

Wedded Bride 611

Chapter 611 I Couldn't Afford To Wait

Leila shot Holley a glance and said, "Unlike you, I have to stick with this relationship. I couldn't go back.

I have no other option but to move forward courageously."

She stared at Holley who was in front of her. Then she continued, "You are living a pretty good life. And

you may have already forgotten Charles, but I'm different. I have given all my love to him. I would die if

I couldn't have him."

No wonder why Leila was willing to cooperate with Holley and obey her orders.

"I couldn't afford to wait," Leila said indifferently. The longer it would take, the slimmer the chance she

could have. She couldn't just wait. She had to make some move.

Looking at Leila, Holley suddenly felt sorry for her. 'Such a poor woman!' After hesitating for a moment,

Holley said, "Since Charles took your son away from you, why don't you do the same thing to him. Why

don't you take his daughter away?"

As expected, Leila's eyes lit when she heard Holley's suggestion.

Holley was right. As long as she had Shirley, it would not only make Sheryl anxious but she could also

make a deal with Charles. She would trade Shirley for Charlie. If she could have Charlie back, she

would have a chance again.

"Thank you so much," she gratefully said. All possibilities suddenly dawned on her so she thanked Holley many times.

Holley didn't say a word any more. She just put on her sunglasses and left.

While in the car and looking at the view outside the window, Holley couldn't help but let out a sigh.

If she hadn't chosen to go to South Korea, would she be also like Leila who was desperately trying to get Charles now? Fair is foul and foul is fair. Some people would be willing to do anything, even to degrade themselves, just to be with the person they loved.

But would it really be worth living without dignity?

"Miss Ye, we're here," the driver said. Holley's wandering thoughts went back to the present when she heard the driver. She didn't notice that the car had already stopped in front of the apartment building.

This apartment, which was more than 300 square meters, was just bought by George two days ago.

And he had put the property ownership certificate under Holley's name.

George treated her so well that she really cherished the life she was living at present.

Holley unlocked the door and got out of the car. When she entered the room, she found George preparing dinner. It was kimchi rice, her favorite. Since George was busy and didn't notice her, she held his waist from behind.

"You're back," George acknowledged without lifting his head. "I made your favorite pickled roast pork.

Go wash your hands and taste it," he added with a smile.

Holley didn't move. Instead, she held George's waist tightly.

George noticed that Holley seemed acting strange. He turned to face her. "What's going on?" he asked.

"Nothing," Holley answered in a low voice. "I just suddenly realized that I was so lucky to have met you.

It's so nice to have you."

"Silly woman." George held her back and kissed her on the head. His voice was especially gentle.

Holley held him even tighter. She felt so lucky that she didn't need to be like Leila.

"Oh, Holley." All of sudden, George became serious. Then he said, "Mom called me today."

"And?" Holley froze for a second when she heard George mentioned his mother. She then let go of

George and poured herself a glass of water, trying to hide her nervousness. She asked, "What did she

want this time?"

"Holley, please be polite. She's my mother." George slightly furrowed his eyebrows and said to

Holley, "No matter what, you shouldn't be rude to her."

"What else can I do?" Holley sneered. "George, we've been together for two years now but your mother

hasn't accepted me as your girlfriend yet. She ignored my presence every time. No matter how hard I

tried to please her, she didn't care at all. She kept on introducing you to some billionaire's daughters.

She wouldn't want me to be her daughter-in-law. What do you want me to do?"

"Holley..." George knew that he was in the wrong so he pulled Holley's hand awkwardly. "No matter

what my mother would like to do, what's important is we are together. You must have known how well

I've been treating you. It's unnecessary for you to argue with her."

Holley took a sip of water to conceal her anxiety. She was afraid that her steady life, which she had

worked hard to obtain, would just be ruined by that old witch.

She put the glass down and hugged George. "Honey, I'm just worried. I'm scared that you might break

up with me because of her."

"Don't worry, I wouldn't," George assured her. George reached out his hand to caress Holley's back

and assured her, "No matter what happens in the future, I won't break up with you."

Holley leaned on his chest and said like a spoiled girl, "I want you to promise me."

"Okay, I promise," George said without hesitation. "No matter what, I'm with you," he added.

George's promise made Holley less worried. She cast a glance at George and asked, "Then, why did

she call you?"

"She said she would be here in Y City in two days and she'd like to pay me a visit," George replied in a

casual tone. Then he added, "Honey, I could tell from the way she talked earlier that she has changed. I

guess she has given up. I think we should take this chance to let her know you better. I want her to

know how gentle and considerate my girlfriend is."

George's face beamed when he said those words. He circled Holley's waist with his one hand. "After

all, she's my mother so I hope you could understand and tolerate if something happened."

"But..." Holley protested. She had already used all her skills to please George's mother who just simply

didn't like her. So now, she didn't know what else she could do.

Holley started to feel uneasy just thinking of George's mother's future visit to Y City. She had a strong

feeling that something would happen.

George told Holley that his mother might have already accepted her as his girlfriend. But Holley

doubted it. It might just be a cover-up.

Chapter 612 Holley's Instigation

"Fine!" Holley had no other choice but to give in. George knew that Holley was only compelled to agree

because of him. So he also tried to console her, "Whatever her reasons of coming here, I would always

be with you. Let's face all the problems together."

Then he added, "I have been wanting to marry you since then. I think I should do it as soon as possible.

So please, just be more patient for now. Please do it for me." George pleaded in a tender tone.

Holley sighed and said, "Fine. I'll try."

Holley ate just a little for dinner because she would go to the bar with some models of the company.

George asked his driver to take Holley to the bar and then he went back to the company to deal with

some matters.

On the other hand, Sheryl wasn't able to come to the bar so Sue came alone. But since Sue was

Sheryl's best friend, she received an indifferent treatment from all of their colleagues. Because of that,

Sue decided to just sit in one corner by herself.

When Holley greeted the models, she noticed Sue in the corner. She walked towards her and

asked, "Why are you here alone?"

"Hi, Miss Ye," Sue greeted her. Sue always found Holley's behavior strange. Right now, she felt that

Holley approached her because of a hidden purpose.

"Are you Sheryl's best friend?" Holley asked. She prompted the waiter and ordered two glasses of

cocktail for them. Her voice sounded friendly and calm.

"Yes, I am." Sue nodded. Then she asked Holley, "Miss Ye, why did you want to know?"

Holley shrugged. "Just out of curiosity, nothing more." Holley wore a smile all the while. "Since you're

Sheryl's best friend, you definitely know many things about her, right?"

"Yes," Sue answered in puzzlement. She couldn't help but frown. She sensed that Holley was

interested in Sheryl so she said, "What do you want to ask me? Just go ahead."

"Nothing really important, actually," Holley answered. The smile never escaped her beautiful face. Then

she continued, "I'm just worried about Sheryl. As a single mother, why didn't she marry someone?"

"She has a boyfriend," Sue confirmed. Her brow arched just naturally.

"Is it the man who came with her in the hotel?" Holley inquired. When Sue didn't answer, Holley added, "He's very handsome and he also has a kid. I think they are perfect for each other. If they got married, they would have a warm and happy family."

"I think you have misunderstood, Miss Ye." Sue realized that the man Holley was talking about was Charles. So she explained, "That man isn't Sher's boyfriend. He is just a friend and Sher doesn't even know him that much. Sher's boyfriend is currently in the US for some business, but he'll be back in a few days. I will introduce him to you if you'd want."

Sue felt uncomfortable when Holley mentioned Charles. She didn't want Sheryl to be associated to that man so she told Holley, "Sher's boyfriend is a good guy. He loves Sher and her daughter so much. They are very happy together."

"Oh, really? That's wonderful!" Holley plastered a fake smile on her face. Holley had investigated everything about Sheryl thoroughly including her best friend, Sue. She found out that Sue had a crush on Anthony so she was planning to instigate a conflict between the two women. In that case, when Sheryl had nobody to turn to, she could destroy her effortlessly.

"But I think..." Holley paused for a moment trying to sound worried. "Maybe it's just my gut feeling, but I feel that Sheryl is in love with that man. I can see that her eyes are full of affection every time she looks at him. To be honest, if you didn't tell me just now, I really thought that he was her boyfriend."

Sue grasped the glass tightly as she heard Holley's words.

She felt very sad because she didn't want to see Anthony and Sheryl break up. And, if Sheryl did love another man, Anthony would be heartbroken.

"Do you know Sheryl's boyfriend?" Holley asked on purpose.

Sue nodded her head slightly and said, "We have known each other abroad. We are good friends."

"So... what kind of a person is he?" Holley asked another question. But then she immediately added, "Please don't get me wrong. I'm just curious so I want to know what kind of a man does Sheryl like."

It was very noisy in the bar but Sue felt it became quiet when she thought of Anthony. Anthony's appearance came into her mind and her face lightened. Then she said, "He is a kind and warmhearted man. He does a very good job in taking care of Sher and her daughter. He could be a perfect husband."

Holley commented, "If you've met him before Sheryl did, maybe you're his girlfriend right now and not Sheryl." Holley sneered and added, "Anyway, I couldn't find any signs that Sheryl loves him. It would be a pity if he marries a woman who doesn't truly love him."

"You've got to be kidding me, Miss Ye," Sue said. Sue was astonished as she heard Holley's words.

She looked at Holley's face to confirm if she was serious. To her relief, Holley's facial expression clearly showed that she was just kidding. Then she heaved a deep sigh and said in a serious tone, "Sheryl and Anthony have been already together before I met them. Moreover, Sher and I are best friends. So how could I even think of stealing her boyfriend?"

To tell the truth, Sue had once thought about the possibility of being with Anthony. But she did her best to drive that idea out of her mind.

First, she knew that Anthony didn't love her at all. Second, she could see that Sheryl and Anthony were happy together so she couldn't have the heart to tear them apart.

However, Holley's prodding seemed to lead Sue to a realization. She suddenly realized that her feelings for Anthony had never changed even though she had just kept it hiding inside her heart for

many years.

Her heart seemed to have awoken and she couldn't keep the feelings hidden anymore.

"I was just kidding. Don't take it serious." Holley pretended to take her words back. But she also added, "Personally, I still think that man with a kid is more suited to Sheryl. After all, if they could be together, you will have the chance to be with Anthony."

"Miss Ye!" Sue urged her to stop. She didn't want to talk about this further with Holley so she said with finality in her voice, "Anthony is Sheryl's boyfriend and I would never come between them whether they break up or not."

She cast a cold glimpse at Holley first before she added, "Please never say those unbecoming words again."

"Okay, I won't say them again," Holley promised. "Let's have a drink now."

Holley secretly smiled maliciously. She felt victorious that her little tricks worked. Now, she could be certain that Sue really loved Anthony. If not, she would have just told Holley straight.

But Sue didn't. She just kept on defending Sheryl and Anthony in front of Holley. She only stressed the importance of her friendship with Sheryl that she couldn't betray her.

Chapter 613 You Are Strange

Holley smiled wryly and thought, 'It seems that Sue truly loves Anthony. Maybe, I could use her sometime to do something.'

In Zhao family house

The house was empty for years, but the housemaid kept cleaning it regularly. It was in such a clean condition that the Zhao family could move into the house, at any point of time.

Shirley felt a little tired after playing with Rick as she was just recovering from the severe illness. So

Abby carried her to the room for a nap. Cindy and Rick kept silent for fear of waking her up.

"Mom, will Autumn take Shirley away later?" Cindy asked Abby as she silently walked out of the room and closed the door gently. Abby smiled and softly replied, "Don't worry. Autumn will come here and check on Shirley."

As soon as Abby took Cindy downstairs, Andy came back.

"How come you are back so early today?" Abby enquired in surprise. Zhao family didn't live in Y City.

However, Andy still had business here. For the last couple of days he had been so busy in his work that he came back very late every day. That was why Abby was surprised to see him back early.

Andy had intentionally come back earlier today. He hadn't been able to spend time with his wife and children for many days. He put an arm around Abby and said, "I finished my work earlier than expected.

So I decided to come back home to spend time with you. Why don't we freshen up and go out for dinner?"

Saying this, Andy turned round and quickly moved to go upstairs. Abby hastily grabbed his arm and said, "Don't go upstairs. Shirley is sleeping now."

"Shirley?" Andy paused in puzzlement. He could not remember who Shirley was.

"Yes, Shirley. She is Autumn's daughter and is sleeping in our room. She will get disturbed if you go in there." Abby explained Shirley's identity to Andy in a soft voice.

She continued, "Shirley has just fallen asleep. I don't want her to wake up because of any noise."

"But why is she here?" Andy asked, still puzzled. Concerned, Andy thought that the matter was getting out of hand.

'Anthony brought Shirley to me once. At that time we did not know Sheryl would reunite with Charles again, so both of us spoke freely in front of Shirley. It is possible that Shirley will recognize me, ' Andy thought and was worried about it.

"As you know, Shirley was ill several days ago," Abby explained, not realizing Andy's predicament.

"Mom delivered food for both Sheryl and Shirley in those days. This afternoon Autumn had to attend a meeting and couldn't take care of Shirley. So Mom brought her here," she added. Abby paused on seeing Andy's expression.

Andy's eyes narrowed. He asked Abby angrily, "What? How can you just take care of and be responsible for some other person's child?"

"Andy, what's wrong with you?" a puzzled Abby inquired. "You are really strange ever since we came back here. Why are you calling Shirley 'some other person's child'? She is Autumn's daughter."

Looking at Andy, she continued, "There was no one to take care of Shirley. Mom couldn't just leave her helpless, could she? And why are you reacting in such a weird manner?"

"I just..." Andy didn't know how to explain it to Abby. Actually he was just very worried about facing Shirley when she awoke.

'If Shirley recognizes me, what will I do?' Andy felt increasingly worried.

"What's wrong with both of you? Why are you suddenly quarrelling with each other?" Amy quickly

walked out of the kitchen on hearing them argue. She had been cooking several delicious dishes when she heard them fight. She asked Abby, "Where is Shirley?"

"She is sleeping upstairs," Abby politely replied. Still enraged at Andy, she said, "Mom, let me help you cook."

Ignoring Andy she went to the kitchen and seethed silently at Andy's unreasonable behaviour.

Catching a glimpse of Abby's angry face, Amy asked Abby, "What happened? Were you both quarreling just now?"

Andy was always so nice to Abby and never upset with her. They never had any fights. The small quarrel today left Amy confused.

"No, we were not fighting," Abby replied gloomily. "We just spoke a little louder than usual. Don't worry."

She tried to reassure Amy.

Abby didn't reveal the reason of their argument.

"As a couple you should resolve everything together. Later you must peacefully sort out whatever issue you have with Andy. Don't quarrel," Amy advised Abby.

"Okay, I know what to do." Abby nodded. Even if Amy had said nothing, she knew she had to talk to

Andy. He was behaving in a very weird manner these days.

"Mom, when is Autumn likely to come?" Abby attempted to change the topic.

Amy sliced a tomato and said, "She should be coming soon. She said she was on the way when I called her just now."

"That's great," Abby replied delightedly. Taking some fruits from the fridge, Abby washed and sliced them. She carried the fruits out to Andy and found him sitting on the sofa. He was staring blankly at the wall and seemed to be lost in his thoughts.

As she approached, Andy saw her and hastily grasped her hand. He tried to explain, "Abby, please don't be upset. I didn't mean to hurt you."

"So what was the meaning of your words?" Abby unhappily shook off Andy's hand. Angrily she questioned him, "What has happened to you? You have been so weird recently."

"I..." Andy struggled to give a satisfactory reply. His secret fear couldn't be told to Abby. So he had to bury it in his mind and heart and never reveal it to Abby.

"I am too stressed from doing too many things in the company. I am somewhat tired these days. Please

bear with me." Andy tightly squeezed her arm.

"Are you really..." Just as Abby wanted to ask Andy more about this, the doorbell rang. Resigned, she glared at Andy and finally got up saying, "I will get to the bottom of this later on."

"Is it Autumn?" Amy walked out from the kitchen and asked excitedly.

"Let me open the door and find out, Mom," Abby replied. Abby opened the door and found Sheryl standing on her doorstep with many gifts in her arms.

On seeing Abby, Sheryl paused for a moment. Then she remembered that they had met each other once before in front of a breakfast stall. Feeling shy, Sheryl said to Abby, "Excuse me, is Amy at home?"

"Yes, yes, she is home. Please come in," Abby enthusiastically replied. She moved aside to let Sheryl enter.

Sheryl came in and looked around for Shirley. Amy walked up to her and smilingly complained on

seeing the many gifts, "There is really no need to bring so many gifts!"

Chapter 614 An Empty Room

Sheryl stretched her hand towards Amy to hand over the gift she had brought for her. "It's a thank you gift," Sheryl said with a bright smile on her face. "You've been really kind and benevolent in helping me

out in my hour of need lately. You don't know how much I appreciate you, Amy. I bought these as a token of my gratitude. I hope you will accept it," she added as she handed the gift to Amy.

Amy looked at Sheryl with loving eyes as she took the parcel from her hand. "Well, that's very sweet, but you really don't have to do that," Amy said as she ushered Sheryl inside her house. "Please make yourself comfortable. Treat this like your own house." When they entered the living room, Amy told her daughter, "Abby, please entertain Sheryl for me. I'll make a soup for the dinner." Then she turned to Sheryl and added, "Have a seat, Sheryl. Dinner is almost ready. Dine with us tonight."

"No, Amy," Sheryl hurriedly declined Amy's invitation. "I just came here to pick Shirley up. I really can't disturb you any more."

"You are not disturbing me," Amy said firmly. "Eat some fruit now and go back after having dinner with us," she spoke in a stern yet emphatic tone. "You may not know that I'm a good cook. Please don't stand on ceremony. Take your seat. It will make me happy if you treat this like your own house," Amy repeated herself.

Unwilling to disappoint Amy, Sheryl nodded her head in acceptance of her invitation to stay for dinner.

Amy gave a satisfying smile and walked towards the kitchen. Abby pulled Sheryl onto the couch. Andy,

who was also sitting quietly on the couch, looked at her with a welcoming smile.

They were seeing her just after three years yet Andy felt that it had been a century since they had last met.

"Oh, let me introduce you to my family," Abby said delightedly. "This is my husband, Andy Xu, and these are my two children." She pointed to Andy, and then to Cindy and Rick.

Cindy looked straight at Sheryl with her big black eyes. She felt an urge to run to Sheryl and hug her crying Autumn. But she remained silent as she had been instructed by her mother to call her Sher. It was Autumn right in front of her eyes and no one else. But still the girl obeyed her mother. She passed a polite smile and kept looking at Sheryl.

As for Sheryl, she could not move her eyes from Cindy. She felt a very strong sense of familiarity with this girl as if she had met her before. She took Cindy's hand and inquired affectionately, "Hello, what's your name?"

"Cindy, I'm Cindy," Cindy replied in a clear voice, showing no sign of timidity.

Rick standing next to Cindy gave a shy smile as he watched Sheryl. Sheryl could feel that the boy

wanted to come close to her but he was hesitant.

She then waved at Rick which gave him the courage to walk towards her. He went straight into her

arms and gazed at her face in an unwavering manner. Sheryl felt a familiar warmth with these two kids.

She had felt so happy and contented in this way for a long time. There was something about this house

and these people that gave her a very home like feeling. All of a sudden, she remembered Shirley. "Oh,

Abby, where's Shirley? Why is she not here?" she asked looking around the living room.

"She's sleeping upstairs," Abby answered gently. "She fell asleep just before you came. Maybe,

because she was tired from playing with Cindy and Rick. Don't worry. Let her sleep for a while and then

we will call her over for dinner."

"It's very kind of you. Thank you very much," Sheryl said expressing her gratitude. "But for your kind

help, I really didn't know what I should do today."

"All right, all right, that's enough. Stop saying 'thank you'. It hasn't been half an hour since you have

walked inside the doors, but you've said thank you a million times," Abby teased. "Shirley and I get

along really well. I really like your girl."

As they chatted, Sheryl felt more and more relaxed due to the easy way that the Zhao family treated

her. She felt as if she had known them for a long time. "Shirley must have troubled you this afternoon.

She's a bit of a rebel. I shouldn't have spoiled her."

"Not at all," Abby denied instantly. "She had a great time with Rick and was very obedient. She didn't bother me at all."

After a moment's pause, she took a look at Sheryl and said in a gentle voice, "I heard from my mom that you don't have family or friends in Y City. So, when you go to work, Shirley is left unattended. How about this? In case of such an emergency next time, you just send Shirley to me. Taking care of two children is about the same as taking care of three."

Sheryl felt embarrassed and thankful at the same time in the face of such an offer made by Abby. "How could I bother you..." Sheryl tried to refuse this offer of help but Abby interrupted her, "Don't be so polite

with me please. From now on, please just treat us like your own family."

Abby's enthusiasm made Sheryl feel so overwhelmed that she could not refuse her.

While they were talking, Arthur came back. The moment he got the first glance of Sheryl, his heart pounded. He was eager to take his granddaughter in his arms. It had been such a long time... almost

three years. He had never thought that he would be able to see her face again in his lifetime. Then he remembered what Amy had told him and regained his composure.

Abby stood up and introduced, "Sheryl, this is my father, Arthur Zhao. He used to be a doctor. The director who treated Shirley used to be my father's subordinate."

"No wonder..." Sheryl suddenly realized why the director took Shirley's illness so seriously. She stood up and thanked Arthur, "Doctor Zhao, about Shirley's illness... Thank you for your help, otherwise I really wouldn't know what to do."

"You're welcome. That's not a big deal," Arthur said, waving his hand. "Just sit. Don't be so courteous."

Arthur took a glass of water and continued, "My wife already told me that you paid for her breakfast that day. If it hadn't been for you, she'd have been a disgrace."

"Not at all..." Sheryl felt a little embarrassed. "Compared to the helping hand you have extended for me and my daughter, it's really nothing."

Just as Arthur brought in the context of the breakfast, a question popped out in Sheryl's mind. She frowned her brows and asked, "But... your house is a little far from where I stay. Why did Amy go to buy

breakfast all the way to that place that day?"

Her question came very spontaneously and absolutely out of the blue that made each one of them quiver and freeze.

Thanks to Abby's presence of mind and prompt reply, Sheryl didn't get suspicious of them. "Why would my mom go out of her way to buy breakfast so far from home without any reason? We went to see a friend the other day and forgot to have breakfast. So she bought breakfast there and it so happened that we met you," Abby explained.

"So it seems that we are destined to meet," Abby concluded with a smile.

Her funny words made all the people present in the room have a hearty laugh. The family's collective effort to make Sheryl feel convinced about their accidental meeting succeeded. Amy came out of the kitchen and asked, "What are you talking about? You all look so happy."

When everyone stopped laughing, she announced, "Dinner is ready." Then she turned to Abby and said, "Abby, take Sheryl upstairs to wake Shirley."

"Okay," Abby replied and told Sheryl, "come with me, Sheryl." As Abby led Sheryl upstairs, Sheryl walked passed a room downstairs that felt very familiar, as if there was something in the room she

knew. She paused outside that room and stared at its closed door. What lied behind this closed door?

What was it that made her so curious about this room? Sheryl stood there wondering why a room in a house she had visited for the first time pulled her towards it.

Abby marked the dilemma that Sheryl was going through. She decided to stand there in silence and wait for Sheryl's reaction. After a while she asked, "What's the matter, Sheryl?"

"Abby... " Sheryl stood at the door. After hesitating for a long while, she asked, "What's in this room?"

"Oh, this room..." Abby stared at Sheryl for a few seconds trying to read her mind. She wondered if

Sheryl had remembered the past.

"It was one of my elders' room, but she passed away three years ago. So it is empty now."

"Oh, really?" Sheryl glanced at the closed door in disbelief. 'Why do I feel I have been in this room before?' she wondered.

"Let's go," Abby urged and pulled Sheryl's hands.

Shirley was still sleeping when they came to the room where she rested. Sheryl walked to the bed and woke Shirley up. "Sher, you're here to pick me up," she said, rubbing her sleepy eyes.

Chapter 615 A Nursery School For Shirley

Looking at Shirley's cute expression, Abby smiled and said, "Oh yeah sweetie, Sher is here to pick you up."

The kid was so glad to see her mother. Sheryl helped her daughter fix her shoes and tenderly urged, "Let's go. downstairs."

When the three came down the stairs, the dinner was already served on the table. The Zhao family was waiting for them to join in. Amy stood up and happily invited, "Come on, let's have dinner together."

Unable to refuse their hospitality, Sheryl sat around the table with Shirley.

The meal ended up in a merry exchange of words and laughter. Shirley didn't recognize Andy, which was a great relief to the latter.

After they had dinner, Andy drove the mother and daughter to their house. Abby tagged along with Andy. After parking the car in front of the apartment, Andy and Abby watched them as they went up the stairs. When Sheryl and her daughter were out of sight, Abby didn't urge her husband to leave immediately. Instead, she turned to Andy and spoke in a serious tone, "Can we have a talk now?"

With a quick glance at Abby, Andy replied, "I have already made myself clear to you. What else do you want to know?"

"Please be honest with me. What's up, Andy? Why have you acted so weird in front of Shirley? I

avoided asking you back home because I didn't want mom and dad to hear us argue," Abby said frankly.

"Abby...." Andy faltered with a hesitant expression. Even though he hated lying to his wife, he had no choice but to keep her in the dark about his secret with Anthony. He took Abby's hand and explained in a mellowed voice, "I've had tons of work to deal with recently, so I have been a little anxious. Besides, Sheryl really lost her memory. I was actually stunned when just like that, Mom directly brought Shirley to our house. I was afraid that Sheryl might remember and worse, suspect that she's related to us."

"It's not a big deal Andy," Abby returned, as she narrowed her eyes. "She is Autumn. We both know that. So far, she is our closest kin in this world. If she has any doubts towards us, why don't we just tell her the truth?"

"I... It didn't occur to me," Andy responded, looking away to avoid his wife's gaze. Embarrassed, Andy looked back at Abby. "Abby, come on! Just forgive me this time. It won't happen again," he said apologetically.

"Is that all? Are you sure?" Abby asked, incredulous. "That's all, I promise," Andy swore earnestly.

Abby was still skeptical about her husband's words, but she chose to believe him. Smiling, Andy went

on, "I know you're dying to bring Autumn back, but you need to be patient." After a pause, he

suggested, "After Anthony is back, how about we treat Autumn and him to a meal?"

"I couldn't agree more. I want to have a talk with Anthony and figure out what happened to Autumn in

the past three years," Abby replied excitedly.

Sheryl needed to work and Anthony was abroad. She found it hard to take care of her daughter alone.

Therefore, she decided to take Shirley out that morning to search for a nursery school. As soon as

Sheryl opened the door of the apartment, she suddenly caught sight of Amy.

Taking notice that Sheryl was going out with Shirley, Amy asked curiously, "Where are you going?"

"Hi, Amy," Sheryl greeted awkwardly, as she gave Amy a quick glance. She had no intention of letting

Amy know about her plan. 'If she knew, she would oppose to it, ' she thought.

"I..." Sheryl mumbled. Before she could say another word, her daughter opened her mouth. "Grandma

Amy, Mom is going to find a nursery for me," Shirley cut in.

"Shirley!" Sheryl growled with furrowed eyebrows. She grabbed Shirley and gave her a reproachful

glance.

With a stern look, Amy began in a dissatisfied tone, "I thought we had made a deal. I will help you look after Shirley when you don't have time. Why did you suddenly decide to find her a nursery?"

"I... I just... I don't want to bother you again," Sheryl expounded as if she were a child who was caught making a mistake. "Once I find a nursery, I can pick her up after I finish from work. In this way, you won't be bothered by looking after Shirley."

"I don't agree," Amy said firmly. Frowning, she lectured, "Haven't you read the latest news? Child abuse often happens in a nursery. Shirley is too young. How can you make such a rush and careless decision?"

Amy's disapproving tone left Sheryl stunned. Of course, she had heard about those stories. However, she couldn't think of a better idea than sending her daughter to a nursery.

"I'll just send Shirley there for a couple of days, Amy. After Anthony comes back, he can look after her,"

Sheryl instantly rationalized to put Amy at ease.

"I don't think it's a good idea," Amy voiced out her opinion with a resolute expression. Understanding

Sheryl's concern, she went on persuasively, "Stop being so formal with me. You don't need to worry about Shirley once she is with me. After work, you can come to my house and take her home. Isn't that the best idea?"

"But..." Sheryl stammered. Since Amy was her elder, she thought it was improper to argue with the kind lady. But she still thought that if her daughter was in a nursery, she wouldn't be burdened with gratitude.

After all, she would pay the nursery fee for Shirley.

"Well, that's the deal," Amy said in a decided manner. "Luckily, I came here to bring you some steamed stuffed buns I made this morning. Otherwise, I would never have known your plan," she continued, looking a little angry.

Amy handed the bag to Sheryl while saying, "Put this in the fridge. I will take Shirley with me. When you're off duty, you can come and pick her up. From today on, I will come here in the morning and take her to my house, what do you think?"

"Well... I don't know what to say. Thank you." Sheryl finally agreed.

After Shirley left with Amy, Sheryl walked into the house. After taking two buns out of the bag, she put

the rest in the refrigerator. She placed the two buns into the oven. As the buns were ready, she went to Sue's apartment with the buns and a cup of cereal.

The previous night, Holley gave a big treat. No one dared to leave early. Sue didn't go home until over three o'clock the following morning. The moment she arrived home, she went straight to her room, nonchalantly laid on the bed and quickly fell asleep. She was so sleepy that she didn't even bother to remove her make-up.

When Sue heard someone knock on her apartment's door, she reluctantly sprang out of the bed and opened the door. Seeing Sheryl standing at the door, she whined in her lazy voice, "Sher, couldn't you come later? I'm damn sleepy."

"Mimi, do you know what time it is now?" Sheryl queried as she pointed to the wall clock. "It's already late. Get up, you sleepy head! We have a rehearsal a little later this morning."

Sue sprawled herself into the large sofa. "Can't I just stay home? I'm so drowsy!" she complained.

"I understand that you are sleepy," Sheryl replied, as she helped Sue get up. "Look at yourself. You slept without removing your make-up. Are you crazy?" Sheryl continued.

"OMG!" Sue screeched. Sheryl's words reminded her that she was still wearing make-up. Her loud

screach almost blew the roof off her apartment. She abruptly sprinted to the bathroom.

Sheryl helped Sue clean up her room. She then spotted a familiar picture on the couch. She discreetly picked it up and put it back in Sue's dresser.

Chapter 616 I'm Screwed

Sue walked out of the bathroom after she spruced herself up. She hugged Sheryl tightly and kissed her cheek hard. "If I were a man, I would marry you without a second thought. You are going to be a perfect wife and mother, something of a rarity."

"Quit it," Sheryl stated shyly. She felt quite lucky to have Sue in her life. Sheryl smiled and informed her, "Amy made these stuffed steamed buns. I just reheated them. Come and eat some while they're warm. Hurry up. It's nearly time for work."

"I'll be right there," replied Sue excitedly. As soon as Sue finished breakfast, Sheryl straightened up her room. Then they got ready to leave. Sue had a lot on her mind that day. She couldn't stop complaining while they were waiting for a taxi. "It's quite an inconvenience not having a car. I could handle it while I was abroad, but now I can't anymore. How about you join me in looking for a car this week?"

"You really want to buy a car? Just like that?" Sheryl asked in surprise. She didn't think Sue had given it

enough thought. Buying a car was not an overnight decision.

"Yeah, why? Do you find it strange that I want a car?" Sue was a bit confused. "No..." said Sheryl while slightly shaking her head.

Sue felt the hesitation in her voice. So, with an inquisitive look, Sue encouraged her to elaborate.

Sheryl got her hint and continued, "I just think the decision comes out of the blue. That's all."

"Oh, actually I didn't decide on a whim at all," Sue began explaining. She glanced at Sheryl to confirm she was following her, and then went on explaining, "I really felt out of my element abroad all the time. Dependable transportation would have made my life a lot easier. But it didn't make sense to buy a car there. However, now... well, now I have a house which gives me a sense of stability in some way. So, I feel like this is the right moment to buy a car. Also in the future, if everything goes well for me, I want to bring my parents to live with me."

Sue then hugged Sheryl with a smile and added, "Unlike you, I have no children to raise. Hence, I have fewer mouths to feed and fewer things to worry about. I haven't worked out all the details yet, but I did manage to put aside a sum of money over the last few years. And by the way, after I buy a car, I'll drive you to work every day. You can count on me." Sue finished her words with a wink.

"Oh, thanks! That sounds great. I can't wait." Sheryl expressed her excitement while smiling ear to ear.

After a good while, they eventually hailed a taxi, which they jumped into right away and rushed to work.

Once they arrived at their destination, they found that everyone else was there already. The rehearsal

hall was massive, identical to a runway.

They had hosted few fashion shows there recently, so it was all ready for practice. Also, the models

came to practice their stage walk frequently, lest they become rusty.

Holley had invited Todd, who was a well-known Chinese photographer, to take pictures of the models

that day. They needed the photographs for their portfolios and business cards. Thus, the ladies got

there early with their brightest smiles on.

The makeup room was large. Everyone was getting dressed up. Sue had Type A personalities. She

began multitasking, looking into her big plan while getting ready. She googled various car models to

figure out which one was the best, while the other models were applying their makeup. Every time she

caught sight of a car which tickled her fancy, she passed the phone over to Sheryl to ask for her

feedback.

No sooner had Sheryl taken the phone from Sue than she heard a knock coming from the makeup room's door. Sue hurriedly went over to open it, only to find an unfamiliar woman standing there.

"Excuse me," said the young woman, "who is Sheryl Xia?"

"I am," Sheryl answered. She rose to her feet and saw what looked like a florist at the door. The unfamiliar lady wore an apron, and was carrying a large bouquet of roses that almost covered up her whole face.

At sight of the flowers, Sheryl turned to stone. She immediately regretted identifying herself. Flowers had never been her cup of tea. Anthony had sent her flowers before, and even though she appreciated the gesture, she made it clear to him that she'd rather see them grow in a garden, far away from her.

Thus, Anthony stopped sending them eventually.

So she knew these roses had nothing to do with him. If anything, they had everything to do with Charles. As she kept thinking more about that, her jaw clenched.

"Miss Xia, please sign for these flowers. Here you are," said the young florist, interrupting her thoughts.

She then walked over to Sheryl and handed her the paper and pen to sign.

Sheryl hesitated, pondering on how to best handle the situation. 'Should I sign for them or just reject

them?'

While she was weighing up the two options, a nearby model named Kiki snatched away the card from the flowers. She sneered at Sheryl and commented, "Woohoo, Sheryl is truly sought after. She found someone within just a few days. Spill the beans Sheryl. Who's the new admirer?"

"Perhaps she sent those roses herself," another model yelled out. "Kiki, What's on the card? Come on! Read it out loud."

"Dear..." Kiki began complying. Sheryl strained against her, frantically trying to grab the card back, but Kiki kept her out the card's reach. She clicked her tongue in exasperation and teased Sheryl, "What's the rush? I'll give it back to you after I am done with it."

"Dear Miss Xia, I couldn't take my eyes off you from the first moment I saw you. You stole my heart and now, I can't get you out of my mind. Would you give me a chance to court you? Charles Lu." Once she finished, Kiki made sure to express her dismay loud and clear. "This is unbelievable! Sheryl secretly hooked up with another man. I wonder if her boyfriend knows about this."

"Of course not," added another model in an antagonizing tone. "She's got a kid. Of course she needs to

keep it on the low. She has such a good boyfriend, but still she is not content and makes passes at other men. So appalling!"

"Don't jump to conclusions," intervened one of the girls in the back of the room. "There may be more to the story. The man is asking to court her, right? So maybe it's just him who's trying to hit on her. You don't know for sure."

"No one will go through all this trouble if they don't expect anything in return. No man makes a move unless the woman bats her eyes or throws herself at him," Kiki argued on an accusative note.

"Enough is enough!" shouted Sheryl. She had gotten fed up of sitting on the sidelines watching them smear her. She didn't care enough to stop them at first, but their remarks had gotten way below the belt. Enraged beyond measure, she revolted, "Why so mean at such a young age? It is none of your damn business what I do with my private life! Just watch your mouths. You have already gone too far."

But neither her loud, furious voice nor her fiery glances were enough to stop the models. Kiki continued to stir up her anger. "Have I really gone too far? I was just telling the truth. You're the one who disgraces yourself by doing this. Then, don't blame us for being mean."

Sheryl had to put an end to all of that. She quickly snagged the bouquet from the florist and flung it right

into a nearby trash can, without any hesitation. She then addressed the florist, "Please pass on a message to the man who sent the roses: Don't send me any more flowers, or you'll suffer the consequences."

The crowd around her started dispersing as the fight came to an end. Sheryl sat down in a rage, propping her body against Sue. Sue asked her with a slight frown, "Sher, why did Charles send you flowers?"

"I don't know," commented Sheryl angrily. "Uh! If I see him again, I'll definitely kill him."

The more she thought of the words on the card, the more sick she felt.

Upon returning to her store, the florist called David and related to him what had happened at BM Corporation. David broke out in a cold sweat as he heard the whole story. Compressing his lips into a line, he kept silent for a while and then managed to ask, "She really said that?"

After getting an affirmative answer, he politely hung up and turned to face Alice with a frightened expression. Almost in a whisper, he informed her, "Honey, I'm screwed. I messed things up so badly."

'Charles will bite my head off when he finds out, ' he kept thinking.

"What happened?" Alice approached David closer after a double take. Insistently, she inquired about it until David finally related the whole story to her.

He gave Alice a blow-by-blow account of everything, from Charles asking him for help with courting Sheryl to the failed attempt of sending her roses. He even mentioned the exact words written on that uninspired card.

Chapter 617 Admit The Mistake Honestly

Alice stared at David in a way as if she wanted to tear him apart. She was on the verge of losing her temper and had a good mind to knock him down for what he had done. However, she refrained herself and asked, "Why didn't you discuss with me about it?"

"I..." David stammered staring at Alice's eyes that had gone red with anger. He quickly lowered his head and answered, "I thought that all girls may like flowers. So..."

Alice stopped him in between and charged again, "How do you know what you thought is right? Why are you so confident with yourself?" David noticed that Alice was literally trembling in anger as she spoke.

"Forgive me, darling. I know what I did was wrong," David pleaded. "Now?" She blurted. Then she shook her hands and said, "Just keep me out of this."

You should deal with it all by yourself!" Then she added, "Why did you have to tell this to me now?"

"I... I screwed it up. I really don't know how to handle it now," David said with a helpless look on his face.

"Now you should go to Mr. Lu's office and tell him about it. Remember, make sure you sound earnest so that Mr. Lu may have some mercy on you." By this time Alice had regained her composure as she advised David in a very calm tone.

Looking at the calm expression on her face, David flared up. He frowned and asked, "Darling, do you want me to die? If Mr. Lu came to know that I made such a stupid mistake, he would not spare my life!"

"Huh!" Alice shrugged her shoulders and sneered at him once again, "You seem to know your fate already." Then she lowered her voice and added, "If you don't admit your mistake to Mr. Lu honestly, he will not spare you either. Rather, he will punish you with a more torturous method. So speaking it out frankly and accepting your guilt is the best way out.

You know how important Mrs. Lu is for Mr. Lu. What if Mrs. Lu misunderstands her husband after what you just did?" Alice pushed David to move and said, "That is exactly the reason why you should admit

to Mr. Lu. Maybe you can get his forgiveness before it causes severe aftermath."

David became a little thoughtful as he listened to Alice and then walked towards Charles' office. He stood at the door and closed his eyes as if he were saying a prayer. He gathered all courage before knocking.

"Come in!" Charles had his head buried in the laptop. He glanced over a few papers from a file kept in front of him. He looked up at David and motioned him to come in. "Have you connected the clothing factory?" he asked.

"Yes, I have," David spoke in a timid voice. David did a good job on his work and Charles trusted his ability.

However, it was too hard for David to court Sheryl for Charles.

"So what brought you here?" Charles asked in confusion.

"I..." David had his head lowered as he hesitated to speak. He cast a glance at Charles, hesitated for a long while and finally stammered, "Mr. Lu, I... I came for... something that concerns Mrs. Lu."

"Sheryl?" Charles put his pen aside and asked with a frown on his face, "What happened to her?"

"She... She is alright." David was in a panic as he saw Charles frown. He added immediately, "Mr. Lu,

you asked me to help you court Mrs. Lu, right? So I bought her a bunch of flowers and signed your name."

"And then?" Charles had predicted something wrong would happen.

David swallowed briefly and continued, "Then Mrs. Lu got angry. She told the flower shop assistant that she forbade anyone to send flowers to her from then on. And..."

"And what?" Charles shouted. In a matter of few minutes Charles' attention and focus towards his office work just vanished. He had an expression of all-crumbling-in-front-of-his-eyes as he stared at David.

David's meek and hesitant voice made him feel hopeless all the more.

"She even said that she did not want to see you any more." David closed his eyes as he finished his last words, waiting for Charles' violent rage.

But what he expected didn't happen. It was still quiet in the office and David raised his eyes to look at Charles. Charles' face was dark and looked horrible.

"Mr... Mr. Lu," David called him after hesitation. Then he admitted his fault in an apologetic manner, "It was all my fault. I know that I made a terrible mistake. And I am ready for any punishment that you feel

befits my mistake. But please don't ask me to court Mrs. Lu for you. Please. I can't make it."

After having confessed, David felt lighter. Though he waited for Charles to give his verdict on his mistake, he felt a heavy weight off his chest as he finished speaking his mind to Charles.

"Where is she now?" Charles asked him abruptly.

"Who?" David was stunned for a moment and realized that it was Sheryl he was asking about. He promptly replied, "She must be in BM Corporation now."

By that time Charles had already picked his car key and rushed out of the office in a dim face before David could even finish his words.

Seeing Charles leave, he prayed to the lord that Charles could regain his wife's heart. David, being one of the oldest employees in the organization, was well aware of what Charles had been through in the past three years. And like every well wisher, he also hoped that Charles and Sheryl came together like before. Also, then, he hoped to be pardoned for his mistake.

"How is it going?" Alice watched Charles rushing out of the office. And just after a few moment David walked out with a somber face. Even Alice was anxious about their meeting. She walked up towards him and asked, "Did Mr. Lu blame you?"

David shook his head and Alice was amazed to hear that. Marking the sad and somber look on David's

face she asked, "So why are you so unhappy?"

"You won't understand," David answered in agony. Then he explained, "Mr. Lu didn't blame me because

he has no time to do so right now. It is important for him to explain to his wife right now. When he

comes back, he will surely take me up for a task."

David would not be able to relax till this matter was settled for good.

"Why did you choose the gift so randomly as per your choice? It was sheer stupidity on your part!" Alice

accused David with anger, "And more than anything else, it's too ridiculous that Mr. Lu should ask you

help him to court his wife. It sounds like a joke."

David was rendered speechless. Now even he believed that he was just an idiot who could only make

trouble for others.

Charles had no time to waste on the blunder committed by David. He just wanted to see Sheryl and

explain everything to her.

On his way to BM Corporation, he even drove past the red light for several times in his mad rush to

reach Sheryl as soon as he could. When he arrived, he came across George who was about to leave his office with Holley.

"Hi, Mr. Lu!" George greeted him. George and Charles were rivals in business for a long time, but it was the first time they met each other.

George walked up to Charles with a big smile and said, "I should have visited you when I just came to Y City but I was too busy then. I invited you to attend the Spring and Summer Fashion Show last time, but you didn't come. So what brings to my office now?"

Chapter 618 Photoshoot

"I'm sorry Mr. Han," Charles apologized in a cold tone. "I was really busy recently, and wasn't able to attend the show. But I saw it on TV and I could say that it was a big success. Congratulations!" he added.

"Thank you for your support, Mr. Lu. By the way, I heard that your company will be releasing your new product soon. I couldn't help but doubt your purpose of coming here in such a crucial moment." George answered Charles with condescending sneer.

But Charles didn't mind it. Instead, he smiled and explained, "Take it easy. I didn't come here for you. I'll leave immediately as soon as I see the person I came here for."

"You came here for someone else?" George asked in surprise. Holley was the one who answered, "George, didn't you know? Mr. Lu is Sheryl's friend. Actually, Mr. Lu also sent some flowers to Sheryl this morning." Holley tried not to show any hint of contempt in her voice.

"Oh, really?" George seemed to be more surprised. He cast a glance at Charles and said, "I have never known that Mr. Lu is Sheryl's friend. But..." George paused for a while before he continued, "As far as I could remember, Sheryl already has a boyfriend. But her boyfriend is not Mr. Lu."

While George was talking, Charles got a chance to stare at Holley. He had a feeling that this woman was familiar to him. However, he couldn't recall where and when they met. He just shrugged it off and decided to end the conversation. "I believe Mr. Han must have been very busy right now. You can just leave now. I can manage myself. I just have something to talk to Sheryl."

Mr. Lu..." George was a little hesitant. It seemed like George still had something to say, but Holley interrupted him, "George, you better go. Let's not delay Mr. Lu in seeing Sheryl anymore."

Then she dragged George to the car and reminded him, "You have a meeting to attend, right? You must hurry or else you're going to be late."

"Okay, I'll just go ahead," George said in surrender. But before he got in his car, he smiled to Charles and said, "Let's have dinner when we are both free. Give me a chance to know more about you."

"Okay. No problem." Charles agreed in a calm tone.

When George had left, Holley turned back to Charles. She asked, "Mr. Lu came here to see Sheryl, right?" "Let me tell her to see you right now," Holley added and turned to leave.

But Charles stopped her, "Hold on." Although he didn't have any special impression about this woman, he felt something familiar. He felt like he had already known this woman before.

But no matter how much he tried to recall, he couldn't really remember so he'd better ask her.

"Is there anything I can help you with, Mr. Lu?" Holley asked when she heard Charles calling her. She looked at Charles, waiting for his reply. This man who had almost married her couldn't even recognize her.

'This is too ridiculous!' she thought.

"Do you know me?" Charles immediately asked. He looked at Holley in the eyes.

"Of course. Everybody knows your name in Y City, Mr. Lu," Holley replied promptly. Then she continued with a smile, "But I didn't know you are Sheryl's friend."

"What I meant was..." Charles paused. He contemplated for a moment before he continued, "Have we known each other personally before?" Charles was trying his best to check on Holley's every expression.

Holley's heartbeat sped up when she heard Charles' last question.

'Did Charles finally recognize me?' she thought to herself.

'No! That's impossible!' she also consoled herself.

Her face had totally changed. If even Wendy wasn't able to recognize her, how much more Charles?

'So he was just flying a kite, ' she guessed.

She did her best to stay calm and said to Charles, "Mr. Lu, you must be kidding. I think it's impossible for us to meet in the past because I've lived abroad these few years. I just came back recently so I couldn't remember any chances of meeting you."

After a lengthy explanation, Holley paused a moment. Then she suddenly changed the topic, "By the way, I've just set up a new department in BM Corporation. And I am hoping that you could provide more chances to the models under my department." "I believe we could be the best business partners," she

added cheerfully.

"Of course!" Charles answered. Holley was not the same stupid and reckless Yvonne anymore. After everything she had gone through and all those sufferings, she had learned to become cunning. She also trained herself to become sophisticated and resilient. Now, it would be difficult to fathom her true inner thoughts and emotions.

Charles decided not to ask anymore so he just said, "Please inform Sheryl that I'm waiting for her."

"Okay." When Holley entered the room, Sheryl had just finished her make up and was already waiting for the photoshoot to start. Holley hesitated if she should disturb Sheryl. Finally, she decided to go back to Charles. "Mr. Lu, I'm afraid Sheryl has already started working. How about you stay for a while and wait for her to finish? I'll have someone prepare some tea for you," she offered.

Charles thought about it first before he agreed. When he entered the room, the photographer was already taking Sheryl's photos. Charles found her so attractive with her make up and the red suit she was wearing.

Even the photographer, Todd, praised Sheryl for doing a great job in showing her beauty in the photos.

Not long after, he was able to get a lot of satisfying photos from Sheryl.

Since he was happy of Sheryl's performance during the photoshoot, Todd said to the models, "Alright, let's take a break now. Then change your clothes and prepare for the next session." While the models were taking breaks, Todd decided to transfer all the photos from his camera to his computer.

Holley went beside Charles and commented, "I couldn't believe that even after being a mother, Sher is still able to keep a perfect figure."

Charles didn't have any comments and just sat there quietly so Holley added, "Mr. Lu, just wait for a little while. They still have to shoot another set of clothes. Once they're done, I'll ask Sheryl to come and see you immediately."

She then asked someone to bring a cup of tea for Charles. A little while later, the models came back to the stage and began their second photoshoot. This time, all the models were wearing sexy and alluring underwears, showing their perfect figures in front of the camera.

Charles frowned slightly. He was worried that Sheryl would also wear the same outfit on stage later.

He felt jealous as he thought of his wife's body being exposed in front of many people.

Sue came to the stage ahead of Sheryl. She had been a model for many years now so was already

accustomed to this kind of work and even showing her body in front of others. But when she saw Charles in the crowd, her brow arched.

"What's wrong with you? Why do you look so unhappy? Do you think I can get good photos with a face like that?" Todd shouted toward Sue with discontent.

Chapter 619 An Accidental Injury

Sue stammered an apology to the photographer for her poor performance.

She braced herself for the photographs.

On coming back to the backstage, Sue found Sheryl overcome with nervousness. She was wearing only her underwear for her fashion shoot. As soon as she saw Sue, she expressed discomfort at her own attire.

Sheryl was extremely embarrassed to wear lingerie for the photo shoot. She knew it was part of her job but she was still uncomfortable with it.

Sue still suspected the illicit relationship between Sheryl and Charles.

"Sheryl, can you prove that you have no relationship with Charles?" Sue questioned Sheryl. Charles constantly lavished his efforts and energy on Sheryl. This aroused Sue's suspicions.

"Definitely! I have nothing to do with Charles." Sheryl nodded with certainty. Confused, she said, "Sue,

there is no reason for you to ask such a silly question!"

Sensing her best friend's agitation, Sue immediately felt remorse. At once she admitted her mistake and assumed it was Charles who was harassing Sheryl.

'It is not right for Charles to pester Sheryl, ' Sue seethed with anger.

"I just saw Charles waiting for you outside," Sue said. Sheryl was surprised. She wondered aloud as to why Charles was waiting for her.

"I think he is looking for a date with you after you finish your work," Sue guessed. She tried to calm Sheryl by promising to have dinner with her later.

"That sounds perfect!" Sheryl cheered up and got ready for her shoot.

Seeing Sheryl in her underwear made Charles uncomfortable. He frowned when he thought of others coveting Sheryl's perfect and sexy figure.

'I must persuade Sheryl to exit this sleazy profession and take up a respectable one, ' Charles thought to himself.

Sheryl posed in her most sexy and seductive manner but failed to please the photographer.

He changed the background to get a better effect.

Sheryl grew more uninhibited and only then was the photographer satisfied with her work.

At last, Sheryl's stress gave way to relief when the photographer complimented her.

She was unnerved by Charles who stared at her in a weird manner. Upon the completion of her shoot,

Sheryl decided to leave immediately.

"Watch out!" An alarm rang out and Sheryl dumbly watched as a heavy board began falling her way.

Frozen with shock, Sheryl helplessly watched the falling board.

She made no move to dodge the heavy board.

However, Charles moved swiftly and risked his own life to pull her out of the path of the board. He

hugged her close and his soothing smell and broad chest provided Sheryl with ample protection.

Unfortunately, the board hit Charles on his back. He sustained internal injuries but he was happy that

Sheryl was unharmed.

His eyes were so attractive and full of love for her.

"Are you okay?" Charles hugged Sheryl tightly and with an intimacy that befitted a couple.

"I... I'm fine." Sheryl was shaken at the accident. The staff lost no time in pulling the damned board off

Charles' back. Holley immediately rushed over to them to see what had happened.

"Mr. Lu, are you alright? Did you get hurt?" Holley was worried about Charles and swiftly acknowledged her negligence.

"Nothing serious." Charles tried to downplay the accident and his injury with a casual wave of his hand.

"Mr. Lu, I think you must be badly wounded," Holley exaggerated her words. Hearing this, Sheryl's determination to break off with Charles was wavering.

Holley decided to play up the accident to make Sheryl feel guiltier by saying, "Mr. Lu, the heavy sliding board must have injured you quite severely.

I insist you go to the nearby hospital for a thorough check-up. I will cover all the medical bills because the accident has happened on my premises."

She commanded Sheryl to accompany Charles to the hospital. She told her that she owed her life to Charles and now it was up to her to ensure Charles' recovery.

Sheryl was undecided about taking charge of Charles. She did not want to be alone with Charles.

Finally her good heart and sense of fair play triumphed over her mind.

'I must accompany Charles to the hospital and be with him. I owe him my life after all, ' Sheryl thought to herself.

"Wait a minute." Charles stopped Sheryl. He was about to say something. Sheryl anxiously cut in, "Your injury must be quickly treated. Otherwise you may suffer later from further complications."

Charles agreed and wryly suggested Sheryl change out of her underwear and into a plain dress to ensure decency.

Chapter 620 Are You Not Gonna Take Care Of Me

Charles looked at Sheryl from head to toe. Sheryl then realized that she was only wearing underwear.

Her face immediately turned crimson when she tried to take a glimpse of Charles who was standing in front of her. "Well...uhm..." she stammered. "Please give me a moment. I'll just change my clothes. I'll be back soon."

She immediately turned around and almost ran to the room. She could still feel her face blushing from the embarrassment a while ago. After she put on a decent and comfortable clothes, she went out. She found Sue waiting for her outside. She looked worried as she asked, "Sher, are you sure you're going to the hospital with him?"

"So what?" Sheryl asked back. She took a glance at Sue and went on, "Sue, I know you don't like him.

But he saved my life. If I don't take him to the hospital right now, I wouldn't feel at ease." She sighed, "I hope you understand me."

"But..." Sue protested with a frown. "Aren't you worried that..." Sue stopped mid-sentence.

"I know what you're worried about." Sheryl didn't wait for Sue to finish her sentence. Roughly, she could already tell what Sue wanted to say. She grinned and then comforted Sue, "Don't worry, Sue. I know myself. I'll just accompany him to the hospital for some physical checkups. Nothing more." "After all he was injured because of me," she added.

"Well, then I should go with you," Sue suggested. However, Sheryl declined her offer.

"Sue, there is really no need for you to do that. Besides, I also want to talk to him. Shirley is still at Amy's so could you help me pick her up?" Sheryl made her voice sound sweet and her eyes tantalizing while asking a favor from Sue. She knew Sue would easily give in with this kind of appearance.

"Okay." As expected, Sue conceded defeat. Then she added, "But remember that you have to take care of yourself. Call me any time if you'd need my help." Sue knew there was no use insisting because Sheryl would definitely still say no.

A staff was helping Charles to the car when Sheryl came out. When she was already in front of him, he handed her the key. Then he requested, "Sheryl, please drive."

"What?" Sherry was stunned. She hesitated for a moment but finally took the key from him. She had no other choice since Charles was injured at the moment.

Though she was not very proficient in driving, Charles patiently guided her and never criticized her driving skill.

Moved by his patience, Sheryl felt somehow warm.

The car stopped at the gate of the hospital. Sheryl got off from the car first and then helped Charles out. Since Charles was injured, he held on to Sheryl's shoulder for support.

Slowly, they staggered into the hall. Sheryl helped Charles settle on a bench first before she fell in line for Charles' registration.

Shortly after, a nurse came to take Charles into the examination room. When the results came out, they found that Charles had a hairline fracture. Sheryl was startled to hear the result. She didn't expect Charles' injury to be this bad. Moreover, the bruises on his back also stunned Sheryl. But the good thing was that the doctor assured her there was nothing to worry about. He just gave Charles some

prescriptions and advised him to rest for a few days.

Sheryl was relieved by the doctor's words. She repeatedly reminded Charles to take his medicines on time. "You have to take it seriously or your wounds won't heal," said Sheryl in a serious yet worried voice.

When she was done talking, she looked up to Charles just to find out that he was not listening at all. He was just staring at her blankly.

Sheryl frowned and asked, "Do you hear everything I said?"

Charles just shook his head slightly without saying a word.

Sheryl got pissed off. "Seriously? Did I just waste my breath all along? Fine! Just do whatever you want!" Sheryl then turned and stomped to leave.

Charles hastily grabbed her wrist to stop her. However, Sheryl was already furious so she just shook his hand off. "I need to go now. You can go back on your own."

"Ouch!" wailed Charles. When Sheryl heard his cry, she hurriedly turned back and asked him with utmost concern, "Are you okay? Did I hurt you?" "I am so sorry. I didn't mean it'," she was flooded with

guilt.

But soon, Sheryl realized that Charles was just acting. She felt more furious to be fooled by him.

Her face darkened so she turned her back again. This time she was really determined to leave. But

Charles held her tightly. With a very sad expression, he pleaded, "Please, don't leave me alone."

Sheryl's heart softened when she saw Charles' pitiful face. She sighed deeply and said, "Well, let me

drive you home first, okay?"

"You are not gonna to take care of me?" Charles asked in a shaky voice. Charles looked at Sheryl's

eyes and said, "Have you already forgotten what the doctor said? He said that I've got a hairline fracture

and I need to stay in bed for a few days. Don't forget that I got injured because of you. Now, you're just

gonna leave me alone? You can't do that to me."

"I..." Sheryl was at a loss for words. Yes, the doctor said that Charles was injured and needed to rest

for a few days. But he was not paralyzed. He could still move and do things on his own. Why did she

need to take care of him?

'Does he want me to take care of him all day long?' Sheryl thought to herself.

She really wanted to release her anger to Charles now. But she forced herself to hold back and stay

calm.

'Sher, calm down. After all, he's your lifesaver. You can't get mad at him, ' Sheryl told herself.

To compose herself, Sheryl took a deep breath. "Well, Mr. Lu, how do you think I should repay you for saving my life?" she asked. She looked into his eyes, waiting for his reply. She was eager to know his answer.

"You should stay beside me until I recover. You have to take care of me all day long until my health is restored," replied Charles with a sly smile. Charles took this opportunity to keep Sheryl by his side and he was determined to make it happen.

He was very aware that Sheryl was deliberately avoiding him. So this time, he would let Sheryl stay with him. It might not be a good idea but he didn't care. No matter what, he would seize this rare opportunity that he could be with her for a little longer.

In this way, he could get a chance to have a peaceful talk with her. Sheryl would always refuse to talk to him calmly so he had no other choice but to do this.

"Charles, don't cross the line. You are really going too far!" Sheryl gnashed her teeth in anger. She

continued,"In the first place, I didn't ask for your help earlier. It was you who intervened. I must admit that you got injured because of me. But how could you ask me to take care of you all day long? I am not your servant. You can afford to pay as many servants as you'd want.

The servants at your home would definitely take care of you once you're there. I am sure you also know that, right?"

"Alas! It seems that moral degeneration is getting worse day by day. How can you be so ungrateful? I saved you but you didn't even appreciate my kindness. What's worst, you even refused to take care of me. I am really sad," said Charles. However, Sheryl felt even more indignant by his words. She glared at Charles. "Charles! Oh, perhaps I should call you Mr. Lu." Sheryl's voice was full of sarcasm. "Let me remind you that I don't live alone. I have a daughter and she also needs me. She needs care more than you do. Now that you're forcing me to take care of you, what about her? Who would take care of her? Besides, you were not badly hurt. You could still take care of yourself. So, why do I need to take care of you?" added Sheryl. Sheryl was getting impatient. All she wanted to do was leave this place.

"Oh, is that so? If your concern is Shirley, I don't see any problem with that. You could take Shirley with you to my house. I am sure Charlie would be very delighted about that too. You know that he likes to

play with Shirley. What's more, at this time of each year, the servant at my house usually goes back to her home for a holiday. So definitely no one could take care of me at home." Charles stopped for a while and then continued, "Though I could move, I couldn't cook for myself. I don't want to eat takeout every day."

"You..." Sheryl was hopeless. But she was still doubtful of the excuses that Charles gave her. "Your servant went home for a holiday? How could that be possible?" "When did they go?" she asked.

"Actually, today," Charles replied. He then took his phone out and called Nacy. "Hello, Nacy. You could start your holiday today. I'm giving you a few days off. I'll just send you your pocket money later." After he hung up, he turned to Sheryl who was still in awe.

"See? You heard it. No one could take care of me now except you."

Sheryl sneered and replied sarcastically, "It seems that Mr. Lu is really generous to his servant. You even give her pocket money for her vacation."

"I'm sure you know that I have always been kind and generous to others," replied Charles in a cheerful voice. He felt victorious this time.