Holley.

Holley was an escaped prisoner. On this score at least, Leila felt she was better than Holley.

"Stop dreaming. You'll never get bigger or superior to me!" Holley snorted and taking a sip of coffee.

She continued, "Listen! From now on, keep in mind all I have told you.

Stop calling me Yvonne. Remember I am Holley Ye. I am not Yvonne and have nothing to do with that name.

Besides, don't come to meet me without my permission. You can send a message to me, and I'll call you back when it's convenient.

And one more thing, whatever I say or do is none of your business. If you happen to meet me anywhere, pretend you don't know me. And you must diligently fulfill all tasks I assign to you, understand?" Holley ordered her like a boss. Leila resented this but she could do nothing. She agreed reluctantly.

"Alright, fine. I got it," she answered awkwardly.

She looked at Holley's delicate face and idly wondered whether Charles would pay more attention to her if she changed herself to resemble Sheryl by means of plastic surgery.

This idea took root in her mind and she couldn't help asking, "Yvonne... sorry, I mean Holley! Is plastic surgery very expensive? Do you think I should change my appearance by plastic surgery to look like Autumn? Would Charles fall in love with me then?"

"Stop dreaming!" Holley said harshly. "Even if you change your face to a fairy's, Charles would never

be attracted by you. Autumn is the only woman he has ever loved."

Holley couldn't suppress her anger when she thought about this. God was so unfair! Why was Sheryl so lucky and blessed with all the good things in the world?

She snorted in anger and disgust. Since she had come back, she would never give Sheryl a break. She would slowly but surely take away everything from Sheryl until she had nothing left. Then she would knock her down and defeat her totally.

"As long as Autumn is alive, you will never have a chance to win Charles' heart," Holley sneered. "So, don't count on it."

"Autumn... Autumn!" Leila said, gritting her teeth in frustration. "If it were not for that bitch, I would be living happily with Charles. She has disappeared for three years. Oh, why did she return?"

Holley said coldly, "You should ask yourself this question, Leila. Three years ago, you had such a good opportunity to get rid of Autumn. However she is still alive today. Why?"

"I..." Leila didn't have a reply for Holley. It was all because of her negligence that Sheryl was still living.

"Forget it. I'm not here to blame you," Holley said as she shook her hand. "Our final goal is to get rid of

Autumn. In a way, it is good that she is still alive, because she will soon helplessly watch her precious things being taken away one by one. It will be something she has never experienced earlier in her whole life."

Overcome by intense hatred, Holley sneered. It was time to have Sheryl taste the same bitterness she had experienced.

"Holley!" Hesitating a little, Leila said, "I don't care what you have planned against Autumn, but I won't let you hurt Charles."

Holley snorted. She looked at Leila, feeling sorry for her. It had been so many years, yet she was still so impractical and na?ve.

She was still under the illusion that Charles would fall in love with her if Sheryl was not around.

It was so pathetic and ridiculous!

Holley didn't want to waste her time discussing her plans with Leila. She said with a sarcastic smile, "Don't worry. I just want to get rid of Autumn, not anybody else."

You can decide how to deal with Charles. I will not interfere in that."

"Please keep your word," Leila said, feeling relieved. Earlier, Holley used to be her rival in love, so she

was afraid she would fight her for Charles.

"Then, congratulations on our mutual cooperation and agreement!" Holley stood up and reached out to

Leila. Leila too stood up. Standing in front of Holley who was wearing all branded clothes, she felt a

little insecure.

Three years had passed. It seemed that only she was left trailing behind and had stagnated. She must

fast forward her life to catch up with them.

She squared her shoulders and shook hands with Holley. "To our successful alliance and cooperation!"

she said.

She felt more confident with Holley's support. Seeing Holley turn and about to leave, Leila hurriedly

blocked her way by stretching out her hand.

Holley frowned at her and haughtily asked, "Leila, is there anything else to discuss? What is it?"

"I..." Leila withdrew her hand awkwardly. "I don't have any excuse to approach Charles. Can you give

me some advice on what I should do next."

"Wow, looks you can't wait to snatch Charles from Autumn!" Holley teased. Seeing Leila's impatient

look, she immediately figured out what was on Leila's mind.

Leila had almost lost everything for the man she loved. If she failed to win Charles from Sheryl, she

would have nothing left in the world.

So this was a do or die game for her.