

Wedded Bride 641

Chapter 641 Go To A Movie

Dinner was being had without any interruptions. Anthony remained blissfully oblivious to the true purpose of the dinner. He stayed quiet for most of the time and ate his food, while sitting to the right of Junia. Unable to bear the awkward silence, Junia spoke up. "Anthony, I heard you used to be a doctor. What was that like?" she asked softly.

"Yes, that's true." Anthony took a pause from eating and answered with a hesitant nod. "But I quit my job at the hospital a few years ago and started a small business," he added as he glanced at the expectant look on Junia's face.

"What a pity," Junia said, her voice conveying genuine regret. Being a doctor was a very prestigious profession and she felt bad that he was no longer one. "I remember Aunt Laura said your family has practiced medicine for generations. Don't you think it is a noble profession?"

She paused, waiting for Anthony's response. "I'm afraid I can't agree with you." Anthony smiled wanly and continued, "Everyone has their own ambitions and desires."

Laura and Jasmine, who were sitting opposite them, were delighted to hear them talking. Laura's face lit up with happiness and she clapped her hands in excitement. "They seem to be enjoying the

conversation," she whispered in Jasmine's ear. "Maybe their relationship will work out the way we want it to."

"If they really get together, I will be very grateful to you," Jasmine said and smiled broadly at her co-conspirator. "Junia is excellent in many ways, but in love, she is quite awkward. It always worries me that she has never had a boyfriend."

In fact, Jasmine had urged her daughter on several occasions to find a boyfriend. Worse, every time Jasmine mentioned it, they would have a quarrel. It was the first time that she had seen Junia so attentive to a man as Junia's glowing eyes had betrayed her.

"What are you talking about, Jasmine?" Laura replied. "That's also what I want. As Anthony's mother, I sincerely hope they can be together."

Excited, they both agreed to sound out their children when they went back home. Contrary to the heated discussion between the mothers, the communication between the two young people didn't go on smoothly.

Junia tried to be talkative to attract Anthony's attention, while she was greeted with a lack of enthusiasm.

Anthony did not show the slightest interest in her. He answered Junia's questions casually.

At the beginning, in order to know more about Anthony, Junia kept asking him about his life, hobbies

and so on, but in the face of his indifference, she gradually felt frustrated. "Anthony, you look so

impatient when you are talking to me. Do you hate talking to me?" she asked bluntly.

Anthony was being perfunctory because he had something on his mind. It was not until then that he

realized how rude he had been. "No," he said, "not at all. Don't misunderstand me."

She was Jasmine's daughter, and Anthony should show her due respect. "I was just so busy with work

recently that I didn't have a good rest last night," he explained hurriedly. "I'm sorry to make you feel like

that."

"Really?" Junia obviously didn't believe him. But looking at Anthony's sincere expression, she

dismissed her doubts.

After lunch, she summoned the courage to invite Anthony to a movie.

"I have something else to do this afternoon. Why don't you ask someone else to join you?" Anthony

refused her flatly. Even a man, who was very slow with ladies, could sense Junia's feelings for Anthony.

From Laura's and Jasmine's expectant faces, Anthony finally guessed their intention. 'It seems that I

was the only fool.

Mom clearly knows that Sheryl is the only one I love. But she still conspires this with Junia's mother.

Don't I deserve due respect?' Anthony thought with a frown.

Resisting the urge to lose his temper, he sat still and kept calm.

Junia's bright smile faded. She glanced at Jasmine across the table, seeking help.

Normally, it was her turn to decline others' date invitations. But now, when she finally had a crush on a man, she was rejected. The atmosphere was rather awkward and embarrassing.

"Anthony!" Laura cried out in an angry tone. Sullenly, she pulled Anthony aside and demanded in a low voice, "What do you mean? Why did you refuse to go to a movie with Junia? What are you doing this afternoon?"

"Mom!" Anthony's face also clouded over with anger. "You know I have Sheryl, but you still asked me to join the lunch and date Junia. What the hell do you mean?" he retorted with a frigid stare.

"Cut the crap," Laura snarled. "This is just a lunch, and it's normal for a girl to invite a man to a movie.

How could you refuse her without even considering her feelings? Put your own business aside and go

with her."

"No, I won't date her," Anthony said resolutely. "I will never betray Sher."

"You..." Laura was so angry that she could barely speak. Trying to contain her anger, she said to her

son in a consultative tone, "Anthony, Jasmine is my friend. You must not make me feel so humiliated.

Junia didn't say she wanted to be your girlfriend. Do you mean that you won't watch any movie with any

of your friend when you are not single?"

Anthony wore a poker face and said nothing. Laura continued, "How about this? Let's make a deal."

"A deal?" Anthony stared at Laura with confusion. "What is it?" he inquired.

"You always want me to meet your girlfriend, don't you?" Laura asked sarcastically. "As long as you

promise to go see a movie with Junia today, I'll see her."

"Mom, are you kidding me?" The suggestion was a complete surprise to Anthony, as he had tried in

vain to persuade his mother to meet his girlfriend. He did not expect that the difficult problem which had

troubled him so long would be solved so easily.

"Did I ever lie to you?" Laura cast a sidelong glance at Anthony and quietly said, "Junia, after all, is

Jasmine's daughter. You accompany her to a movie today, and I will meet your girlfriend later, okay?"

"Okay, deal." Anthony was overjoyed. He was sure that his mother would like Sheryl as soon as she met her.

What he didn't know was that his mother had her own plan. Watching a movie together would bring them closer. She assumed that as long as Anthony was willing to go with Junia, there would be a high chance that they would fall in love with each other. In that case, Anthony would definitely break up with Sheryl.

"Now I'm going to watch a movie with her. I hope you will keep your promise," Anthony reminded his mother. As Laura nodded, he could not help smiling.

Laura led Anthony back to Junia and said, "Junia, please don't be angry with Anthony. He does have something to do this afternoon, but I just asked him to put it off until tomorrow. Enjoy your movie!"

"Really?" Junia asked Anthony, looking highly sceptical.

Anthony nodded his head in confirmation, and then urged, "Let's hurry."

With that, he strode ahead. A delighted Junia turned to her parents. "Dad, mom, we're leaving now. I may be late for home tonight."

'Anthony will probably invite me to dinner after the movie, ' she thought happily.

Seeing the bright smile on her daughter's face, Jasmine was glad. As Anthony and Junia were out of earshot, she said to Laura, "Never did we expect that Junia would like Anthony. We should have come back earlier. In that case, I might have grandchildren now."

"I bet," Laura laughed, but still a little worried.

Anthony was not the type to compromise easily. Although he agreed to Laura's request, no one could predict what he would do.

'Now that Anthony wants me to meet her so badly, I will do as he wants. It is not appropriate for me to find excuses all the time.

Let me see what kind of woman my son is crazy about, ' Laura pondered.

She planed to scare Sheryl off.

When Anthony and Junia arrived at the theater, they saw a list of movies on the big screen. "I'm going to buy the tickets now. Which one do you prefer?" Junia asked Anthony.

Anthony picked a boring movie before saying, "I'll buy the tickets."

Chapter 642 A Movie Date

Junia was so overcome with Anthony's charm that she would be willing to do anything just to get this man.

After buying drinks for them, Junia came back to Anthony. He handed her the movie ticket and urged her to enter the cinema.

Junia gleefully looked for a convenient seat for both of them. Anthony was behind her. When she found the best spot, she turned to Anthony, only to find out that he had already seated at the last row.

She wrinkled her nose and complained, "Anthony, what are you doing there? Why don't you sit beside me?" Junia got disappointed to see Anthony afar. Meanwhile, other movie goers urged her to give way.

Junia had no other choice but to wait for other movie goers to settle in their seats before she could go back to where Anthony was seated. When she approached him, she couldn't hide the displeasure in her voice. "Why did you choose to sit here and leave me alone there?"

"This is my seat," Anthony replied coolly. "There were no available seats next to each other, so I've only gotten two separate seats," he explained.

When he noticed Junia's seething indignation, Anthony dismissed her roughly, "Go back to your seat now. The film is about to start. You should enjoy it."

Junia wasn't aware that Anthony purposely ordered two separate tickets, so he could stay away from her during the movie. Although Anthony acceded to Laura's demand to see a movie with Junia, he didn't intend to pretend to like her.

Junia was really furious because of Anthony's indifference. However, she didn't have any choice but to contain her anger since they were in a public place.

Junia didn't pay much attention to the movie all throughout. Besides, the only reason she was here was to get close to Anthony yet she failed. After the movie, Anthony went out first. Junia who was still boiling with anger, rushed towards him and shouted, "Anthony, stop!"

"Miss Sun, what's up?" Anthony glanced at Junia with a sneer. "I think I have already fulfilled my duty to accompany you to a movie. Is there anything else?" he added.

"You..." Junia trailed with clenched fists. She then rebuked Anthony, "Can you justify your slighting treatment on me? Am I not good enough to win your heart?"

Anthony tried to pacify Junia. He tried to explain, "Miss Sun, you must understand that we don't have any romantic connections."

All the while, Junia thought that Anthony was also like her previous boyfriends who easily got attracted with her beauty and family background.

Junia was not satisfied, so she kept on forcing Anthony for a proper explanation.

"Anthony, is it because of my looks?" Junia asked Anthony.

Anthony shook his head gently and replied, "Miss Sun, you are a very beautiful woman."

"Then, is it because of my family background? Do you not find it suitable to yours?"

"No. Miss Sun, you are from a family of scholars for generations. You are well bred and highly educated," Anthony explained patiently.

"Then what is it? Did I happen to offend you?" Junia was still confused of Anthony's attitude, so she tried to ask all possible factors that she could think. But Anthony answered all her questions with a

"No". She didn't know what to think anymore, so she desperately asked, "What on earth make you so indifferent towards me?"

Junia continued, "Is it because the date was arranged by our parents? I am so willing to get to know you more. Just give me a chance. And if there were things that you disliked about my attitude, I would apologize to you."

Junia became more anxious because of Anthony unresponsiveness. She frowned and continued talking, "I know that you also like me. Because if not, you wouldn't be here with me right now. But I really don't understand why you kept on distancing yourself from me."

At last, Anthony replied with great composure, "Miss Sun, I think you got me wrong."

Anthony paused and continued, "My mom told me that she would meet Aunt Jasmine, so she asked me to drive her here. I didn't expect that I would be having a date with you."

Anthony's honesty and frankness embarrassed Junia so much. He made her feel that she was only insignificant and irrelevant to him.

With Anthony's lack of willingness, Junia thought that this date would be meaningless.

"Not until you arrived did I realize that this date was set up to matchmake the two of us. That's why from the very start, I have already shown my unwillingness to you." Anthony tried to explain everything politely to Junia. "I sincerely apologize for my misconduct, Miss Sun. But I must really tell you now, getting married would be very impossible for us. So if I were you, I wouldn't waste my time and would go to find another man that would suit me."

"Anthony, stop!" Junia couldn't take Anthony's words anymore. "This is just our first date. Why don't you

give ourselves a chance to know each other well? By then, we can tell if we're compatible to get

married," she suggested.

"Miss Sun, you are too good to be my girlfriend." Anthony was really tough. Junia felt an uncontrollable anger arising out of what Anthony had said.

Junia sneered and then shouted, "Since you didn't like me, why did you still see the movie with me?

You even disrespected me inside the cinema."

Anthony's misconduct was indeed a big humiliation to Junia.

"Well... I am so sorry for that," Anthony admitted he was at fault. After all, he only acceded to this date, so Laura would give Sheryl a chance to talk to her. It was what he and Laura agreed earlier.

Anthony felt somewhat guilty for using Junia.

"Miss Sun, please accept my apology," Anthony asked sincerely. He continued to explain, "I only went to see the movie with you because my mother and I had a compromise. But now that you have seen my indifference, I hope this will be the end. Is that okay?"

"You..." Junia seethed. She felt like she was bullied all along. But she still asked another question, "Is it because you are already taken?"

Junia hit the nail on the head. So, Anthony only confirmed, "Yes, I am already very much taken. I have been in a relationship with her for three years and now I already intend to marry her. Miss Sun, I strongly believe that you are a sensible person and would never allow yourself to be a man's mistress."

"So I suggest that we better end this as early as now. We should not have any communications at all,"

Anthony continued.

Anthony sensed that Junia was already on the verge of tears, so he tried to console her, "Miss Sun, I am not your match. You deserve someone better than me. Please forgive me for causing you any inconvenience."

Chapter 643 Junia's Grievance

Anthony left Junia alone outside the cinema. Junia didn't have the strength to shout anymore. She didn't do anything but watch Anthony's receding figure. When Anthony arrived home, he saw his mother lying leisurely on the sofa while watching a sitcom. Laura was so surprised to see Anthony back home so soon. She sensed that something went wrong, so her merriment turned into worry.

Laura immediately interrogated Anthony, "Anthony, why are you home so soon? Aren't you supposed to

spend more time with Junia?" "You should have had dinner together after the movie. Then you should have taken her home," Laura kept on nagging to Anthony.

"Mom, Junia is old enough to go home by herself. I don't think there could be any threat to her safety,"

Anthony replied dryly. "We couldn't think of anything more to do, so we parted ways after seeing the movie," he added.

Laura didn't have any choice but to let it pass. Instead, she asked, "So, what do you think about her?"

Before Anthony could answer, she added, "I think Junia is very appropriate to be your wife. We can arrange your wedding immediately..."

"Mom!" Anthony interrupted her remaining words. "If it were not because of our compromise, I wouldn't

have gone to the movie with her. Please don't forget about that. I don't want to have anything to do with

Junia anymore in the future, so please let this matter drop.

Mom, please don't bother to arrange any blind dates for me ever again," he requested.

Anthony looked at Laura meaningfully and reminded her, "Since I have already fulfilled my promise to

see a movie with Junia, it's now your turn to fulfill yours. I will arrange your meeting with Sheryl very soon."

Upon hearing it, Laura couldn't help but express her displeasure, "Junia is much more suitable to be your wife than Sheryl."

"Mom..." Hearing Laura insulting Sheryl brought much agitation to Anthony. He knew that Sheryl would really be hurt if she could hear them.

"Okay, just let this matter drop as well," Laura resigned. "Rest assured, I will fulfill my promise to meet Sheryl to see if she could be accepted into our family."

Anthony was satisfied with his mother's answer. "In that case, I will need to leave tomorrow," he said.

"Why such a sudden change? I thought you intended to stay longer and spend more time with us,"

Laura complained. Laura felt very anxious to be separated from her son again.

However, Laura also knew that Anthony was very eager to let them meet Sheryl.

"It's a must, mom. Please understand," Anthony replied calmly. "By the way, I will go out for dinner, so please have dinner with dad, okay?" Anthony kissed his mother on the cheek and then left.

At the Sun family house

As soon as Junia reached home, she immediately locked herself in her room. Jasmine was so worried that she immediately came to Junia's room and knocked on her door.

"Mom, leave me alone! I am too ashamed of myself!" Junia shouted in between her sobs. Junia was deeply hurt but she didn't want to see anyone for now. So, she tried to find comfort by hugging the pillows around her.

Junia had always been the apple of the eyes of everyone. She was used to getting everything she'd wanted. That was why she now felt dejected after Anthony rejected her.

She couldn't accept the fact that the man she thought would be her husband just turned her down in an instant.

"Junia, please open the door and talk to me," Jasmine pleaded. Jasmine was determined to know her daughter's condition.

"Mom, don't worry about me. I'm just fine." Junia tried to ease Jasmine's anxiety.

Jasmine suddenly remembered Anthony. She had an intuition that Junia's current state had something to do with Anthony.

"This must have something to do with Anthony. I should hold him responsible for your unhappiness. I

must call his parents about this," Jasmine blurted out when Junia still refused to open the door.

When Jasmine was about to call Laura, Junia suddenly opened her door to stop her. Her face was wet with tears.

"Mom don't waste your time calling Laura. There's nothing she could do. You don't even know what really happened to me," she said.

"Then, tell me about it!" Jasmine insisted on knowing the truth. She wanted to make sure that Anthony really didn't do anything wrong to her daughter.

"Anthony didn't do anything wrong to me," Junia impatiently replied. The only problem was Anthony's lukewarm attitude towards Junia.

This was actually what made Junia felt really bad.

"What on earth happened to you?" Jasmine was not convinced of what Junia had said. "No matter what it is, I would be willing to listen to you. I am here to support you," Jasmine comforted her.

"Mom..." Junia cried more and threw herself into Jasmine's arms. Junia wanted to ease the pain she was feeling right now. And a mother's hug was really helpful.

"My dear daughter, please don't cry anymore," Jasmine caressed Junia back. She couldn't bear seeing

her daughter like this. "Anthony hurt you, didn't he?" Jasmine confirmed.

"No, Mom!" she immediately replied. "I..." Junia suddenly became tongue-tied. But Jasmine wouldn't

stop questioning her, so she had finally gave in and told her everything.

When Junia finished narrating, Jasmine flew into rage. "I could condone Anthony's frankness that he

dislikes you. But slighting and belittling you is definitely unacceptable. I must deal with him!"

Jasmine sneered and continued,"I would never be appeased until this matter is settled."

Jasmine was capable of challenging Anthony and his family.

If not for Laura's reassurance, Jasmine wouldn't have asked her daughter to go to this date. She

believed when Laura said that Anthony also liked Junia. And since she saw that Junia had already

fallen for Anthony, she thought that her daughter would be happy to have a date with Anthony.

Never did she expect that Anthony would humiliate her daughter by instantly rejecting her. Anthony

indeed hurt Junia so deeply.

Jasmine's impulse was to demand an explanation from Anthony's family but Junia stopped her. "Mom,

it would be more humiliating if we continue pressing this matter. I couldn't bear any forms of humiliation

from Anthony again."

"No! You deserve an explanation. They must give me a satisfying explanation." Jasmine was firm with

her words. Jasmine thought that she had every reason to avenge for her daughter.

Chapter 644 Do You Love Him

"But..." Junia started to say something but was interrupted by the ringing of Jasmine's phone. Their

conversation paused.

Jasmine glanced at her phone. When she saw the name of the caller, she said with a sarcastic

smile, "What a coincidence! I am also wanting to call her. Let's see what she has to say!"

Jasmine answered the phone in anger, "What do you want, Laura Ding? You know what your son did to

my daughter. Now you dare to call me! How can you be so shameless?"

Laura felt a little worried. She wanted to know exactly what had happened so she called Jasmine as

soon as Anthony went upstairs. To her surprise, she was greeted by Jasmine's bitter words.

Laura realized Jasmine must be annoyed at Anthony's misbehaviour.

She heaved a sigh and managed to ask in a mild tone, "What happened, Jasmine? Why are you so

angry? Don't speak to me so harshly. After all, our kids will marry one day and we will be relatives."

"Don't pretend you know nothing!" Jasmine scolded, "I think we will never be relatives! My daughter isn't

good enough for your son. Just give up the idea to get them married. My daughter can also marry

someone far better if your son doesn't want her."

"What you think is not true!" Laura objected. Then she asked, "What happened between them? I really don't know."

Jasmine said, "Stop pretending! I don't believe you know nothing about what your son has done! I know you have called me just to humiliate me further!"

Becoming angrier she added, "From now onwards, my family will break all contact with yours."

"Jasmine!" Laura beseeched. "I swear I don't know what happened. Please tell me all that transpired.

Maybe it was just a mistake that we can correct."

"I don't believe you," Jasmine adamantly said. "Your son shouldn't have agreed to the lunch date arranged for them if he didn't like my daughter. But he came and acted like he was compelled to face her. Also, if he has no feelings for her, why did he agree to go for a movie with her? There also, the

seats he booked for Junia and himself were in different rows! So how can it be called a date? What did he mean by doing all this?"

Jasmine's anger was bubbling as she thought of the humiliation her daughter had suffered. "There are so many eligible young men who want to marry my Junia. Tell your son not to regret when she becomes another man's wife!" said Jasmine.

Listening to her mother using such harsh language, Junia tugged at her sleeve softly. "Enough, mom. It is not a big deal. You shouldn't spoil your friendship with Aunt Laura because of it," she tried to pacify her mother.

"Keep out of this," Jasmine shook off Junia's hand and hissed at her. She continued to vent at Laura, "If you don't deal with your son in a stern manner, we won't be friends any more."

Laura finally understood what had happened. Knowing Anthony she could guess his characteristic behavior and actions in any situation.

She also realized that his behavior must have seemed very intolerable to a sensitive, young girl.

Laura apologized to Jasmine, "Thank you for telling me this. Don't worry, I will ask Anthony to apologize and make amends to Junia."

"You don't have to bother." Jasmine said nastily, "For the benefit of both of them, I think they should not meet again. I don't know what new trouble your son might cause at the next meeting. I don't trust him now."

"I promise he won't do anything stupid again." Laura said with a smile, "I do like Junia and believe she will be a good daughter-in-law. I hope she can marry Anthony one day. What happened was just a mistake. It is all my fault for not making everything clear to Anthony in advance."

"Is Junia with you now? Can I speak to her?". Jasmine at once refused, "Don't even dream of it. I will not give you any chance to further hurt Junia's feelings. She has never faced such humiliation before. If your son treats her so badly this early in the relationship, I can't imagine how much worse she will face if she marries him."

She paused and then added, "I think this matter is closed now. Whatever you want to say to Junia, I don't want to hear. Let us go our own separate ways. I don't want to have anything further to do with you or your family."

"I have something important to tell Junia, please," Laura pleaded in desperation.

"Mom, give me the phone," Junia said as she heard Laura's pleading voice.

From Anthony's behavior, Junia had understood that he had no interest in her. So what was it that

Laura wanted to tell her?

She was extremely curious to know.

Jasmine frowned slightly and said, "Junia, no. You don't get involved."

"It's okay, mom." Junia shook her head and took the phone. She asked, "What is it, Aunt Laura?"

Junia tried to be polite to Laura but Laura could hear the coldness in her voice.

Junia didn't mention anything about Anthony but only asked a brief question.

"I'm sorry, Junia," Laura apologized. Smiling bitterly she continued, "It was all my fault. I am responsible for hurting your feelings."

"Don't apologize, Aunt Laura." Junia said with a smile, "It was not your fault. Anthony and I are just not suitable for each other. That is all."

"No, no... That is hardly the reason." Laura said, "Junia, I want to know if you have any feelings or liking for Anthony."

Junia hesitated for a while. She considered clearly and realized she did like Anthony very much. If only

the unpleasant little incident at the movie theater had not happened.

But she also recalled what Anthony told her as they were entering the theater. Anthony had clearly stated that he had a girlfriend already. He had told her that she had no chance to win his heart no matter how hard she tried or how deeply she loved him.

She smiled bitterly and said, "It doesn't matter whether I love him or not. He told me he has a girlfriend and they are going to get married soon. You are wrong to compel him to date other girls."

Chapter 645 So Nice To Her

Laura was furious and fuming as she held the phone to her ears. Her face went red and her voice trembled as she spoke, "Don't listen his nonsense." She tried to appease Junia, "As long as I am Anthony's mother, I wouldn't allow that girl to enter our home. I truly appreciate you and would do anything to see both of you together. But before that can I expect you to tell me the truth? Do you love Anthony? If you really love him, I will be on your side by all means."

There was complete silence on the other side of the phone. Laura waited for a few seconds for Junia to reply. With every passing moment, she was getting more and more impatient. Then she spoke out hastily, "Okay Junia, how about us meet up and talk? Just you and me? Of course, if you are not busy."

You can take your decisions after I tell you everything about Anthony's girlfriend. What do you think of it? Just take your time to think about it and let me know."

After a moment of hesitation, Junia eventually agreed to meet Laura. "Okay," she said in a meek voice.

Then Laura hung up the phone and heaved a sigh of relieve. However, her anger towards Anthony was not yet pacified. She kept walking up and down the hall till Carlson came back at night. In fact, Laura was so angry that she didn't even cook the dinner.

Carlson marked that Laura was agitated the moment he walked into the living room. He promptly asked,"What happened? Did anything go wrong at today's date meal?"

"You should know your son! I really don't know what is going on in his mind. I asked him to watch a movie with Junia, but he bought two tickets in different rows. Can you imagine? I really wonder what magic that woman has cast on him that my son is so enchanted by her," Laura started to complain bitterly to Carlson.

"It has been three years." Carlson sighed and continued speaking as he sat on the couch and made himself comfortable,"The woman that Anthony loves may truly have something special. How about agreeing to meet her once? Since we have never seen her before, it is a little unreasonable for us to

have such a prejudice to her."

Hearing the words spoken by Carlson, Laura fumed up all the more. 'Now even the father has joined the party, ' she thought in her mind. "So are you opposing me? Are you now on the same side with your son?" Laura looked at Carlson and interrogated wrathfully.

"I didn't mean that," Carlson explained immediately as he marked Laura's rage. "What I mean is that, we can make our decisions after meeting with that woman. Our son is old enough to get married. We couldn't just get in the way of his marriage," Carlson tried to make Laura see reasons for all practical purposes.

"I warn you! Don't meddle with this matter! You got that? I know how to deal with this. If I come to know

that you are giving a favor to Anthony behind my back, I would teach you a lesson," Laura nearly yelled at Carlson in great wrath.

"Fine, I wouldn't meddle in. You do whatever you want to do," Carlson said helplessly.

The next morning Anthony booked an early morning flight ticket to Y City.

Just like every other day, Anthony got up early and prepared breakfast for Laura and Carlson. And at

the time he was about to leave, Laura woke up. Watching her son carry a suitcase, Laura asked, "When will you come back?"

"Very soon," Anthony replied with a smile. He had made great efforts to convince Laura to meet with Sheryl. And now, he certainly needed to strike the iron while it was hot. Before Laura could have changed her mind, he must bring Sheryl to meet her as soon as possible.

He believed that Laura would like Sheryl after seeing her.

"Mom, don't forget what you have promised me," Anthony couldn't help but remind Laura of her promise. Laura nodded her head in affirmation which made Anthony hopeful. Upon thinking of the beautiful life in future, Anthony couldn't resist smiling.

Laura took a sip of milk from the glass and said to Anthony, "Don't worry. I will keep my words."

A big smile appeared on his face. "I'll take my leave." Anthony kissed Laura's forehead as he said goodbye and drove to the airport in a contented mind.

Just after Anthony left, Laura called up Junia for dinner. And Junia agreed delightedly.

Laura intentionally selected a Japanese restaurant which was equipped with private rooms. They could

speaking in private conveniently.

Laura reached the restaurant much before the scheduled time and waited for Junia to arrive.

"Aunt Laura. I am so sorry for being late. There was a traffic jam and then I had to spend a long time

finding a parking place," Junia apologized to Laura as she approached the table.

Laura laughed and poured a glass of water for Junia. Then Laura said to Junia, "It doesn't matter, child,

even I have arrived just now. Please drink some water and wet your whistle."

"Thank you," Junia smiled and expressed her gratitude as she took her seat. Neither of them talked

about Anthony. Laura handed over the menu card to her and asked her to place the order. Both the

ladies shared niceties with each other. Laura asked Junia about her stay abroad and her new job. Then

the dishes were served. Much later, when they were at the middle of the meal, Laura shifted the topic

to Anthony.

Laura cast a glance at Junia and said, "This morning... Anthony left."

"Is it?" Junia was pouring mustard onto the sauce plate. When she heard Anthony's name being

brought up by Laura, her hands trembled and she poured too much mustard.

Laura marked her reaction and promptly offered her own sauce to her. "You can eat my sauce," she

said. Junia smiled and refused politely, "Oh no, don't worry about it. I just like eating mustard."

'Maybe no one would find it strange if some day I get choked by spicy mustard, ' Junia kept thinking in her mind. On the face of it, however, she put a smiling face and pretended as if nothing happened.

Laura stared at Junia and continued, "In fact I am greatly pleased that you could come here to meet me.

It manifests that you have a place in your heart for Anthony, isn't it?"

Junia caught a glimpse of Laura and said smiling, "Aunt Laura, maybe you have misunderstood it.

Today I have come here, because I am curious about Anthony's girlfriend. I want to know what kind of a person she is. I don't have any other intention."

Although Junia was reluctant to admit it, Laura knew that Junia was too shy to speak her heart.

Laura laughed and added, "You are the kind of girl I like. You are beautiful. And you were born in a decent family. But that woman..."

"How is that woman?" Junia narrowed her eyes and asked Laura curiously. Laura became conscious when she noticed the curiosity on her face.

"That woman..." Junia stopped to organize her words, "lost her memory. She doesn't even know who

she was. Three years ago she was Anthony's patient. Because of her illness, she took a drug and lost all her previous memory. Although Anthony loves that woman, I can't allow a woman who can't even tell about her background to be a part of our family. So, that is the real story. Now tell me, what do you think of it?" Laura got angry at the very mention of that woman. 'How well-behave Anthony was before. Now he has always been opposing me since he has been together with that woman.' Laura could not stop her mind from the random unpleasant thoughts about Anthony's girlfriend that kept coming to her mind.

"Is... it real?" Junia's eyes were wide open as she asked Laura in great disbelief.

"Of course it is true," Laura heaved a deep sighed and replied as she kept stirring the mustard sauce on her plate. "Why would I lie to you on such an important thing?" Laura sounded remorseful as she spoke.

"So... does she have any family? Have her family tried to find her?" Junia couldn't resist interrogating.

"I don't know. The only thing I know is that Anthony resigned from the hospital and went to America with that women three years back. He has left everything behind for that woman. Since then Anthony has become her boyfriend. In America Anthony took care of her and barely came back home," Laura

answered.

"Anthony is so kind to that woman!" Junia spoke narrowing her eyes. Laura could clearly see envy in

her eyes at the mention of the dedication Anthony had towards his girlfriend. Laura became hopeful.

Chapter 646 Junia, I Will Help You

Laura looked at Junia's face and continued with a wry chuckle, "Anthony is infatuated with such a

woman. Still I could have respected his choice. But how can I accept the fact that she has a daughter.

He may not be a golden bachelor, but he is undoubtedly eligible. It is easy for him to find a good

girlfriend no matter what. Why is he looking for trouble? Is it worth keeping a relationship with a single

mother? Is it worth being her daughter's stepfather? How can I accept such things? After all, I am his

mother and he is my only son." Her face became gloomy as she spoke.

She heaved a deep sigh and said, "I didn't agree to meet that woman in the past three years. She can

never be my daughter-in-law. No matter how her past has been, her present is, or her future will be, it is

impossible for me to allow him to marry her."

Laura's words made Junia's head hurt. She thought, 'According to Aunt Laura's statement, Anthony

loves that woman so much! He loves her not because where she comes from, how much money she

has, or anything else. The only reason he loves her is that she is unique and truly herself. His love for her is absolutely unconditional.' Junia was slowly getting clarity of the entire situation in her mind.

"Yesterday I cheated him and said that it was a causal meal. I didn't tell him it was a blind date. I

wanted him to meet you. As a mother I feel it is my duty to see that my son gets settled with a nice girl,"

Laura sighed and said honestly. "My son and I have had a lot of disagreement in regards to his love

affairs for the past three years. I could not think of any idea of how to persuade him to break up with

that woman. But when you came back from abroad, I got a ray of hope."

Junia was staring at Laura and listening to her words patiently with utmost care. Laura was rather

impressed with the kind of compassion this girl was showing towards her son. It made her hopeful and

she poured her heart out, "I really like you. I know you will make a very good wife for my son. I would

like you to be my daughter-in-law. Yesterday I didn't tell him it was a blind date. You are so kind, gentle,

beautiful and generous. I thought if he met you once he would definitely have feelings for you, so I

cheated him to attend the lunch. I am sorry I underestimated his affection for that woman."

She patted Junia's hand and apologized to her sincerely, "Junia, I am really sorry. I never meant to hurt

your self-esteem. I feel regretted and hope you could forgive me." She looked at Junia with almost

teary eyes. Motherly concern mixed with insecurity for her son and guilt for having played with Junia's

emotions and more than anything helplessness in Laura's eyes was clearly visible to Junia.

"Aunt Laura, it was not your fault. There is no need to apologize," Junia said, frowning. She accepted

the apology with great generosity. She kept her hand on Laura's hands. Laura lowered her eyes and

picked one tissue paper to wipe her eyes. 'Now I have told her everything. If she has been even slightly

moved by Anthony after yesterday's meeting, she would agree to marry him, ' she thought to herself.

As Junia learnt more about Anthony, she was intrigued by the dedication and faithfulness of this man.

She thought, 'He is surely a good man with a noble heart. If I become his girlfriend, he will possibly love

me with his whole heart.

But what makes him so obsessed with that woman? He is even fighting with his mother because of her.

I am really curious about her. Is she beautiful? Or is she smart? Will I be able to oust her from his life

and win his heart successfully?'

Junia became unmindful as she weighed all the pros and cons of the situation. So much so that she

didn't even listen to what Laura was saying. "Junia, Junia, what are you thinking? You were deeply

absorbed in your own thoughts," Laura said curiously.

Junia was looking at another direction while Laura continued speaking. After being shaken by Laura,

she came to her senses and replied with a smile, "Nothing. I was just wondering what makes that

woman so special that Anthony is so head over heels with her."

"I don't know either." Laura furrowed her brows and shook her head. She spoke with a bitter smile, "I

have seen that woman's photo. Honestly, I have to admit that she is good-looking. I don't know what

kind of person she is. Nor do I care. Anyway, I am not satisfied with that woman. She is not a match for

my son."

Junia stared at her and observed that the very mention of Anthony's girlfriend was absolutely irksome

for her and she wanted her out of his life as soon as possible. Laura paused for a while and stared at

Junia trying to read her mind. She was looking for a positive reply. After remaining silent for a while she

asked, "Junia, tell me. Do you like Anthony? If you like him, I will support you and do everything I can to

help you."

She could observe Junia's hesitation and tried to assure her immediately, "Don't worry about that

woman. I will make sure that she is removed from his life. But the only thing that I need from you is

your unwavering support and presence for him. After breaking up with that woman, he will be

desperate. Your presence will comfort him and eventually help you to win him over."

"Do you think I will be able to make it?" Junia muttered. Her words were really hard to hear. Self doubt

and lack of confidence reflected in her speech. After the entire conversation, Junia was rather scared

and skeptical about the entire thing. She really feared whether she could do as Laura said. Anthony

and Sheryl had been in love for three years. He stood by her against all odds. Was it so easy to split

them up as Laura claimed? Being his mother Laura couldn't force him to change his mind. Junia didn't

think she would be able to charm him away from his girlfriend?

"Of course you can," Laura assured her with a smile. Then she added, "Don't worry. I will help you." "I

have full confidence in you. You are a smart, educated, beautiful and compassionate girl. Sooner or

later Anthony will definitely fall in love with you," Laura nodded and encouraged Junia firmly. For the

anxious mother, Junia was the final hope. She wanted to take a last chance before Anthony sacrificed

his future for his girlfriend.

Laura waited for a reply for Junia who sat before her with an extremely tensed and confused face. Her

heart sank to see Junia struggling with her indecisiveness. She just could not let her give up so easily.

Laura waited for a while and started all over again, "Junia, you know the whole story now. Anthony is

stuck with such a single mother. He can't see his own good. But you are a smart and intelligent girl.

Doesn't it bother you that you have lost him to that woman? How can you accept your defeat so

easily?"

"I... certainly I cannot accept that," Junia replied uncomfortably after a short consideration.

She had good feelings for Anthony. No matter who his girlfriend was, she would be jealous. What made

her unhappier was that Anthony's girlfriend was too weak. She was confident that she was better than

that woman on every aspect.

Laura was happy to hear that Junia was interested in her son and thought poorly of his girlfriend. She

said with a warm smile, "Come on. Have some food." She heaved a sigh. If Junia and Anthony got

married, the relationship between Laura and Anthony would also be easily fixed. That was what Laura

wanted.

"Aunt Laura," Junia opened her mouth after a short consideration and said, "I have something to ask

you."

"Go ahead," Laura replied with a nod.

She considered for a while and then said, "After Anthony and I saw the film, he told me he made a deal with you. You promised him something so that he would agree to go to watch movie with me. Could you tell me what you have promised?" It was certainly not polite to ask that question, but she had to figure out what was going on. It was important to get proper clarity of the situation. Their agreement might influence her decision.

"Damn it, boy!" Laura cursed through gritted teeth. She wasn't expecting to hear such a shocking news.

She thought, 'Anthony told it to Junia on purpose. He made it absolutely clear to this girl that he was not interested in her no matter what.'

Although she was furious, she took a few deep breathes to calm herself down. She stared at Junia and said flatly, "Not something important. I agreed to meet his girlfriend on condition that he would go to watch a movie with you."

"I see the whole thing now. Will you meet that woman?" Junia gave a little frowning glance at Laura and said with speculative eyes. Junia wanted to assess Laura's attitude toward her and Anthony's girlfriend.

This would prove how much supportive Laura would be towards Junia.

"Of course. Three years have passed. It's time for a formal meeting. How long will I be able to

procrastinate it?" Laura sneered. "However, even though I have agreed to meet that woman to fulfil my

son's wish, I will leave no stone unturned to see that she gets out of his life once and for all," She

added with a resolute look on her face. Her mind maneuvered on different ways to ruin the meeting.

She thought, 'I can take Junia with me when I meet that woman. Junia's presence may spark argument

between Anthony and his girlfriend. Also if I take Junia along with me my preference and intention will

be clear to her even without uttering a word. If that woman is smart enough, she will know I don't

support their relationship. And she will know that I will never accept her into my family. That may make

her to leave my son." Laura's face became somber when she schemed about the impending meeting

with Anthony's girlfriend. She then looked at Junia and asked, "Are you free for the next two or three

days? Why don't you come with me?"

"Where do you want to go?" Junia asked. She was rather surprised at this sudden proposal made by

Laura. In her mind, she was still struggling whether to pursue Anthony or not. It was not easy for

anyone to refuse such an eligible man. And apart from his impressive personality, Junia was rather

blown away by his faithfulness. If she could win his heart, she would be surely live a happy life. But if he couldn't, she would be deeply hurt in the process of pursuing him.

Laura gave a scornful laugh and said, "Let's meet that shameless woman. Let's just go and see what kind of woman has caught my son's fancy? I have to say, I am curious to meet her. And now that you have heard so much about her, I am sure even you would be equally curious. Aren't you?"

Junia though for a while weighing up the pros and cons from all sides and agreed. In fact she was interested in Anthony's girlfriend. She thought, 'I remember her name is Sheryl. She has a daughter. How could she win Anthony's loyalty? I am curious to know.'

It was 1 p.m. Sheryl helped Shirley get dressed. Shirley looked bright and pretty in a comfortable dress.

"Sher, are you taking me out?" Shirley looked at her mother curiously and asked, tilting her head.

"Yes," Sheryl replied with a smile as she combed Shirley's hair and tied her hair in a ponytail. "Your dear Tony is coming back. He will take us out for dinner. Are you happy to hear that?"

Shirley was overjoyed to hear that. Her smile took up half her face and she was even singing. Anthony was a good uncle for her. She would be happier if he could be her father. But she could not understand

the reason behind her mother not being ready to get married to him.

Sheryl had intended to meet Anthony at the airport with Shirley. Anthony declined the offer and asked them to wait at home. He would take them to a good place when he arrived.

Anthony was mysterious and excited on the phone. Sheryl agreed and waited for him.

Chapter 647 Anthony Comes Back

About three o'clock, Anthony knocked on Sheryl's door. Shirley rushed to open the door. Upon seeing

Anthony there, she jumped into his arms and said with happiness, "Tony, you are back finally!"

Anthony hugged Shirley with love and kissed her on the cheek. He asked with a broad smile, "Did you miss me, sweetie?"

"Yes, I did!" Shirley said vigorously nodding her head. She added, "I missed you so much that I did not sleep every day."

Sheryl laughed and exposed Shirley's lie, "Anthony, don't believe this little liar. She only cared about her play during your absence. She slept very soundly every night and didn't show the smallest sign of missing you."

Sheryl looked at Shirley with amusement and affection. She wondered why Shirley was so naughty.

Her daughter was so different from her in nature.

"She knows that you bring loads of gifts for her every time you come back from a trip. She was just

flattering you." Sheryl voiced Shirley's true reason for the warm welcome she showed Anthony.

"Sher!" Shirley tried to stop Sheryl from exposing her but it was too late. The damage was done. She

stared at Sheryl with an injured look and told her not to spread lies about her any more.

"Fine, I will keep all your secrets safe from now on," Sheryl promised with a laugh as she busied herself

cleaning the room.

"Look Shirley, look what are these?" Many toys suddenly and magically appeared in Anthony's hands.

Anthony said with a smile, "I choose to believe Shirley did miss me. I don't care whether she lied or

not."

Sheryl felt very pleased with Anthony's love for Shirley.

Shirley squealed with joy and grabbed the toys. She took the toys to her room. She began playing with

all the toys in no time. Anthony closed the door and walked up to Sheryl. He hugged her tightly from

behind. He pressed his face on her shoulder and asked her with affection, "Sher, did you miss me?"

Sheryl gently moved out of his arms. She avoided the question and said with a smile, "You shouldn't

always listen to Shirley and pamper her so much. She will get totally spoiled."

"I like to spoil her and see her sweet and happy smile." Anthony looked deep into Sheryl's eyes as he said, "She is my daughter and I will do anything for her happiness."

"What do you mean?" Sheryl asked with a blush. "How is she your daughter?"

"Isn't she?" Anthony asked, "She will officially become my daughter when we get married. A good father should always spoil his daughter. Otherwise, when she grows up she will fall for any man who is a little sweet to her."

"Anthony, stop talking nonsense!" Sheryl said with a coy look at him. She sat down and began folding the washed and dried clothes.

Anthony sat down beside her and asked, "I hope you have not forgotten your promise to me Sher."

"What did I promise?" Sheryl stopped folding the clothes and looked at Anthony nervously.

Anthony frowned and said, "Have you forgotten? You said you would visit my parents with me after I came back. Then you promised to marry me. Please tell me you are only joking and have not really forgotten your promise."

Somehow, another man's image flitted into Sheryl's mind. She shook her head immediately, trying to

drive away the image from her mind.

Anthony got worried when he saw her shaking her head. He gripped her hands tightly and asked, "What do you mean by shaking your head? You did agree to marry me. Have you changed your mind?"

"No. I have not changed my mind." Sheryl smiled and consoled him, "I agreed to marry you and I always keep my words."

"Thank God! Sher, you had me worried." Anthony felt reassured.

Sheryl flashed him a glance and questioned, "What about your parents? Have they agreed to meet me?"

"Of course, they have agreed." Anthony said with joy, "I came back to take you and Shirley to meet my parents and take their blessings. Let us fix the date of our wedding as soon as possible. Is that okay?"

"That is perfectly okay," Sheryl agreed with a smile.

It was a sunny day so Sheryl had aired all her coats in the sunshine. She collected all of them and proceeded to fold them carefully with Anthony's help. Shortly after, Shirley came out and said, "Mom, I am hungry. When will we eat?"

Sheryl looked at Anthony and said, "You promised to take us out for dinner to a new place. So where is this place?"

"You will know when we reach there," Anthony said mysteriously. He held Shirley in one arm and clasped Sheryl's hand with the other. "Let's go for dinner right now!" he exclaimed eagerly.

All of them were in a happy mood. Shirley had been sad for a long time after she was separated from Charlie. But now her smile had reappeared on her face because of Anthony.

Seeing Shirley's joyful face in Anthony's arms, Sheryl told herself repeatedly that she had made a right choice. Anthony would always love her and would never betray her.

"Where are we going?"

"It's a secret."

Sheryl was still very curious about the unknown restaurant. She kept trying to get Anthony to reveal the name to her as they were waiting for the elevator. Anthony playfully refused to tell her.

Both of them were still involved in their playful banter about the secret place, when the door of the elevator opened. Sheryl was embarrassed when she saw Sue in it.

It was the first time they were seeing each other since their quarrel. Both Sheryl and Sue felt awkward

and embarrassed.

"Hi, Sue! Why are you here?" Anthony greeted. He didn't know all that had happened between Sheryl

and Sue. He was surprised to see Sue there and thought she had come to meet Sheryl. Then he

recalled Sheryl had told him that Sue lived in the house opposite to Sheryl's. "Oh! I forgot. You live here

too," he said.

Anthony glanced at the food boxes in her hands and asked, "Did you go out to pick up some food?"

"Yes," Sue answered with hesitation. Then she tried to hide the boxes behind her back secretly.

"Anthony, when did you get back? Why didn't you inform me?" she asked Anthony without glancing at

Sheryl even once.

Sue felt regret as soon as she uttered the words. 'Why should he inform you of his return?

Sheryl is his girlfriend and he only needs to keep her informed. You have no right to know such details,

' she scolded herself painfully.

"I..." Anthony stammered as he was taken aback. He cast a glance at Sheryl in embarrassment. He

really didn't know how to answer Sue's strange question.

Chapter 648 Destination Memory

Sheryl lowered her head slightly as if nothing had happened. She did not look at Sue nor Anthony. She simply kept to herself.

Noticing Sheryl's reaction, Anthony told Sue, "I just arrived, and haven't had time to tell you yet."

Sue smiled and asked, "What is it? Are you going out?"

"Yes," replied Anthony, "we're going out to have something to eat. Would you like to join us?" His tone, however, gave him away.

Sue realized that Anthony was just being polite, so she shook her head in refusal and lied, "No, no, I... I've already had my dinner. Thank you though."

She then threw him a half-smile and felt the need to add, "Let's eat together next time. I won't bother you now."

Sue obviously didn't mean it, but couldn't show that.

Although she had a fall out with Sheryl, she could not let Anthony know so; otherwise, he would be done with her as well.

That meant she would not stand a chance with him any longer. So she tried her best to put on an act for his sake.

Anthony was no fool, however. He knew something was up. Thankfully, the elevator opened up shortly after her words. He faked a smile too, and tried to end the awkward conversation. "All right, well... will see you later then." With a respectful nod towards Sue, he grabbed Sheryl's hand and stepped inside the elevator.

As soon as the doors closed, he turned his face to Sheryl and inquired, "Ok Sher, what is going on with you?"

Startled, Sheryl could only let out a confused "Huh?" With her eyebrows raised high, she looked at him and asked, "Sorry, what did you say?"

Anthony clarified on a slow pace, "I want to know... what happened between you and Sue. You two are acting quite strange today."

Sheryl didn't want Anthony to know anything. So, in true reverse psychology style, she joked, "Oh you know, we fight over guys every day." She went on forcing a laugh and pretended like nothing was wrong. "C'mon! You're overthinking it. There isn't anything going on between us. We are good friends."

That left Anthony even more confused. Therefore, he insisted, "But you two... didn't even exchange a

word just now."

Fortunately, the elevator reached the ground floor quickly. So Sheryl took the opportunity and changed

the subject, "All right. Hurry up." She grabbed Anthony's hand and pulled him out of the elevator

saying, "I'm hungry."

He eventually gave up and replied, "Ok, fine. Let's go." Then, heading over to a fancy car parked

nearby, Anthony opened the passenger door for Sheryl to get inside. Sheryl didn't know where Anthony

had gotten the car from, but she didn't ask either. They both got in and he started heading towards the

suburbs. About half an hour later, they stopped in a dark, though full parking lot. The place looked

eerie. Sheryl could not help but feel apprehensive; so she asked him, "Are you sure this is the right

place?"

"Yes," Anthony confirmed with a nod. At the sight of Sheryl's suspicious look, he continued, "We're not

there yet, though. We have to get out of the car and walk for a few more minutes."

Sheryl hesitated for a moment. She really did not feel like getting out of the car. So she tried to reason

with Anthony, "Would you double check the location details, please? This can't be the right place."

"Just trust me for once," Anthony pleaded. With an unrecognizable twinkle in his eyes, he added, "And

hurry up now, or you'll really lose your seat."

Just around the corner, they could spot one lighted side of a majestic restaurant, in a semi-secluded location at the top of a mountain. It offered the most spectacular views of the whole city, and people were packed like sardines in the lines for the cable car. If Sheryl hadn't lost her memories, she would have recognized the place. It was the Peak Restaurant, where Charles had also brought her many years ago.

Maybe fate liked playing tricks on her. As luck would have it, Sheryl and Anthony were the last couple to be allowed on a cable car; so everyone behind them was utterly disappointed to miss the opportunity. A number of people began throwing a fit, raging at the guards and kicking pebbles around.

One lady ran up to Sheryl as she was getting inside the cabin and begged, "My friend, can you leave it for us, please? My boyfriend and I don't want to miss this opportunity. We only see each other once in a blue moon..."

Sheryl wasn't sure how to reply. Even though she felt bad for the lady, she also felt bad for Anthony's efforts. He had made all the arrangements so, if anything, he would have to be the one to make the

call. Confused, she only managed to let out an "I..." before Anthony cut her off. He had lots of plans for that night and no lady was going to ruin them. With an impatient attitude he argued, "Tough luck for you,

ma'am! Sorry, we can't give it up. My girlfriend and I also meet only once or twice a month."

"Girlfriend?" the lady taunted. She looked at Shirley, who was holding Anthony's hand, and felt the urge to comment in a derogatory tone, "You already have a child, but she is just your girlfriend?! Oh, I see...

is this one your mistress?" She pointed at Sheryl. Without waiting for an answer, she went on, "It's a shame! I tell you... people like you don't even deserve to eat here at all."

After having waited for so long in line and then hearing that stranger's accusations, Anthony had reached his limit. His blood was boiling and he couldn't keep his mouth shut. With eyes locked onto the rude woman and a scary scowl on his face, he stepped forward and began insulting and arguing. The situation rapidly escalated and more people joined in the fight. The commotion triggered a strange reaction in Sheryl. It felt like another out of body experience. Flashes, street lights, noise... they were all twirling in her head in an unorganized manner. She peered around unable to make any sense of it all.

At that moment Anthony turned his face to her, to let her know he would be right back. However, when

seeing her pale face and lost eyes, he immediately ceased the argument.

"Sher, what's wrong?" he exclaimed. His wrath had quickly turned into worry. As Sheryl crouched down,

he hurried to hold her from falling. Extremely concerned, he asked again, "Are you not feeling well?"

Sheryl gazed across the area and couldn't find her words. She kept saying "I..." The crowd didn't seem

to want to give Anthony a break, however. The rude lady began accusing him again, "Oh did I touch a

soft spot? I knew it! Look at her guilty face. That's what happens when you mess around with these

kinds of men." Sheryl was sweating; her heartbeat was irregular, and her vision was getting blurry.

"Shut your mouth!" Anthony revolted. He gave the woman a furious look and went back to Sheryl. He

was so angry. He had fantasized about that night for so long, imagining how he would kneel down and

take out that ring. All of that had gone down the drain! Their entire soiree was ruined, and on top of

that, Sheryl wasn't feeling well.

Maybe Anthony's concerned look or Sheryl's sickly appearance made the rude lady realize that she

may have gone a bit overboard. So she stopped saying a word.

Anthony lifted Sheryl in his arms and then told Shirley, "Please follow me, sweetheart. I have to take

your mother to the hospital, okay?"

"Okay," replied the little girl obediently. She wasn't sure what was happening either, so she just followed

him to the car, and later into the hospital.

Anthony was a doctor but, when it came to Sheryl, his emotions would completely bias his medical skills. So he wanted someone else to check on her as soon as possible.

After examining her, the doctor couldn't find anything out of the ordinary. Yes, her blood pressure was a bit off, but nothing alarming. He told Anthony to not worry as Sheryl was fine. At that moment,

Anthony's concern turned into anger. He grabbed the doctor's collar and retaliated, "She's lying in bed unconscious and you're telling me she's fine?! You're going to have to do better than that!"

"Calm down first," replied the doctor on a neutral tone. He was trying to keep his composure and act professionally. He then proceeded to ask Anthony, "Has she ever... lost her memory?"

Anthony was stunned by the doctor's words. He looked him right in the eyes, paused, and then hesitantly released his collar. He replied in the affirmative with a troubled stare.

His suspicions were killing him, so he had to clarify, "But... what does her coma have to do with her amnesia? Listen, I'm also a doctor and I know it's almost impossible for her to recover her memories."

The doctor disagreed, "Just because she hasn't remembered anything so far, it doesn't mean she won't.

Yes, the chances are slim, but they still exist." He fixed his collar and then continued, "She is showing

symptoms of recovery... increased brain activity in her hippocampus, new electrical signals on her MRI

scan indicating perhaps new synapses, as well as random babbles in her sleep. Since you're a doctor,

you must recognize the symptoms too."

Wide-eyed, Anthony expressed his disbelief, "Nooo, it's impossible." He stared at the doctor with his

mouth open for a while and eventually began arguing again, "In none of the clinical case studies for her

medicine has anyone recovered their memories, even partially. How do you explain that?"

"Keep your voice down, please!" the doctor demanded with an irritated tone. What was happening to

Sheryl wasn't his fault, so he didn't have to take Anthony's bad mood. He straightened out and then

explained further, "As I already mentioned, just because it hasn't happened yet, it doesn't mean it won't.

There have not been enough case studies done on this medicine, anyway. So she might be its new

breakthrough. Right now, all you should do is be there for her and help her through the process. We do

not know what may happen next."

The doctor was eager to end the conversation. So without even waiting for an answer from Anthony, he turned around and left him standing there all alone.

Anthony did not know how to react. He was in complete shock. Sheryl was about to recover her memory. His chest suddenly started feeling heavy.

Chapter 649 Flustered

"Tony..." Shirley murmured. She had been standing in the corner. It was the first time that she saw

Anthony in such a bad mood so she didn't know what to do. She dared not approach him until she saw him calming down.

She tugged Anthony's sleeve and asked, "Will Sher be all right?"

"Yes." Anthony's voice was full of assurance. He didn't want to scare Shirley more. Sheryl was already inside the ward being taken care of by some doctors. Anthony squatted, touched Shirley's head, and said with a smile, "Shirley, just stay here with Sheryl, okay? I'll go out to buy some food first."

"Okay." Shirley nodded cleverly.

When Anthony came out of the hospital, he lit a cigarette. He could still feel his body trembling. The doctor's words lingered in his mind.

'Sheryl's memories would soon come back. If that day comes, what should I do?'

Anthony was racking his brains while smoking some cigarettes one after another. In the end, he still didn't come up with a solution.

Anthony stayed outside for almost 30 minutes. It wasn't until he finished a pack of cigarette that he went to buy food. When he came back to the ward, Shirley was already lying beside Sheryl and the two were talking.

Seeing Anthony enter, Sheryl struggled to sit and asked, "Where have you been?"

"I went to buy some food for you and Shirley." Acting as if nothing had happened, Anthony raised the meal box in his hand and said, "It's still hot. Come on, you better start eating before it gets cold."

"It would have been better that we just ate at home if I had known this would happen," Sheryl responded with a bitter smile. "Anthony, what happened today was really embarrassing," she added.

"Silly girl. You don't have to feel that way," Anthony smiled and comforted her. Then he opened the box.

"Come and eat now."

"I'm not hungry yet," Sheryl refused. "You eat with Shirley first. I want to sleep for a while."

"Alright, take a rest now. Just let me know what you want to eat when you wake up." Anthony agreed.

"Okay," Sheryl replied shortly and laid down on the bed again. Anthony was actually not hungry at all.

So, he just waited for Shirley to finish eating before he put the boxes away.

When Sheryl woke up, Anthony offered to accompany her. However, she refused. "Anthony, Shirley is too young and vulnerable. There are a lot of viruses in the hospital and she might easily get infected. It would be much better if you could take her back home. That way, I can rest assured that she wouldn't get any sickness," Sheryl explained to Anthony.

Anthony frowned slightly and replied, "But how can I be at ease leaving you alone here?"

"I'm going to be fine," Sheryl smiled. "Or better yet, you go home with Shirley and just come back early tomorrow morning. I just had a headache. It's really nothing serious."

With Sheryl's insistence, Anthony had no choice but to leave with Shirley. As soon as they left, Sheryl's expression changed.

Sheryl didn't tell Anthony that the real reason why she fainted was because a vague memory of a similar incident flashed through her mind when Anthony was arguing with that woman.

She saw herself holding hands with Charles while also arguing with a woman. She even remembered that the owner of that restaurant was also the owner of the hotel she used to live in.

She chose not to tell Anthony about it because even she, herself, couldn't clearly understand what the memory was all about.

She took out her cell phone and searched for the owner of the hotel and the restaurant. When she confirmed that they were the same persons, she leaned on the bed feeling dejected.

So it was all true! The memories that flashed through her mind were all real!

Did that mean, she had already known Charles a long time ago?

This realization brought shivers down her spine. If she had really known Charles long time ago, then, could it be possible that she was really Charles' missing wife?

The idea freaked her out. She hurriedly searched Charles's and his wife's information on her cell phone. She felt more uneasy when she found out that Autumn was related to Amy.

She tried to find any photos of Autumn online so she could see how she looked like. To her dismay, she couldn't find any. All photos of Autumn on the Internet were already deleted. This made her even more confused.

She wanted to call Charles for clarifications. But after hesitating for quite a while, she decided to

dismiss the idea. Then, she suddenly remembered Isla. Isla claimed that she used to be Autumn's best friend.

Although it was already very late, Sheryl still called her. If she wouldn't be able to get an answer today, she might go insane.

"Sheryl?" Isla recognized her immediately. "I didn't expect to receive a call from you, especially at this time. It's already very late." At that time, Isla was already lying on bed and was about to turn off the bedside lamp.

It took a while for Sheryl to speak up, "Isla..." After hesitating for a moment, she finally was able to asked, "Are you free right now?"

"Yup," answered Isla without a second thought. If Sheryl would ask for her help right now, she would be willing to put everything aside no matter how important it was. She hurriedly got up from the bed and asked, "What's wrong? Just tell me."

"Can you... Can you come and see me, please?" Sheryl begged. "There are some things I want to talk to you." Sheryl just actually tried her luck without much hope. She didn't expect that Isla would come to her especially that it was already very late.

To her surprise, Isla answered, "Tell me where you are right now. I'll be there."

"I'll text you the address," Sheryl said. She then hung up the phone and sent Isla a message. She restlessly waited inside her ward.

Isla immediately changed her clothes. Aron just came back from their daughter's room because he sent her to bed. When he saw Isla changing her clothes, he asked in puzzlement, "What happened? Where are you going? It's already very late."

"Autumn called me and she wants to see me," she explained in a hurry. They still preferred to call her Autumn instead of Sheryl when there were no other people around.

Aron knitted his brows. "Can't it wait until tomorrow?"

"I don't know." Isla shook her head. Sheryl didn't tell her the reason why she wanted to see her. "This is the first time that Autumn contacted me after she came back so I couldn't just let this pass. I have to go and meet her. I'm not sure what time I will be back so just go to bed and don't wait for me anymore. It's already too late."

"How about I drive you there?" Aron suggested. He was worried that his wife would go out alone at this

time of the night. But Isla refused.

"No, I'll just go by myself." Isla got in the car and checked her cell phone. She found out that the address Sheryl gave her was a hospital. When she got there, she looked for her ward number. There, she found Sheryl lying on her hospital bed. Isla was flustered. "What's wrong with you? What happened?"

"I'm fine," Sheryl replied. Although Sheryl already had a doubt that she might be Autumn, she still couldn't remember everything so she still felt a little bit weird seeing Isla's distraught expression.

Chapter 650 The Truth Was Revealed

Isla reached out her hand in an attempt to touch Sheryl's hand, but Sheryl dodged and answered indifferently, "I just got a headache. You have nothing to worry about."

Isla felt relieved after she heard Sheryl's answer. She then pulled a chair beside Sheryl's bed and sat down. "Did anything happen? Why were you so anxious to ask me to come here?" Isla asked while gazing at Sheryl.

After she called Isla earlier, Sheryl had already made up her mind to dig the truth from Isla.

But now that Isla was in front of her, she hesitated to start asking.

Sheryl was clear that perhaps she had to pay the price if she really wanted to find out the truth. But she

was also worried that she might not bear what she was about to find out.

"What's going on? What happened to you? Tell me," Isla asked anxiously. When Sheryl still didn't say anything, Isla added, "I am so confused now. Please, don't just keep quiet. Say something."

Because of Isla's aggressiveness, Sheryl finally spoke after a moment of hesitation. "It's about Autumn.

She is your friend, right?"

"Yes, of course," Isla immediately answered. But when she realized Sheryl's question, she was a little taken aback. She didn't expect Sheryl to ask about Autumn. However, since she already answered, she decided to just spill it out. "She was my best friend."

"Well..." Sheryl paused for a while. Then she continued to ask, "Do you have a picture of her?"

"What?" Obviously, Isla was once again stunned by Sheryl's question. She stared at Sheryl, feeling something uncanny. She couldn't really tell Sheryl's purpose of bringing this matter up. So she asked, "Why do you want to see her picture?"

"I... I just want to see how much resemblance do we have," replied Sheryl. A smile showed on Sheryl's face. She looked intently at Isla, trying to study her expressions.

Isla felt that Sheryl was acting so weird so she decided not to show Autumn's picture without knowing

Sheryl's true intentions first. She just sat quietly, lost in her thoughts. After a while, she heaved a sigh

and asked, "Sheryl, can you tell me what happened? Why did you suddenly become so interested in

Autumn's picture?"

Sheryl also took a deep breath before she explained, "When I went back to Y City, I met you and

Charles. Since we've met, I could always hear Autumn's name and she is always associated to me.

Even though I don't know her, people would always mistaken me for her. I don't want to be regarded as

someone else. My name is Sheryl and not Autumn. I am not her substitute."

Isla couldn't help but frown after she heard Sheryl's explanation.

'Sheryl and Autumn are actually the same people. How could Sheryl say that she is merely a

substitute?' Isla thought in her mind.

After a short pause, Sheryl showed a bitter smile and continued, "I thought I could live peacefully if I

stayed away from all of you. But..." She stopped in mid-sentence. "But some weird scenes would just

suddenly flash in my mind recently. And all of them always involve Charles. I couldn't tell if I was just

dreaming or everything was real. I even started to wonder if I am really Autumn. Perhaps I only forgot

everything because of amnesia." Sheryl gave Isla a perplexed look.

"Sheryl, what did you say just now? Did I hear you right?" Isla held Sheryl's hands cheerfully. Isla was very ecstatic when she heard Sheryl mention those things. "Can you already remember things from your past?" Isla asked with great expectations. Isla was so pleased that her eyes flickered.

"No, I don't," Sheryl replied while shaking her head slightly. She took a glimpse at Isla and explained, "The scenes would just flash in my mind but would also vanish so soon. I'm not really sure if they are parts of my past."

Sheryl held Isla's hands tightly, looked into her eyes and pleaded again, "Please tell me, how much do Autumn and I look like? Tell me the truth please, Isla."

"I..." Isla had no idea how to tell Sheryl. She was speechless for a moment. She wondered if it was really the right time to tell Sheryl about the truth. She was so afraid that Sheryl would get hurt.

Finally, she said, "Sheryl, stop asking me this question." Isla loosened her grip then turned her back from Sheryl.

"Why don't you tell me the truth?" Sheryl condemned. She didn't expect that Isla would refuse to be

honest with her. "If I am really Autumn, why are you so reluctant to tell me?" Sheryl asked with conviction.

"Sheryl, please don't misunderstand me. I just..." she mumbled. Isla was at a loss on how to explain to her.

Slowly, Sheryl got off from her sickbed, faced Isla and held her hands again. This time, her voice was begging. "Isla, I just want to know the truth. I have also tried to ask this question numerous times to Anthony during the past years but he would just always tell me to forget it."

A bitter smile appeared in Sheryl's face again. "Perhaps something bad happened in my past and maybe you just don't want me to feel sad or hurt. But, whatever happened, it is also a part of my life. I really want to have my memory back to feel complete again.

All I want to know is, if I really have something to do with Autumn. Why can't you just tell me about it?"

Isla fell into silence once again. She was contemplating a lot. After quite a long while, she asked Sheryl with a serious look on her face, "What do you want to know? You can pour out all your confusions and I will give my best to clarify them to you."

Sheryl's jaw dropped upon hearing Isla's words. Finally, she could have the chance to know the truth.

She blinked her eyes before she asked for Autumn's picture again.

This time, Isla took out Autumn's picture and showed it to Sheryl. Upon seeing the picture, Sheryl finally confirmed that Autumn was her. She was Charles' wife. The truth was now in front of her and she was in awe.

'Since I am Autumn, why would I leave Charles?' Sheryl asked herself. She still couldn't recall what exactly happened.

"Autumn, are you okay?" Isla looked worried when she saw that Sheryl was dazed. This time, Isla dared to call Sheryl by her real name. Anyway, the truth was already revealed to her. "Please tell me if you don't feel well," she urged her.

"I am fine. Don't worry," Sheryl replied absentmindedly. She slightly shook her head. Now, everything made sense to her. So this was why Charles had always treated her so kindly no matter how cold she was towards him. No wonder Charles would always be reluctant to leave her and Shirley by themselves. It turned out, Shirley was his daughter. How ridiculous!

Moreover, Sheryl also used to wonder why Amy and the rest of the Zhao family were so kind to her.

She thought that she was just lucky to have met such a nice family. But now that the truth was revealed, she could finally understand the real reason of Zhao family's warm treatment on her. She was a part of the Zhao family, and Amy was her grandmother. Sheryl was too dumbfounded to be able to utter even a single word.

After a long while, Sheryl could only say, "I am tired now. I want to sleep." Sheryl felt so uncomfortable at heart that she even forgot to care about Isla's feelings. All she thought was that she needed time to absorb everything and accept the truth.

Nevertheless, Isla could understand Sheryl's feeling. She knew Sheryl must be upset after finding out the truth. After taking a glance at her, she said in an empathetic tone, "Well then, have a good rest. I will just come back later."

Isla heaved a sigh and was about to leave when Sheryl stopped her and said, "Isla, please don't tell anyone about this. For now, I don't want anyone to know that I have already regained my memory. Can I trust you with this?" She waited expectantly for Isla's answer.

"Okay, I won't tell anyone about this. Don't worry. Your secret is safe with me," Isla assured. Though she was hesitant, Isla was determined not to tell anyone about this news.

It was already late at night when Isla got back home. However, Aron was still waiting for her in the living room.

"I'm glad that you're finally back. How did it go? What did Sheryl talk about with you?" Aron asked anxiously. He also wanted to know the real reason why Sheryl was eager to meet Isla today.