

## **Wedded Bride 691**

### Chapter 691 Where Is The Child

Anthony went to Sheryl's home in the evening. When he saw Charlie there, he already expected that

Charles would also come later. He bought some vegetables from the market because he was planning

to prepare dinner for Sheryl so he told Nancy to just rest. Then he went to the kitchen and began

preparing dinner.

When Anthony was about to put the plate of roasted fish on the table, the door suddenly opened. He

wasn't surprised to see Charles and Sheryl come home together. So, he just casually said, "Oh, you're

finally home. I made your favorite dishes. Go wash your hands and let's have dinner."

"Why are you here?" Sheryl asked. She was surprised to see Anthony in her home because he didn't

inform her.

"I bought some clothes and fruits for Shirley earlier this afternoon. Mr. Lu's son is also here, so I

thought of making dinner for them. But now that you and Mr. Lu are finally here, we can have dinner all

together," Anthony explained. Then he turned to Charles and said, "Mr. Lu, please stay and have dinner

with us." Anthony was acting like a host and Charles felt discontented of him. He refused the offer

coldly, "No, thanks. Charlie and I must go home now."

"Hold on!" Anthony stopped Charles from leaving. "The dinner is ready. Besides, Sheryl and I have

already taken you as our friend. It would be our pleasure to have a dinner with you."

Sheryl looked at Charles and also said, "Yes, that's right. Just stay and have dinner with us."

Charles eventually acceded. However, he still felt uncomfortable seeing Anthony acting like the host of this family.

Anthony went to the kitchen while Charles played with the two children. Suddenly, Shirley called

out, "Uncle Charles." Shirley also liked Charles the way he liked Charlie. She ran to him, jumped into his arms and said, "Charlie told me that you bought a new toy for him. Can I also play with it?"

"Sure!" Charles answered. He then rubbed Shirley's head happily.

"I will buy you one if you also like that toy," Anthony said as he came out of the kitchen. He overheard Shirley's request and felt a little jealous seeing Shirley's fondness to Charles.

Although he wasn't Shirley's father, he treated her as his own. The love and care he gave to Shirley was even more than a real father could give to his child.

On the other hand, Charles who was Shirley's biological father had never done anything for her.

That was why Anthony got very uncomfortable when he saw Shirley so close to Charles.

"No, Tony," Shirley rejected. "I just want to go to Charlie's home and play it with him," she added.

"Okay, you are welcome to our home anytime." Charles let out a soft laugh upon hearing Shirley's

reply. He couldn't hide his amusement. 'My daughter is so considerate,' he thought.

'Anthony must feel defeated by her words.'

Because of Shirley's words and Charles' victorious laugh, Anthony's face dimmed.

At the dinner table, Anthony sat beside Sheryl who was just quiet the whole time. While eating, Charles

turned to Charlie and asked, "Charlie, how about going out to play tomorrow?"

"Great!" Charlie agreed excitedly. When he looked at Shirley, he also saw the eagerness in her eyes so

he turned to his father and asked, "Can Shirley join us?"

"Of course!" Charles replied. Then he turned to Shirley and said with a smile, "Shirley, you can go with

us if you want to."

Shirley clapped her hands in joy. "Yehey! I can go out and play with Charlie!" Shirley was so excited

that she hugged Charles.

"Shirley!" Anthony abruptly called her attention. With an arched brow, he said, "If you want to go out

tomorrow, I can go with you."

"No!" Shirley refused. "I want to go with Charlie," she said, looking dejected.

"Shirley!" Anthony's face dimmed. He told Shirley in a serious tone, "Don't be naughty."

Sheryl noticed that Anthony's reactions were weird. She glimpsed at him and said, "Just let her go with Charlie."

Sheryl couldn't see anything wrong with Shirley going out with Charlie. Moreover, she would also be with them.

"How can you allow her to do so?" Anthony got a little annoyed knowing that Sheryl was also against him. He arched a brow and said to Sheryl, "Mr. Lu is very busy every day and hardly has time to accompany his son. I don't think it's good that we bother them when they can finally get a chance to bond."

"No, we don't mind," Charles abruptly answered. Then he cast Anthony a defiant glance.

Anthony frowned slightly and continued with his standpoint to Sheryl. "I still think that Shirley should go with us. Let's just give Mr. Lu and his son a time of their own. How about going to the amusement park

tomorrow?" he suggested.

Sheryl drank a bit of her soup and replied, "We can't go tomorrow."

She looked at Anthony and added, "Mr. Lu has scheduled a hiking activity with all the models in his

company tomorrow so I won't be available."

She took a glance at Shirley and added, "I will take care of Shirley. Don't worry."

"Both you and Shirley will go hiking tomorrow?" Anthony asked in surprise. Anthony obviously felt sad.

'Has Sheryl begun dating Charles?' he wondered.

"Yes." Sheryl nodded her head. "Other models will also go and it's okay if Shirley wants to join us,"

Sheryl added.

"But..." Anthony hesitated for a moment. Anthony's expression clearly showed his discontent when he

continued, "Can you not go hiking?"

Sheryl looked at Anthony in awe. Anthony suddenly gave her a smile before she could say anything.

Then he said, "I'm just asking. I didn't mean anything."

After that, Anthony lowered his head to focus on his food. However, he was already overwhelmed with

sadness.

When they finished eating, Nancy started clearing the table. Charles stood up and was ready to leave.

When he noticed that Anthony didn't have the intention to leave, he offered, "How about leaving together, Mr. Xiao?"

"No, I..." Anthony was about to refuse. However, Sheryl agreed to Charles and interrupted him, "Anthony, you can go with Mr. Lu. Please say goodbye to Mr. Lu for me."

Anthony had no other choice but to follow Sheryl's advice. Since Charlie was with them, Charles and Anthony were silent in the elevator. But, when they got out of the elevator, Charles said to Charlie, "Charlie, you get in the car first and I'll follow you soon."

Charlie gave Anthony a cold glimpse before he went away. Although Anthony knew that Charlie was also Sheryl's child, he didn't like him at all.

When Charlie had left, Charles asked Anthony, "Can we talk now, Anthony?"  
"Do we need to talk?" Anthony asked back. He smiled bitterly and added, "We just talked not too long ago, remember?" "Are you going to tell me that you already want to quit?"

Well, if that's what you want to talk about with me, I'd be happy to listen." Anthony's tone sounded

unfriendly.

"You know that's impossible. Of course, Sheryl would choose me at the end," Charles said in a defiant

tone. He looked at Anthony's eyes and added, "You are the one who should quit. I think you can see things clearly, right?"

"If you don't want to give up on Sheryl, then I think we have nothing to talk about," Anthony said with a reluctant smile and was about to leave.

"Hold on!" Charles blocked Anthony's way. "You know that I have another child with Sher. Where is it now? Tell me."

#### Chapter 692 Come To Blows

Anthony was at first stunned to be questioned by Charles. But then he recovered quickly.

Anthony turned to Charles and said, "Mr. Lu, are you kidding me when you ask me about the baby's whereabouts!"

"Spare me all this pretence and nonsense!" Charles flew into rage at Anthony's refusal to tell him the truth. He jabbed a finger towards him and bellowed, "It was you who spirited Sheryl away to America. It is you who should be responsible for her amnesia. It is only you who know where the baby is." Charles then grabbed Anthony by the collar and threatened him with undesirable consequences if he did not

relent and tell Charles everything.

"Let go of me!" Anthony gave a cold smile and challenged Charles, "Yes, I have knowledge of the little one's hiding place. I choose to keep it away from you. There is nothing you can do about it!"

Anthony cast a contemptuous glance at Charles and said, "You did not come to Sheryl's rescue when she was in deep misfortune. Now you come to pester her and put an end to her comfortable and secure life."

Anthony sneered, "Charles, it would be better for you to walk out of Sheryl's life."

It was Sheryl who had been determined to take the pill in order to forget her past. However, Anthony was facing the music for that after the lapse of three years.

"I am supposed to walk out of Sheryl's life? Me?" Charles echoed Anthony's words in a sarcastic voice, "It was you who induced Autumn to drug herself when she was at her weakest. Anthony, you have craftily hidden your improper thoughts and lust for her. Do not dare to interfere in our conjugal affair. Last but not the least, the baby is innocent. I will not see him harmed in any way. Now please tell me where the baby is."

At the beginning, Anthony had felt somewhat guilty to wrest Sheryl from Charles. After all, Sheryl had

been drugged by Nancy at that time and had lost her cool.

Subsequently, she had forgot her past including her marriage with Charles.

At the beginning, Anthony had instituted many careful searches to find Leila and Charlie. He

discontinued his efforts after having learning that Leila would take good care of the little baby.

As his affinity and intimacy with Sheryl grew, Anthony stopped thinking about the matter and focused

only on Sheryl and Shirley.

When he returned to Y City with Sheryl, he met Charlie again. He was happy to find the little boy well

cared for by Charles. Thus, his guilt was somewhat quelled.

"You can rest assured. The baby is safe and sound." Anthony broke free Charles's fist and

said, "Charles, I can tell you where the little boy is being concealed on the condition that we negotiate a

deal."

"A deal?" Charles became suspicious and questioned Anthony, "What kind of deal?"

"Since you are dying to know your little baby's hiding place," Anthony grinned and continued, "I will give

you the information provided you promise to stay away from Sheryl."

Anthony mercilessly wanted Charles out of the way so that he could monopolize Sheryl.

Anthony risked saying these words even at the expense of arousing further hostility between him and Charles.

But he didn't care. He could do anything as long as he could be with Sheryl.

Charles flew into rage at Anthony's deal and then punched Anthony on the face to quench his anger.

"Anthony, how dare you!"

Anthony was expecting this blow, though the pain it caused almost distorted his face.

He ignored the pain, gave a cold smile and said, "It seems you value Sheryl more than the baby, so spare all this hypocrisy of loving your child!"

"Shut up! Don't utter nonsense!" Charles was angered and sneered, "I have come to realize that you are a man of duplicity. You pretend to be decent on the surface but have a black heart."

Charles gripped Anthony's collar tighter with one hand, and pointed at Anthony menacingly with the other. "I will abandon neither Sheryl nor the baby, so stop all your scheming ways!"

"Why are you so angry? I do not see any harm with my deal. It will be mutually beneficial to both of us,"

Anthony incited Charles who was about to conclude their conversation and leave the scene.

Anthony's aggressive remarks triggered Charles to land another heavy blow on his face. This punch made Anthony's nose bleed profusely.

Charles found that this was a good time to beat Anthony up and release all his frustrations. He wanted his vengeance and the satisfaction of hurting Anthony as he had been hurt by him.

Charles' impulse to beat Anthony up was at its peak.

A woman's shout momentarily distracted him.

Anthony took immediate advantage of Charles' distraction to gain the upper hand. "Come on. Fight me, you bastard. Let us see who wins."

Anthony sneered and spoke aggressively to Charles, "I was on the point of being engaged to Sheryl.

You came back into her life and spoilt it all. Now you deserve my whipping and thrashing."

Sue decided not to go the pub. She wanted to have an early night after finishing dinner with some friends. She came back home early, only to see the fight going on between Anthony and Charles.

Sue had no doubt that Anthony had come to blows with Charles because of Sheryl. She just could not figure out Sheryl's appeal to men. What was it about her that led gentlemen to behave like beasts and

fight over her?

Chapter 693 Have You Ever Thought About Her Feeling

One was a handsome and rich CEO while the other was a considerate and warm man. Either of them

would be a perfect husband for any woman. Now the two men were fighting against each other for

Sheryl. Every woman in the world would be jealous of her.

Seeing them fighting, Sue ran up to them. She tried to tear them apart, though her strength was not

enough to succeed. If they didn't stop fighting, the security would have to step in and all of them would

be in trouble.

"Stop fighting," Sue urged them. She looked at the two men with brows arched and scolded, "Don't you

feel ashamed that so many people are watching you fight? You are creating a big scene here and

attracting unwanted attention."

However, the two men didn't care to listen to her and kept on fighting. Sue was scared that she may be

hurt in the scuffle, so she stood a little away from them. Realizing that her words had no effect, she

moved forward and gripped Anthony's hand with all her strength. "You are bleeding. Stop fighting! Calm

down!" she said.

Anthony was seized by anger and wouldn't listen to Sue's caution. He pushed Sue away very violently.

Sue couldn't balance with her heels on and fell on the ground. She let out a scream in pain and

covered her ankle with her hands immediately.

The two men stopped as they heard Sue scream. They turned around to check her condition. Charles

was the first to take action and he helped Sue stand up.

"Are you okay?" Charles asked Sue. Charles helped Sue sit on the bench beside the flower bed. Then

he asked, "Why did you get involved in our fight? You should have had the good sense to stay out of the

way."

"Fight?" Sue looked at Charles and glanced at Anthony. To be honest, she was very disappointed

because Charles had rushed to her aid first rather than Anthony.

She smiled bitterly and questioned, "Are you kids? Why didn't you sort out whatever issue it was in a

peaceful manner? Can fighting solve any problem?"

Charles gave a smirk and replied, "Some problems can't be solved by talk either."

"I don't understand," Sue said in puzzlement. She looked at Charles and added, "You both fought over

Sheryl, right? Are you sure she will choose to be with you if you win the fight?"

She glanced at Anthony out of the corner of her eyes. She hoped that Anthony was listening to her words. "Have you ever tried to know Sheryl's opinion? Do you know what Sheryl's inner thoughts are?

What makes you think you have the right to make her decisions for her?" Sue enquired.

Anthony frowned as he heard Sue's words. He suddenly realized he had never considered Sheryl's choice.

He couldn't help wondering how he had gotten so selfish. He only cared about his feelings and had totally ignored Sheryl's.

Charles also reflected on his behavior. He realized that earlier he had led a very selfish existence. He was only concerned about himself and his wants. But he had changed a lot recently and had learnt to pay attention to Sheryl's feelings. He had changed in the hope that Sheryl would love him once again.

Anthony coldly glance at Sue and said,"You won't understand. This is a private matter between Charles, Sheryl and me. As an outsider, you shouldn't get involved."

Anthony was still selfish about Sheryl and wanted to have her. So, he just wouldn't listen to Sue no matter what she said.

Sue gave a bitter smile when she heard Anthony's words. She told Anthony, "You are right. I'm just an outsider for you. I shouldn't have concerned myself about you. I am leaving now so that you don't get upset on seeing me."

Sue felt so disappointed at Anthony's attitude towards her. Charles was just her temporary boss and yet he had rushed to help her when she fell. But Anthony had shown no sympathy or helped her then. She had hoped that at least Anthony would take her as his friend, but now she found she was wrong.

In Anthony's mind and heart, she was still a stranger to him.

She stood up with some effort and stared at Anthony for a long time. "I don't care about the reason for your fight. I want to tell you that nothing can be gained by fighting and it only exposes your weaknesses. I know both of you love Sheryl deeply. To be honest, I'm jealous of her.

However if I were Sheryl, I would be sad. Sheryl would be very disturbed to see you both fight over her. Both of you would become big burdens for her."

Her foot ached and she couldn't stand any longer. She said to Charles, "I'm sorry Mr. Lu. I can't join the group picnic tomorrow. I just want to rest at home. I am sure you will understand why."

She pointed at her ankle and Charles found it was swollen. So he nodded and said, "Okay, you take of

yourself and have a good rest."

Sue gave a small wave and went home.

Charles picked up his jacket. He said, "Anthony, I regret having said those words. Asking you about that

matter is the most ridiculous thing I have ever done. I feel ashamed for having hit you."

"You won't understand, Charles. It is very complicated." Anthony gave a cold smile. He could feel

Sheryl slipping far away from his grasp. He didn't want to be so selfish but he had no other choice. He

was helplessly in love with her.

When Charles left, Anthony looked at Sue who was limping slowly towards her house. He hesitated for

a while and then ran towards her.

Despite the unpleasantness between them, Sue was still his friend. She had twisted her ankle because

of him. He felt duty bound to help her.

"Are you okay, Sue? Is your leg hurting you very badly?" Anthony asked her with concern. Sue ignored

him completely. When they came to the elevator, Sue just pressed the floor number of her house and

leant against the wall for support and to rest.

She felt the pain in her foot was increasing and leaning against the wall made her feel better.

"Why have you come now?" Sue asked without sparing him a glance. After what had just happened,

she didn't want to be friendly with Anthony. He had been so cold with her. Moreover, she didn't want to

suffer disappointment in future because of his changeable attitude towards her.

What hurt her most was Anthony's indifference towards her.

Anthony kept silent and just followed her into the elevator. When the door of the elevator opened at her

floor, Sue tried to walk out of the elevator by supporting herself with a hand on the wall. Anthony

walked up to her and holding her by the waist, supported her. "Let me help you," he offered.

"No, thanks." Sue shook off his hand with all her strength.

Anthony felt very sad as he saw that Sue would rather limp painfully all by herself than accept his help.

It was the first time he saw Sue so angry.

As they reached her door, Sue still refused Anthony's offer of help. Anthony followed her inside her

house with a sad look on his face. After a while, he said, "Sue, if you wish, I can explain to you what

happened just now with Charles."

Chapter 694 Anthony's Guilty Conscience

"No, thanks," Sue refused with a smile. Supporting herself against the wall, she turned to Anthony.

"Anthony, I intervened in your relationship with Sheryl even though I know that I don't have the right to

meddle in your affair. Thus, I brought myself into this mess. I don't deserve your sympathy."

She wouldn't want to be tricked by Anthony anymore.

So, she forced a smile and looked at Anthony helplessly. "Please leave. I can take care of myself."

"Sue..." Anthony was speechless. He tried his best to accompany Sue to her apartment despite her

strong objection. When they reached the door, he urged Sue to open it.

Although Sue couldn't figure out Anthony's real intention, she still acceded to his demand.

Besides, her foot was already hurting excruciatingly.

When she entered her apartment, she advised Anthony to take his leave.

However, Anthony insisted to stay. He wanted to treat Sue's injured foot so he went to the kitchen to

look for an ice pack.

"Anthony... you..." Sue could not figure out what was on Anthony's mind.

Meanwhile, Sue sat on the couch and removed her shoes. When she checked her foot, she saw that it

was already swollen like a steamed bun. It would probably take ten to fifteen days of convalescence.

She was anxious because Charles' company would be sponsoring a fashion show a month later and she would be participating in it.

In the kitchen, Anthony rummaged the fridge but found nothing useful except for a well-packed frozen pettitoes. Since he didn't have any choice, Anthony decided to use it for a cold compress. He went back to Sue and motioned her to put it on top of the swollen ankle. He thought he would apply some medicine after the cold compress.

But Sue dismissed Anthony's kindness roughly.

Anthony didn't mind her attitude. He immediately crouched and applied cold compresses to her swollen ankle despite her rejection. After a while, Sue felt a little relieved from the pain.

Seeing that Sue felt a lot better, Anthony took her key and hastened to buy some medicine.

When he came back, he was loaded with small and big packages. He bought different kinds of medicines for Sue's swollen ankle. He checked her ankle and sighed in relief when he saw that it was gradually getting smaller.

Anthony set the pettitoes aside and handed a bottle of medicine to Sue. He also reminded her to use it

regularly until the swelling disappeared.

"I know what to do," Sue replied firmly. She didn't want to feel Anthony's pity on her. It hurt her even more.

"Anthony, there is really no need for you to take care of me. I feel better now. You can already take a leave." Sue was determined to distance herself from Anthony.

"Sue, I know you are mad at me," Anthony said sadly. He glanced at Sue first before he continued, "Instead of me, it was Charles who helped you during your injury. But believe me, I really wanted to help you earlier. It just happened that Charles reacted quicker than me."

"Really?" Sue planted a false smile on her face. She didn't care about Anthony's explanation that much. She just wanted him to leave her house immediately.

This time, Sue was determined to break up with Anthony.

She wanted to avoid any more troubles and pains.

"I must stay here to take care of you until your completely recover," Anthony insisted. Anthony wanted to do this to mitigate his guilt.

"You are talking nonsense!" Sue immediately refused to grant Anthony's request. 'If I allowed Anthony

to stay with me, we would definitely be the talk of the town. People would start gossiping about us,'

Sue thought to herself.

She couldn't afford to live in shame.

"Why not?" Anthony looked dubious. Anthony had already stayed overnight at Sue's apartment for a few times so he couldn't understand Sue's refusal this time.

Sue didn't say a word but remained adamant.

Keeping Anthony in her apartment would cause her inconvenience after all.

At last, Sue glanced at Anthony and said coolly, "It's inappropriate for you to stay here."

"I am not asking for your permission," Anthony said with great composure. "I am telling you my decision."

"You..." Sue knew Anthony would not listen anymore.

So she took her cellphone and threatened him that she would call the police if he didn't leave quickly.

However, Anthony just ignored her. He intended to do something for Sue. He wanted to make up for his misconduct.

Realizing the futility of her threat, Sue put her cellphone down.

She then turned to Anthony and spoke in a helpless manner, "I promised you that I will never interfere with your relationship with Sheryl anymore. Now, please leave me alone!"

Sue was aware that Anthony's kindness was not bound by pure love.

"I harbor no evil against you," Anthony said truthfully. He felt awfully sorry to Sue. So, he iterated his willingness to take good care of her.

"Anthony, spare me your guilty conscience!" She smiled at him coldly and said, "You don't need to be guilty. I am not blaming you for anything. So now, please take your leave."

What Sue desired the most was Anthony's pure love, not his guilty conscience.

Anthony felt embarrassed but persisted in his decision.

"You can rest assured that I will only stay here for a short while." Anthony promised Sue that he would take his leave upon her complete recovery. For now, he would serve her like a housekeeper.

#### Chapter 695 How Do You Define Our Relationship

He paused for a while and continued, "Don't worry, I don't mean anything. I just want to take care of you because you are injured. Even going to the restroom might be difficult for you now. At least I can help you. I can clean your room and cook for you."

"Don't bother about it. I really don't need help," Sue declined Anthony's offer. She felt mixed emotions.

She laughed wryly and urged him, "You must leave now. I don't need your pity."

"You..." Anthony was upset by Sue's instant refusal. But he tried to pacify himself before he said,

"Whatever you say, I still won't leave. I intend to stay here until you recover."

He cast a glance at Sue and added, "If you don't trust me enough, you can lock your room in the

evening. I will sleep on the sofa."

Sue couldn't really understand why Anthony would insist to stay. He was already caught by Sheryl

coming out of her apartment a few times. She stared at Anthony intently and asked, "Aren't you afraid

that Sheryl might find out? Aren't you afraid that she might misunderstand you again?"

"No, she won't," Anthony replied with confidence. With hand movement stopping for a while, Anthony

eventually replied Sue's question.

"How are you sure that she won't find out?" Sue asked again. Sue laughed wryly and sarcastically said,

"She lives just opposite to my door. It's so easy for us to see each other. Have you forgotten we met

her outside twice? Aren't you afraid that such thing will happen again?"

Anthony sighed deeply and opened his mouth to speak. "Don't forget that Sheryl will go hiking with Charles tomorrow. She won't be back soon."

Anthony's voice sounded so sad that Sue's heart melted for him.

A strong and a tall man with the height of 1.8 meters like Anthony expressed his grievance. Sue's heart ached for him.

Sue laughed wryly again. "No wonder you are very confident to stay here. You don't worry because you've already known that Sheryl will be out for two days."

Anthony paused for a while. He knew that Sue misunderstood him but he didn't have any intent to explain. Whatever happened, it would be impossible for Sue and him to be together. He should make it clear to Sue the sooner the better so that she wouldn't have any false hopes.

Anthony went to the kitchen first. He saw that all the pots and pans were steeped in the water. He guessed it had been several days that Sue didn't wash them. He stayed in the kitchen for a little while to clean up everything. When he stepped out of the kitchen, he saw Sue drinking a bottle of red wine.

His brows furrowed while staring at her. He angrily seized the bottle and said, "How can you drink wine when you are still injured?"

"So what?" Sue eyed Anthony and laughed sarcastically. "I feel slightly fretful so I want to drink a little to feel relaxed."

"No way!" Anthony sternly looked at Sue. Then he added, "You better take a bath and go to sleep now. I won't allow you to drink again."

"Can you watch over me all the time? I don't think so. That means, I can still drink whenever you are not around." Sue was very calm like as if it was no big deal at all.

"You..." Anthony gave in. He knew he couldn't stop Sue anymore. After contemplating for a while,

Anthony took out two glasses from the shelf and poured some wine in them. He then gave one glass to Sue. He stared at her and said faintly, "You want to drink? Sure! Let's drink together."

It took a moment before Sue took the glass from Anthony.

Then they drank silently. Sue noticed that Anthony drank faster than her so she warned him, "Don't drink too much. If you get drunk, how will you be able to take care of me?"

Actually, Anthony's alcohol tolerance wasn't so high so Sue only made sense.

"Don't you want to drink? So, let's drink! Let's keep drinking until we get drunk!" Anthony stared at the

bleary-eyed Sue. Only then that he noticed Sue's beauty. A silly grin appeared on his face as he commented, "You are very beautiful, Sue. You can definitely find a man who can truly love you. I don't understand why do you still waste your time on me."

Blue veins stood out at the back of Sue's hand when she held the glass. She laughed at Anthony's comment and responded, "I don't understand either."

Waiting for a man who didn't love her was really no pleasure at all.

As she stared at him, Sue noticed that there were still traces of blood under his nose due to the fight earlier. She pulled out a piece of wet tissue and wiped it. No matter how bitter she felt, she couldn't afford to be cruel-hearted on him.

Anthony simpered as he looked at Sue and cursed softly, "Fool! You are utterly fool."

"Yes, you're right. I am such a fool," Sue agreed with a bitter smile. Sue knew that Anthony was already drunk so she just didn't take his words to heart.

"We are both fools," Anthony moaned as he fell back on the sofa. His expression was smiling but almost like crying at the same time. "That person doesn't love you but you still keep on waiting for him.

If you are not a fool, then, what are you?"

"Yes, I am definitely a fool." Sue had a pained expression while looking at Anthony. "But that's what

love is all about, right?" Anthony said "You love me but I don't love you. I love her but she doesn't love

me. Although there are many couples who really love each other, there are also people like us.

Suffering from a one-sided love.

Otherwise, why are there so many couples getting divorced?"

"That person just doesn't love you at all..." Anthony moaned again. He simpered. It wasn't sure whether

he was talking to himself or to Sue.

Melancholy shadowed him so he sought solace in wine. Due to drunkenness, he mistook Sue for

Sheryl. He grabbed Sue's shoulders with full strength but she just endured the agony.

"Tell me, why can't I rival him? Why can't you love me the way you love him?"

Although Sue knew that Anthony mistook her for Sheryl, she still answered him with knitted eyebrows,

"Anthony, you are a good person."

"But you still love Charles, right?" Anthony countered. He wasn't delighted with Sue's answer. Before

Sue could speak again, he continued, "Yes, you do. It's only him that you love."

Sue didn't say a word so Anthony continued with sadness in his voice, "If not for that incident three years ago, you're probably still his wife until now... the mother of his children. We wouldn't have been together..."

Anthony spoke intermittently and unconsciously. "Sher, can you still remember? It was me who helped you flee because you told me that you wanted to forget him. But why don't you keep your words now?"

He laughed wryly, "If you still couldn't forget him, why did you accept me? If you still love him, what about me? How do you define our relationship for three years? Can you tell me what place do I have in your heart?"

#### Chapter 696 What Is A Boyfriend

Although Sue drank a lot, she was still sober. She realized that the man Anthony was talking about was Charles.

He had also talked about this matter to her the last time he had gotten drunk. She had been doubting the relationship between Charles and Sheryl since then. And now, Anthony seemed to confirm everything.

She looked at Anthony and asked for confirmation, "Are you talking about Charles?" "Who else?" he answered with a sneer. Anthony became more sour upon hearing Charles' name. He

asked Sue in an obscure tone, "I know you still love him. But why? Can you tell me why I'm not good enough for you? Why can't I beat him in your heart?"

He smiled bitterly and continued, "Besides, you also let Shirley get so close to him. I'm really disappointed in you."

Anthony cried for a while and then began laughing. "For the three years that we were together, I feel like a fool for dreaming that one day, you'll be marrying me."

Anthony suddenly gripped Sue's hands and eagerly asked, "Sher, you will marry me, right?"

Although Sue was aware that Anthony had only mistaken her for Sheryl, she had no heart to hurt him. So, she looked at him intently and nodded her head. "Don't worry, I will never leave you unless you leave me first," she added with a voice full of assurance.

That was actually Sue's inner thoughts. She would never leave Anthony until he did it first.

However, she knew that her words didn't make any sense.

"Really?" Anthony was so pleased to hear Sue's answer. He hugged her tightly, feeling like a happy kid.

Sue was stunned for a moment but eventually hugged him back.

Although she knew that Anthony's gesture was only driven by alcohol, she still didn't want to escape from his embrace.

After a good long while, Sue felt Anthony had fallen asleep. She could hear his light snore. She removed his arms around her and helped him lie down on the sofa.

Anthony was still calling on Sheryl's name while sleeping. Sue couldn't help but smile bitterly. She fetched a quilt from her bedroom and covered Anthony. When she saw him sleeping comfortably, she went back to her room to have some rest.

Meanwhile, Sheryl was also preparing to sleep after reading some bedtime stories to Shirley when her cellphone suddenly rang.

She smiled unconsciously when she saw Charles' name on the screen. She immediately answered it. "Why are you calling me? It's already late," she said.

"Nothing special actually," Charles replied. He was actually very upset because he wasn't able to get any information from Anthony about his missing child. He just wanted to have someone to talk to. "I just want to let you know that I've arrived home now," he added.

"Okay, I'm glad to hear that," Sheryl answered with a smile. Then she added, "Charlie also called

Shirley a while ago and told her."

"Oh, really?" He felt a little embarrassed. He didn't know that Charlie had already reported to Shirley.

Now, he was at loss for words.

There was a long silence on the line. Sheryl waited for a while but Charles still didn't speak up. "Do you

have anything else to say?" she asked.

"I will pick you and Shirley up tomorrow," Charles also asked at the same time Sheryl spoke. She let

out a soft laugh because they both spoke at the same time. Then she nodded her head and answered,

"Okay. I'll make breakfast for you."

"That would be great," Charles agreed with a wide grin. "Anyway, it's too late now. You must go to bed.

Good night," he added.

"Good night." Sheryl was about to hang up when Charles suddenly spoke again, "Sheryl..."

"Yes?" Sheryl asked in puzzlement.

"Can't you..." Charles paused for a while. Then he continued, "Can't you really remember anything

about your past?" Charles was finally able to complete his question after hesitating for a long while.

Sheryl's face dimmed and she got silent for a while. Some memories of the past would suddenly flash in her mind recently. But all of them seemed to be just broken pieces of her memory. Although they would always involve Charles, she couldn't put them altogether to complete a certain scene.

"Why do you want to know?" she dubiously asked after a moment of silence.

"There's really no special reason why I asked. Just never mind it," Charles answered. Charles could tell that Sheryl suddenly became uneasy so he explained more, "I was just curious about whether the medicine you took was really so effective."

Then he immediately changed the topic before Sheryl could say more. His relationship with her had been getting better and better and he didn't want to ruin it anymore.

"I must hang up now. Have a good rest. I'll see you tomorrow morning." Charles then hung up afterwards.

The next morning, Sheryl got up early. She put on a beautiful dress and applied some makeup carefully. Shirley, who was eagerly watching her, also put on some lipstick, imitating what Sheryl did. Sheryl couldn't help but laugh when she noticed that Shirley's mouth was smeared in red. She wiped it with a tissue lightly.

After fixing herself, Sheryl went to the kitchen to prepare some sandwiches for Charles and Charlie.

She also heated the milk so it would be ready when they arrived. At exactly half past seven, Charles knocked on her door.

Charles gazed in awe at Sheryl's beautiful new look. He couldn't help but glimpse on her from time to time.

Sheryl felt a little embarrassed so she asked, "Why do you keep on looking at me?"

"Sher looks so beautiful," Charlie answered for her father. Then he added, "You look very different from before."

Sheryl didn't usually wear makeup on normal days. She didn't really care much about her looks. Not until today.

Shirley still felt annoyed since Sheryl removed the lipstick on her mouth so she complained to Charles, "Sher put on some makeup this morning but she didn't allow me to do so. She even removed the color on my lips."

Charles burst into a laughter. He felt elated thinking that Sheryl beautified herself for him because it

only meant that he was also important to her.

Sheryl's face blushed in embarrassment. To escape from the topic, she urged the father and son to

have their breakfast.

Although they were allowed to bring their family members during the hike, other models just came

alone. All of them were young and single women who were dreaming to be Charles' wife so it was

already expected that they wouldn't let their boyfriends tag along. Only Sheryl and Charles took their

children.

Charles prepared a bus to send them to the resort in countryside.

Kitty who was standing in front of the models was so shocked to see Sheryl got off from Charles' car.

"Mr. Lu seems to really care so much about Sheryl that he even picked her up. People might really

think that he is her boyfriend," Kitty satirized with discontent. She crossed her arms in front of her chest

and arched a brow.

Sheryl got a little annoyed with Kitty's nasty comment especially when Shirley raised her head and

asked, "Sher, what is a boyfriend?"

"Let me tell you, little girl," Kitty butted in. "A boyfriend is a man that could hold a woman's hands, kiss

her, and spend a life with her."

#### Chapter 697 Let's Take My Car

After hearing Kitty's explanation, Shirley turned to Sheryl again and asked, "Sher, I kissed Charlie. So, is he my boyfriend?"

"Shirley, that woman just lied to you." Charlie pulled Shirley's sleeve and took her into Charles' car.

Sheryl then faced Kitty and warned her, "Kitty, I know you don't like me. But we are colleagues after all.

I don't think it's appropriate for you to say those words to a child. Don't go that far."

"Did I say anything wrong?" Kitty asked with a sneer. "Since you have done such infamous things, why would you suddenly care on how others judge you?"

Sheryl was rendered speechless because of anger. No matter what she would say, Kitty would never listen to her. So, it would be useless to keep on explaining and defending herself.

Charles cast a glance at Kitty with contemptuous eyes. He was considering on how to teach this woman a lesson to make her realize how inferior she was.

During this event, David came with Alice because he was given the responsibility to take care of the models' seating arrangements. When Sheryl was about to get on the bus, Charles stopped her.

"Sheryl, let's take my car to go there."

Charles made it sure that his voice was loud enough to be heard by Kitty. As expected, Kitty's face

became distorted upon hearing his words. She sure was very jealous of Sheryl. Obviously, she had

carefully dressed up today to catch Charles' attention. Unfortunately, Charles' attention was only

focused on Sheryl.

She flashed an annoyed glance at Sheryl as her reverie of being invited by Charles was broken.

"No, thanks," Sheryl rejected and shook her head. "It's okay for me to take the bus," she added.

But Charles didn't want to give in. "Shirley is in my car. If the two kids get too naughty later during the

trip, I won't be able to deal with them both," he said.

Charles got Sheryl this time. She couldn't refuse Charles' reason so she got in his car.

It took them two hours before they arrived at the resort. Although it was very hot, they felt cold because

of mountains, the trees, and the greens that surrounded them. They were all excited to see the

beautiful scenery.

Alice booked seven rooms. She and David would share one room. Charles and Charlie would be in one

room as well. The tens models would be in the five remaining rooms so it meant that each room would

have two models. However, since Sue didn't come with them, one of them would have to be alone in a room. Kitty was the first to express her desire to be alone. "I'm not used to share a room with other people. Would it be okay if I just stay alone in a room?" she asked the other models.

Without waiting for their answers, Kitty grabbed the room card from Alice and said to them, "I'm going to rest now. You can go on discussing how to arrange the other rooms."

She cast a devious glance at Sheryl before she left. Sheryl instinctively felt something would happen.

After much deliberation, the six model agreed on their partners. Only Sheryl and another model were left. Clearly, the two of them would share a room. However, the model looked displeased with it.

To tell the truth, Sheryl also didn't want to share a room with this model. But she had no other choice.

Upon seeing that Sheryl was in an awkward situation, Charles came to the rescue. He talked to Alice, "I have an idea. You share your room with Sheryl and I will let David stay in our room. Don't worry, our room is bigger than yours so there would be enough space to accommodate three people. Besides, Charlie is just a little boy. He wouldn't need that much space."

Initially, Charles wanted to share a room with Sheryl but he knew she would refuse. That was why he

took plan B.

David and Alice agreed to Charles' suggestion immediately. Alice picked up Sheryl's luggage for her.

"Let me help you, Miss Xia," she offered with a smile.

"No, thanks," Sheryl politely refused. Sheryl was not familiar with Alice so she was not comfortable

taking her help.

This resort belonged to Eric's family but Charles was also one of the biggest shareholders. Eric had

actually kept a personal yard in this resort for Charles but he never came here.

This was actually the first time he came here. And his only purpose was to woo his wife.

The room where Alice and Sheryl would stay was located in Charles' personal yard. There was a 3-

story apartment in this yard which looked even more dazzling than Dream Garden. Sheryl and Shirley

were awed to see the apartment and somehow felt regretful to have agreed with Charles' suggestion

earlier.

"Shall we go to our room, Miss Xia?" Alice asked Sheryl with a smile.

Sheryl came back to her senses upon hearing Alice's voice. She silently followed Alice upstairs with

Shirley.

When they reached upstairs, Sheryl found out that Alice wouldn't be sharing a room with them. Instead, she would occupy the room next to them. As Alice opened the door for Sheryl and Shirley, she politely said, "Miss Xia, I will be staying next to your room. So, if you need anything, you can just easily call me for assistance."

"Okay." Sheryl nodded her head. However, Sheryl told herself that she would never trouble Alice no matter what happened. She realized that Charles just lied to the model earlier about having her share a room with Alice. In reality, he really prepared a room for Shirley and her alone. They didn't really need to share a room with Alice.

Shirley got very excited when they entered their room. She stood in front of the French window where she could see an amazing view of streams, mountains, and some pavilions. Sheryl felt so delighted to live here as well. But she also thought that living here would definitely cost a fortune. If not for Charles, she would never have the chance to live here.

Suddenly, Sheryl heard a knock from their door. She was preparing the stuff they would be using tonight. Although they would only stay here for one night, she bought a lot of things including some

medicines and first aid kit.

Since Sheryl was busy, Shirley volunteered to open the door. Charles and Charlie were outside. Upon

seeing Charles, Shirley excitedly jumped into his arms and giggled. "I love this place, Uncle Charles."

"Really? I'm so happy to hear that." Charles held Shirley up and kissed her both cheeks. "Since you

love it here, I will take you here more often," he added.

"That's great!" Shirley answered happily. As an innocent child, Shirley could only feel happy with

Charles' offer. But Sheryl, on the contrary, didn't feel so.

She already owed Charles too much. If she would continue accepting Charles' offers, she would never

be able to repay him in the future.

So she reluctantly smiled at Charles and politely refused. "Thanks for the offer, Mr. Lu. But I'm afraid

that we can't afford to live here."

"You don't have to pay anything," Charles countered. With a slight frown, Charles added, "I like Shirley

very much so I would love to take her here more often."

Sheryl was left with nothing to say. She stayed quiet for a while. "So what brought you here?" she

finally asked.

"Charlie wanted to play with Shirley, so I brought him here." Charles made up a perfect excuse while

Charlie cast a contemptuous glance at him.

Actually, Charles came only because he wanted to see Sheryl. But he couldn't just tell Sheryl about it

so he needed to use his son to hide his true intention.

'Fine! I won't nail your lie this time for the sake of all the efforts you exerted in courting Sheryl," Charlie

said to himself.

#### Chapter 698 The Mountain Resort

Charles felt slightly upset. He knew that although Sheryl already got closer to him, she still treated him

as an acquaintance. That was still far from what he really wanted.

But it didn't matter. Since he was able to take Sheryl here today, he also believed that could achieve his

goal someday. In time, he could get together with Sheryl again.

He glimpsed at Sheryl before he said, "Stop what you're doing for now. I'm going to take you out to

dinner."

"Now?" Sheryl paused for a while and replied surprisingly. Charlie held Sheryl's hand and looked up to

her with his innocent eyes. "Sher, I am hungry. Let's go eat now."

"Okay..." Sheryl shrugged. She couldn't refuse Charlie's innocent pleading look.

Charles laughed inside him. Charlie was absolutely an incredible help at some important times like this.

Charles continued to carry Shirley in his arms since he already picked her up earlier. Sheryl, on the other hand, held Charlie's hand and walked slowly after Charles. From afar, one would think that they were one happy family.

When they passed by Alice's room, Sheryl asked, "Where are David and Alice? How about we invite them to join us for dinner?"

"No, we don't need to invite them," Charles said in a calm voice. It took him great efforts to have such an opportunity to be alone with Sheryl. How could he allow someone to be a gooseberry? Even if he knocked on their door and invited them, they would definitely not dare to say yes.

For Sheryl not to notice his reluctance, he immediately added, "They must be out by now. As a love-struck couple, they didn't get a lot of chances to go out together. So, now that they got their chance, we shouldn't be gooseberries."

"It seems that you are a boss with a big heart," Sheryl commented with a smile.

When the four of them reached outside of the house, a service car was already waiting for them. As

they got in, Sheryl suddenly asked, "Is the restaurant far from here?"

"You'll know it when we get there," Charles answered meaningfully.

Five minutes later, the car stopped. When they got off, Sheryl found out that they were in a vast

farmland surrounded by all kinds of seasonal fruits and vegetables. There was also a wide river not too

far. Standing in the middle of the field, one could catch a whiff of harvests carried by the wind.

"Wow! This place is great!" Sheryl exclaimed in excitement.

She had always wished to find a place like this to live in. When she was not busy, she could grow

vegetables and flowers. She believed that, only in a slow pace could one enjoy life truly.

But since she was living in a bustling city, how could she find such a bucolic place like this?

"Do you like it here?" Charles asked vigorously. Seeing Sheryl's happy expression, Charles knew that

he'd chosen the right place.

"Yes, I like it here!" Sheryl nodded her head enthusiastically.

"I'm glad you liked it," Charles said with a smile as he looked lovingly to Sheryl. "Let's order?" Charles

pointed at the field and said, "The ingredients of our order will be coming from this farm. What would

you like to eat? I can pick the ingredients for you."

"Really?" Sheryl's eyes glistened with too much excitement. "No, I want to pick them myself," she

answered as her eyes landed on the purple eggplants near them. She couldn't help licking her lips as if

a very delicious meal were in front of her.

Since this was her first time harvesting fruits and vegetables by herself, she couldn't contain her

excitement. She happily picked some eggplants and put them in a basket. Next were the lentils that

caught her eyes. If the basket could only have more space, she wouldn't stop picking more vegetables.

She only realized that she had picked too much when she stopped and checked her basket. She got

anxious thinking that they wouldn't be able to eat them all.

Beside the farmland stood a wooden house which looked like a restaurant. Charles led them to enter.

The waiter immediately approached them upon seeing them entering the door. He greeted them before

he said, "Mr. Lu, as we knew that you are coming, we have already stewed the fish earlier. Should I

serve it now?"

"Okay, serve it," Charles replied briefly. He handed over the basket to the waiter and said, "Cook these

vegetables and serve them quickly."

"Okay, Mr. Lu," the waiter answered respectfully. After the waiter had left, Charles brought Sheryl and the two kids to a table beside the window. Sheryl looked around and asked, "Why aren't Kitty and the other models here?"

"Do you want to eat with them?" Charles asked while pouring tea to Sheryl's glass.

Sheryl shook her head and replied, "Of course not! I just thought that... we would be eating altogether."

Charles cast a glance at Sheryl and said, "If you don't want to, you don't need to compromise anything.

Take a sip of the tea." Charles managed to change the topic.

Sheryl tried it and asked, "Is this a ptisan?"

"Yes, it is." Charles nodded slightly. "The barley in it was grown here. I think you'll like it."

"Everything here is so good. I never knew there is a place like this here in Y City." Sheryl expressed her strong appreciation of the place.

"Oh..." Sheryl suddenly remembered how courteous the waiter was to Charles earlier. So she asked half-jokingly, "Does this place belong to you?"

"No, this place is not mine." Charles shook his head lightly. "Do you remember Eric?" he added. "He is

the owner of the hotel you stayed before."

"Yes, I remember him. Does he own this too?" Sheryl was a little surprised.

"Yes, he does. But I am also one of the shareholders here so you can do whatever you want." Charles

nodded and replied to her softly. Sheryl could no longer hold her delight upon hearing Charles' words.

After a few minutes, the waiter served their dishes: a large pot of casserole and fragrant fish soup, all of

which made them salivating. Shirley ate a large bowl of soup. Even Charlie ate more soup than ever.

Sheryl contentedly finished a bowl of soup and exclaimed, "The soup is so delicious. If this place is just

near our home, I'll definitely come here every day to have this."

"I can take you here anytime you feel like drinking this kind of soup," Charles sincerely offered. But

Sheryl chose not to respond anymore and indulged herself in eating.

She thought that since the fish soup with tofu was unexpectedly delicious, how much more were the

fresh vegetables that she personally picked. Excitedly, she gave it a try. And she was right, this was by

far the most delicious vegetables she had ever eaten.

"Is it delicious?" Charles looked at Sheryl with a smile. As long as Sheryl liked it, all his efforts were

worth it.

Meanwhile, while Sheryl was enjoying her dinner with Charles and the kids, Kitty was left fuming in her room.

She thought that if no one would be willing to share a room with Sheryl, she would feel too ashamed to stay. All she really wanted was for Sheryl to go back to the city. However, she didn't expect that Charles would save her and would even let her stay with his secretary.

After making some inquiries, she found out that Charles was one of the biggest shareholders of this mountain resort. What was worst was, Sheryl didn't even stay in the same building as them.

She spent a long time looking for Sheryl but unfortunately, she couldn't really find them. She only saw Alice and David having dinner together at the dining hall. She had a strong feeling that Sheryl was already having dinner with Charles this time.

"I knew it!" one model exclaimed excitedly. Those models who got along with Kitty very well got together in her room and discussed how to cause troubles for Sheryl.

Chapter 699 Climb A Mountain

Kitty hired someone to check on Charles' and Sheryl's whereabouts. She was on tenterhooks while waiting for the result. After a short while, the man she sent came back. "What did you get? Have you

found out where they are?" Kitty asked eagerly the moment she saw him. She was like a cat on hot bricks.

"Mr. Lu and his son's current location is just five minutes drive away from here. Sheryl and her daughter are with them, too. According to the staff that I have talked with, Mr. Lu ordered a square meal so there is no doubt that he is currently having lunch with Sheryl and the two children," the man said all in one breath.

"Rubbish!" Kitty shouted at him. "Everything you said is completely useless! I can even guess those things with my eyes closed. What I want to know is Charles' exact location right now and when he is coming back." She was enraged beyond measure.

"Well... that..." The man stole a sheepish glance at Kitty while fumbling for words. "That is something beyond my capacity. Mr. Lu is the biggest shareholder of this resort so no one dares to pry into his private life."

"Trash!" Kitty raged at the futility of it all.

She had spent a lot of time and efforts dressing herself up to look stunning in the eyes of Charles, hoping to catch his attention. 'I can possibly lure him into bed if things go well for me. But how can I do

it if I can't even have the opportunity to see him in person? What am I supposed to do?' she thought to herself, feeling distraught.

"Kitty, just calm down. Don't panic," the models around Kitty advised. They tried their best to comfort her when they saw her at a loss. "Since it was Mr. Lu who brought us here, he will definitely show up. Let's just wait for him."

"How long do we have to wait? If we just stay put and do not make a move, that whore Sheryl will definitely win Charles' heart," Kitty said. She was already fretful.

She really couldn't figure out what was so attractive in Sheryl that both Charles and Anthony were bewitched by her.

Sheryl had no inkling of what was happening to Kitty and the other models because she was enjoying the moment with Charles. After lunch, Charles led her and the two kids to the juicy peach orchard.

Sheryl found the resort extremely large. The back hill was full of ripe and mellow peaches, which emanated an enticing aroma.

Shirley was elated to see so many peaches. She screamed that she wanted one. Charlie immediately

picked one big red peach from a nearby tree and put it into her mouth after peeling it.

Shirley took a bite. Its flesh melted immediately and the juice filled her mouth. The sweetness lingered

between her teeth. She then held the peach up to Charlie's mouth and motioned him to take a bite as

well. Charlie hesitated for a moment but eventually decided to take a small bite. After that, he ruffled

her hair affectionately and pushed the peach back to her gently. He said, "I have eaten my fill. You

should have some more."

Shirley smiled contentedly upon hearing Charlie's words.

Charles initially planned to take them to climb a mountain after picking peaches but Shirley was already

exhausted from jumping and running around the orchard. So they had no choice but to retrace their

steps back to the resort. There, they ran into Alice.

Alice did a double take when she caught sight of Charles and Sheryl. She asked in bewilderment, "Mr.

Lu, Miss Xia, why are you back so early? The party at night is still hours away."

Charles had already arranged a barbecue party for the models later at night. It would be held at the

pool side.

"Because Shirley is tired," Sheryl smiled politely. "We planned to go mountaineering but Shirley and

Charlie are now resting in the room. Since they are still kids, I worry about their safety so we decided not to pursue it," she explained.

Then Sheryl asked, "Are you going out?" Alice took a glance at Charles. She had a brainwave.

"Miss Xia, if you don't mind, you can entrust the two kids to David and me," she suggested with a reassuring smile.

"You seldom visit here so you should have a whale of a time. Anyway, it will also be a very good chance for me and David to practice taking care of children in advance."

Upon hearing Alice's suggestion, Charles unconsciously grinned from ear to ear. 'Alice is much more dependable than David. I should give her a pay rise after this trip is over, ' he thought.

"I..." Sheryl hesitated for a moment. "I am afraid it might inconvenience you." Indeed, Sheryl was torn. Deep down she felt like climbing a mountain. However, she was also worried about the kids' safety if they were left on their own in the room.

"Not a big deal." Alice smiled. "Only if you don't mind, we will take care of them."

"It's a deal," Charles cut in hurriedly. He helped Sheryl decide.

"We'll go ahead," Charles said goodbye to Alice. He then took Sheryl's hand and pulled her to leave.

He trusted Alice with Charlie and Shirley.

Alice went back to their room with Shirley and Charlie in tow. David asked after a double take, "How

come you take them with you? If Mr. Lu and Miss Xia can't find them, they will worry themselves sick."

"Don't worry, they won't," Alice said calmly. She knew how to get on with Charlie because she had

spent some time with him before. She had actually cherry-picked a science book which she thought

would tickle his fancy and planned to give it to him during the trip. It so happened that it came in handy

on this occasion.

As for Shirley, it was a piece of cake to take care of her. Alice just turned on the TV and Shirley conked

out after a short while.

David was a little disgruntled and asked in confusion, "What is the meaning of this? It's very rare for us

to go on a trip like this and enjoy ourselves. Mr. Lu didn't even come to you for help but you voluntarily

took these little kids with you. They will spoil our enjoyment. What are you..."

"No wonder Mr. Lu doesn't like you that much," Alice interrupted David. She got annoyed by David's

reaction. "Mr. Lu came here in an attempt to win his wife's heart back, pure and simple. Can't you see

that? It's totally fine if you want to stand on the sidelines. But if you dare to mess things up, you're screwed."

"I..." David opened his mouth but found nothing to say. At the sound of Alice's explanations, he came to a realization and blamed himself for his stupidity.

'Mr. Lu's intention is crystal clear. But I was in the dark. What a fool!' he scolded himself.

David hugged Alice and kept rubbing his head against her neck like a little boy. "It doesn't matter that I'm slow on the uptake. At least, you're on the ball. That's enough."

On the other hand, Sheryl was still a little anxious after she and Charles left. "Can they really take good care of the kids? Didn't you say they are here because you want to give them a chance to spend time together and enjoy themselves? The kids might cause them too much trouble."

"Don't worry, they won't," Charles patiently answered. He comforted Sheryl gently, "Didn't Alice say it's a good opportunity for them to learn the ropes of taking care of kids?"

"But..." Charles' words didn't dissipate Sheryl's misgivings. So Charles added with a smile, "Cheer up. We'll come back as soon as possible. Let's hurry up before it gets dark."

Sheryl forced herself to shake the concerns about the kids off. The mountain they climbed was not very

high so she was filled with anticipation and energy in the beginning. But when she was halfway

through, she started to pant and ran out of strength. Maybe because she didn't have regular exercise.

"Are you okay?" Charles wheeled around to check whether Sheryl could still continue to walk or not.

Sheryl gasped and was too exhausted to speak. On the contrary, Charles' breath was steady and there

was no trace of tiredness on his face at all. Sheryl heaved a deep sigh and thought to herself, 'He is not

only rich and good-looking, he is also right as rain. How come he can be so perfect? That's unfair!'

"I'm alright. Move on." Since she was already there, Sheryl didn't have any plans to give up. 'I won't

stop until I scale the mountain,' she told herself firmly.

Chapter 700 Much Grows In The Woods

Charles helped Sheryl up the hill, sensing her exhaustion.

Eventually, they reached the summit by 6:00 p.m. and got a chance to see the mountain resort from a

bird's-eye view.

The scenery was something to die for. The sun cast its weak light into the clouds. The sky looked

painted by a mighty hand. Layers of purple, orange and yellow blended into each other as the sun

started sinking into the horizon. Sheryl gazed across the vast splendor of the mountains and the valley,

feeling minute in comparison to it all.

Shortly after, darkness began taking over the stunning view.

The chills were creeping in through their clothes.

The temperature was dropping really low really soon, and the trail's visibility would be limited soon as

well. Therefore, Charles suggested they start going back quickly to avoid any risks.

"Yes, you're right. Let's go," agreed Sheryl. Charles used his cellphone flashlight to illuminate their walk

downhill.

If it wasn't for the fact that he was there, Sheryl would have not dared go up or down the hill at that

hour.

However, his being there also made her more cautious. The road was dark and, in trying to walk

carefully, she found herself getting quite close to Charles; too close for her comfort.

After about half an hour later, they started getting closer to the foothill. Charles remembered some

rough terrain around that area and paid closer attention to the roads.

Noticing Sheryl going directly towards a large drop, he shouted, "Watch your step!" However, it was too

late for her to be on guard.

She plunged into the hole, slightly twisting her ankle, and fell over Charles who rushed to hold her. He

lost his balance trying to catch Sheryl, dragging her into a roll together down the hill. They plummeted

down the mountainside for a few seconds before Charles decided to do something about it. In an

attempt to halt their dangerous cruise, he abruptly pulled Sheryl closer as he used all his weight to

break their skid.

The sudden move brought her lips atop of his. In the darkness, they couldn't see each other but they

could feel their heartbeats. They stopped sliding down and remained still for a moment, their lips glued

together.

Sheryl's soft touch and hot breath felt so tempting to Charles, but he contained his urges in order to

avoid making her uncomfortable.

None of them dared to take it any further and, therefore, the situation quickly turned awkward.

Sheryl soon regained her composure and propped herself up against Charles' muscular chest. That

intimate touch made her flush and cringe as if her willpower was at war with the temptation she felt.

Through the dim flashlight, Charles caught sight of Sheryl's face. He felt exactly the same way but

could do a better job at keeping it together. With a poker face, he inquired, "Sheryl, are you injured?"

"No, I am okay," Sheryl replied quickly. Her embarrassment was obvious.

"Aah!" Charles screamed all of a sudden as Sheryl pushed herself off him rapidly. He had stopped their

skid with his back and arms, scraping them considerably against the gravel.

Noticing Charles' immense pain, Sheryl got concerned. Alarmed, she asked, "Are you hurt?"

"Oh, it's nothing serious. Don't worry," he answered nonchalantly. He was trying hard to downplay his

injury, though he was fully aware of its severity.

Biting his tongue, he rose and picked up his cellphone, urging Sheryl to resume their walk. It was

already late and they needed to get back in time for the party.

He also didn't want Sheryl to get worried, so he tried to hide his pain.

Upon entering the guesthouse, however, Sheryl noticed Charles' ripped shirt tinted with blood stains.

She immediately exclaimed in concern, "Charles, your back is bleeding!"

"It's just a bit scraped," he claimed. He didn't want to call much attention toward himself.

So he kept dodging the subject, "I'm going to go upstairs and change into new clothes for our barbecue

tonight."

Sheryl ignored Charles' avoidance and immediately went over to her room, grabbing her first-aid kit

and bringing it over to Charles' room.

By the time she got there, he had already taken a shower and barely heard the knocks on the door.

The hot water had aggravated his wounds, so he decided to wait before throwing his shirt on.

Charles assumed it was David knocking on the door, so he opened it half naked. As soon as she saw

his well-defined figure, Sheryl quickly veered her sight away and turned red with embarrassment. At

that moment, Charles hastened to put on a shirt but welcomed her in, leaving the door cracked open.

Avoiding direct eye contact, Sheryl explained her reason for coming over. She couldn't shake her

concern off and had to make sure he was okay.

She asked Charles to take off the clothes he had just put on, in order for her to properly treat his

wounds.

She had brought that first-aid kit in case something were to happen to Shirley; however, it proved

useful for Charles as well.

Charles unveiled the crisscross wounds on his bare back.

Sheryl was shocked by the condition of his injuries. More than half of his back was swollen and red.

She gently sprayed some blood clotting solution all over the inflamed area and then applied a generous amount of antibiotic ointment to the wounds.

Seeing how worried Sheryl was about him, Charles smiled and commented, "Thank you, Sheryl, but you really don't need to worry a lot. They're just small cuts. They'll heal soon."

Sheryl smiled softly at his attempt to lighten the mood. Following his lead, she added while poking one unharmed muscle, "Right, no amount of pain can get through all this buffer."

That gesture reminded both of them of their accidental kiss on the trail, but none found it necessary to address it. So silence settled in for a short moment until Sheryl interrupted it by wrapping up her treatment. Charles then changed into proper attire for the party and, as soon as he finished, David came over and informed him he was ready to leave.

"Let's go," Charles said in support. He quickly locked the door and led the way, followed by Sheryl and David. Sheryl glanced at David and stated, "I hope my daughter wasn't causing too much trouble for you and Alice this afternoon."

"Shirley is definitely well-educated and well-behaved. She caused no trouble at all," answered David encouragingly. He returned a smile and added, "She took a long nap after watching some cartoons on TV. Alice has been getting along really well with her."

"Really?" asked Sheryl rhetorically. Grateful for his kindness, she insisted, "Thank you again for taking care of my daughter. I really appreciate it."

"Miss Xia, please don't bother with the formalities," David requested courteously. He was being

particularly respectful toward her since Charles was witnessing their conversation. Charles had definitely taken note of David's intentions and was pleased with him as well.

As they were walking, Sheryl remembered Charles' scarred back once she got another good glance at it. She wanted to touch him and made sure the wounds were getting better but had to hold herself back due to David's presence.

He and Alice had gone to great lengths to throw the barbecue party. They incorporated all the bells and whistles that Charles had requested. The catering was exceptional; the food was excellent and the swimming pool was well illuminated.

Kitty decided to wear an especially sexy swimsuit in order to seduce Charles. Her face lit up as soon as

he stepped out to the pool area. However, his eyes were focused only on Sheryl's attractive figure which was turning multiple heads, making her extremely jealous.

'Sheryl is more of a rival than I've thought!' Kitty realized.