

Wedded Bride 831

Chapter 831 I'm Not Leaving

"Did you ever intend on telling me?" Sheryl was fumed at Sue. "So, if I didn't come today, you would

have never told me?" Sheryl failed to contain her anger as she pointed at herself. "Am I unworthy of

your trust? Do my words mean nothing?"

"I told you so many times already. This is my business." Sue sighed heavily, and pinched the bridge of

her nose, frustrated at how Sheryl was reacting. Then she turned her eyes on Sheryl. "Leave. There's

nothing here that concerns you."

"I can't just leave! I'm not leaving." Sheryl shook her head firmly. "As I said, I never blamed you for what

happened between you and Anthony."

Sheryl then smiled wryly and added, "I... I was never in the position to blame you at all..." She glanced

to the side as her eyes displayed full melancholy. "Anthony's... Anthony's been my nominal boyfriend

for three years now and he's a really great guy but... I don't know... Just never fell for him. Especially

when I knew he might have done something."

Sheryl then took a deep breath and gazed into Sue's eyes. "I've never harbored any feelings for him

so... I want you to chase your happiness." Sheryl weakly laughed. "No one has the right to take other's

happiness away from them, you know?"

"Sheryl..." Sue felt her heart ache at Sheryl's earnest words as she looked into Sheryl's eyes as well. "I

know you just want to make me feel better but I..." Sue averted her gaze away from Sheryl and

continued, "But I just can't help but feel sorry for you... I'm even ashamed to see you..." She then

made a pause.

"I mean... You've seen my family..." Sue went on and started to rub her arm as she wore a bitter smile.

"M-Maybe this is what I deserve... It's karma..."

"Hey, come on. Don't be so down in the dumps." Sheryl flashed Sue a reassuring smile and placed a

hand on Sue's shoulder. "Don't worry. I'm here. I won't allow any of those people to even lay a single

finger on you."

Sheryl was clueless as to why she was greatly concerned about Sue when she had decided to have a

proper closure with her. But when she knew that Sue's family had antagonized her. Sheryl suddenly

seemed to put the pieces together as to what Sue had done about Anthony.

Sue was silently dreaming to have a warm home of her own. She desired to be loved and cared for as

that was she had lacked throughout her entire life.

This was one of the reasons why Sue was truly indignant at Sheryl for her attitude towards Anthony.

Sue was incredibly offended that Sheryl had owned everything Sue had wanted, but never even batted an eye to them.

"Sher, don't be so gullible," Sue whispered to Sheryl. The profiles of her mother and her brother appeared in her mind and she felt her whole body convulse in agony. 'If only it were that easy to be with Anthony...' Sue thought with a silent smile on her face. 'But it looks like Peggy and Allen want to destroy every single dream I have...'

Peggy's and Allen's mere presence never failed to drill it against her head that she was never going to be anything more than just a woman that once resided in the mountains and that a man like Anthony was a person out of reach.

'That's why...' Sue sighed with a heavy heart. 'I'm giving up on you, Anthony.'

Taking a deep breath, Sue continued, "To tell you the truth, I was going to ask you if you could lend me a hand because I knew..."

Sue looked at Sheryl wryly and went on, "I knew that no matter what I've done, you'd always take my

side and do whatever it takes to help me. But, you know, Sher?" Sue rested a hand over Sheryl's shoulder. At first, Sue couldn't look at Sheryl in the eye on account of the words she was about to say to her. But, Sue knew she had to get the message across. "I can't involve you much further in this family mess I mired." Then she glanced away from Sheryl's eyes. "I can't allow you to drag yourself down with me. Please... Just don't stick your nose in to where it isn't wanted, okay?"

"Sue, I..." Before Sheryl could even finish uttering her sentence, Sue interrupted her, "Now go." Sue made Sheryl face the door. "Get out of here before they do something to you... Even I... Even I don't know what they could do... So, just please... Go." Sheryl felt a gentle push against her back, making her tumble towards the door. Sheryl knew what Sue had tried to do but, but she wasn't going to take it.

Sheryl immediately shifted her body to face Sue, and then saw Sue had already placed distance between them. "Sue, wait! I..." Sheryl dashed towards Sue, reached out her hand, and grabbed Sue by her arm. The moment Sheryl did this, she saw Sue hiss in pain. Sheryl knew something was off.

As if her body moved on its own, Sheryl slowly rolled the sleeve up and underneath the cloth revealed Sue's delicate arm covered in bruises. Sheryl made haste as she rolled the sleeves up and she knew

that the bruises didn't just stop at Sue's arms. It also reached Sue's eyes.

Immediately, Sheryl's tone changed. "Who did it?"

"Don't ask. I'm fine." Sue took her hand away from Sheryl's grasp and rapidly rolled down the folded

sleeve.

"How many more of these do you have?" Sheryl started to interrogate Sue. "It's not just this arm, isn't

it? Is your mother and brother beating you again?" Sue was silent the whole time. Sheryl was filled with

concern and said, "Please, Sue. Tell me. Please don't let me worry..."

Before looking at Sue's arm, Sheryl thought that Sue wore this long-sleeved dress to protect her skin

from the sun. Now, Sheryl was crestfallen with herself as she realized that Sue wearing such clothes

was to conceal the bruises she carried on her arms. "Are they even human?!" Sheryl gritted her teeth,

tears prickling the corners of her eyes.

"You're their family! How could they treat you as if you're some animal! This is inhumane! How can you

even keep this to yourself?!"

Sue quickly took Sheryl's hand into hers and looked into Sheryl's eyes deeply and earnestly. "Sheryl,

listen to me. Stay out of this. They're like what you said. Perhaps, they aren't human, so, it'd be best for

you to leave. I want you safe."

"Why're you worried for me?!" Sheryl asked, baffled. "Knowing you're all banged up like that, all the

more reason I shouldn't be leaving you alone with those creatures!" "Sher, please, I..." Sue begged.

Sheryl then took her hands away from Sue's grasp, and then pointed at Sue with her finger. Sue could

see the anger seething from Sheryl's entire body. "Now, you either tell me the whole story and we both

figure out how to deal with this, or I confront them myself," Sheryl remarked, her tone firm and never

wavered. "I don't care what's going to happen to me, but all I know is that I wouldn't be able to sleep

well knowing that you'd be beaten up again."

"Sher, please... I'm begging you. Don't..." Sue knew that, in this situation, Sheryl would never joke

around. Sheryl was a woman of her words. Whenever Sheryl uttered something, she'd put her mind

and head into it. Sue could see it in Sheryl's eyes. They were burning with determination and fortitude.

"Do you intend on really getting involved, Sher?" Sue asked hesitantly.

"I don't turn back on my own words, Sue." Sheryl took Sue's hand and held them firmly. "I won't leave

you to fight this battle alone."

Sheryl's eagerness and tenacity shook Sue to her core. Sue felt her body being painted in colors full of

warmth. Sheryl was a true friend to Sue and this situation proved it.

Sue weakly beamed and said, "Looks like I can't say no to you, after all." Sheryl playfully winked, and

then her somber demeanor returned. "Tell me everything. Spare no details." Sue began to utter

everything that had happened. She loathed to relieve the moment just by talking about it, but she knew

she had to tell Sheryl. One statement in particular got Sheryl to fly off the handle when she had learned

that Peggy wanted to transfer Sue's house to Allen.

Sheryl couldn't help but jeer, "I knew she didn't just ask about the house for no reason. She asked

about it before you came back, and I had an inkling she'd use it against you, so I told her that it was

just the company's house and only temporary lodging for you." "Well, you know how frighteningly smart

my mother could be. It won't be long until she finds out she's been deceived." Sue folded her arms,

vexed. "And also, that girl I picked up, I didn't talk to her but everything about her just screamed

'shrewd.' I wouldn't want to think about what'd happen to me if they band up together."

Sheryl flashed a smile of reassurance and placed a hand on Sue's shoulder. "Don't forget that I'm here

for you. We'll figure out a way to deal with those creatures. Together." Sue's lips tugged upwards.

"Yeah, together," she stressed.

Despite neither of them bearing any excellent ideas during the time they spent together, Sue felt as if a big load was taken off of her shoulder as she learned that she wasn't fighting alone anymore, and that she had someone to lean on.

Dinner was eventually ready, and thus Sheryl and Sue asked for Peggy, Allen, and Doris to come dine in.

Sheryl feigned that she knew nothing about the issue regarding Sue and wore a bright smile. "Aunt Peggy. I cooked dinner today. Let's eat!" she cried.

"My, my. You seldom come over and yet here you are, cooking us a scrumptious looking dinner!" Peggy chuckled, full of smiles.

"Aww, don't mention it, Aunt Peggy." Sheryl modestly returned the smile and said, "It's the least I could do! I am Sue's best friend, so her family is like my family as well!" Sheryl then rushed to the table that Sue was in the middle of setting, and pulled a chair out for Peggy, saying, "So please, don't just stand there and let's eat!"

Sue remained perfectly silent and continued to do her job, just like how a robot would do. Peggy bristled at Sue's silence, but she kept her fury in check as Sheryl was in the area. She then sat herself down on the chair Sheryl had pulled out for her. Eyeing on Sue sharply, she grunted, "You should learn from Miss Xia here. If you were just half as sweet as her, maybe I wouldn't just be smiling but laughing when I wake up from my sleep."

Chapter 832 Move Out

Sheryl held Peggy's hand and said sweetly, "Aunt Peggy, just call me Sher." She and Sue might have had their differences, but she couldn't bear to see Sue getting bullied by her greedy, shameless family.

She wanted to get on Peggy's good side so she could find her weakness and help Sue get rid of them.

Meanwhile, Allen tenderly helped Doris into a chair. As soon as Doris was seated, she looked up at Sue and commanded, "Hey! Get me a glass of water!" Her tone was rude and arrogant, as if Sue were her servant instead of the host. At home, she never did any housework, and here in Sue's house, she acted exactly the same way, even though she was only a guest.

Hearing Doris' words, Sheryl couldn't help frowning. 'This woman is really something,' she thought. 'I have never met anyone so disrespectful to their future in-laws, and she has not even married to Allen yet!'

"Sher, why don't you come and take a seat," Peggy said warmly, as she reached out and pulled Sheryl into the seat next to her. Sheryl looked at Doris and asked casually, "She's pregnant, isn't she?" Doris' huge stomach made her condition obvious.

"Yes, four months pregnant! That's why I want them to hold the wedding ceremony as soon as possible, before her stomach gets too big to be hidden." Peggy's entire face lit up happily as she talked. She treated Doris much better than she treated her own daughter because she was pregnant with the Wang bloodline.

"Four months? I thought it was much more than that!" Sheryl blurted, staring at Doris' tummy. Then she quickly clapped her hand to her mouth as she realized what she had just said. Doris' face went pale as all the blood drained out of her face. Her hands shook even as she slammed her chopsticks down on the table and demanded, "What are you trying to say? Are you implying that the baby is not Allen's?" She was terrified that they would find out the truth and she automatically became defensive before this strange woman ended up giving away her secret.

"Calm down, Doris. That's not what Sher means," Sue immediately came to the rescue. She could

suffer Doris' treatment in silence, but she wasn't going to let her mistreat Sheryl, too.

Peggy frowned in confusion and asked, "Why are you so worried?" She noticed that Doris' face had

now turned red, which made her wonder if Sheryl had accidentally hit on the truth.

Doris finally realized that she was acting strangely and could potentially give herself away. She quickly

returned to her seat in embarrassment and smiled sheepishly. Like a good fiance, Allen held her hand

supportively but his efforts seemed futile. Doris' face still had a sour expression written all over it.

Sheryl observed the look on Doris' face and thought it was a strong indicator of the younger woman's

guilt.

It was just a careless statement, yet produced such a big reaction. 'Is there a possibility that the baby is

not Allen's?' she thought.

'If it isn't, then things are going to get interesting.'

"Sue, come and join us! Here, take a seat." Sheryl pulled Sue's hand and nudged her into the seat next

to her. It was unbearable to watch Sue hurrying here and there serving everyone while the rest of her

family didn't even lift a finger to help her. It was as though she was their maid instead of their host.

'Sue is not their servant. She's a part of the family too, she can't let herself sink to that level, ' Sheryl

thought grimly. The Wang family's attitude was making her furious. She felt sorry for Sue, who had lived her whole life like this.

"Yes, yes, you are right. Sue, you haven't sat down at all. Come and join us for a while. You must be

tired after serving us the whole day," Peggy smiled at her daughter warmly and said. Since there was an outsider present, she treated Sue better than usual.

Sue sat down next to Sheryl and sent a grateful look in her direction.

Sheryl looked over at Doris, who was still scowling unhappily. She smiled sweetly and said, "I hope you didn't take any offense at my words. I truly didn't mean anything. I was just surprised at the size of your tummy and got a bit carried away."

"Then what did you mean by those words? Who the hell do you think you are? You're an outsider. This is none of your business!" Doris shouted defensively. She had thought the danger had passed but this damn woman was bringing it up again. She felt everyone's eyes on her and squirmed uncomfortably.

Her expression was dark, making her pretty face look totally different.

Sheryl observed Doris' behavior in silence and knew that her suspicions had been confirmed.

She faked an apologetic laugh and said, "I'm sorry, you got my intentions all wrong. I am a mother myself, why would I..."

"Yes, Doris. I believe Sheryl meant no harm," Peggy quickly jumped in, frowning slightly at Doris. It was not a good idea to argue with Sheryl. Peggy knew she was rich and planned on asking her for money soon. She knew now that her own daughter didn't have much, and so she had set her greedy eyes on Sheryl as her next target. Since Sue and Sheryl were close, she thought it wouldn't be difficult for her to borrow a large sum of money from Sheryl and then pass the burden to Sue to return it.

But Sheryl wasn't done yet. She gave Doris' tummy another curious look and continued, "It's just, my tummy wasn't that big at four months even though I had twins. I was wondering, is it possible that you're having twins? Maybe even triplets?"

"No, I don't think so. Can we eat now? I'm pregnant and hungry," Doris answered, shortly. She looked slightly better now, thinking that it was all just a misunderstanding. She looked over at Allen, hoping very hard that he would come to her rescue and end the discussion there. Plus, she really was feeling hungry after the emotional roller-coaster.

"Okay honey, let's eat. Tell me what you want to eat, I'll grab it for you," Allen smiled at her and said. He

looked like a tough guy but Doris was his soft spot. He treated her like a delicate flower and whatever

she asked for, he would do everything in his power to get for her. No matter what unreasonable request

she came up with, he would somehow manage to achieve it for her and had never let her down.

Sheryl's innocent questions had successfully planted seeds of doubt in Peggy's heart. She looked at

Doris suspiciously, thinking to herself, 'I'm only treating Doris this well because she's carrying my

grandchild. If it turns out that the baby in her tummy isn't Allen's, she's not going to get away with it.'

She pursed her lips, planning her next move.

"Very well. Let's eat," urged Peggy, forced herself to stop thinking for the moment. This meal was

turning out to be a disaster.

As they ate, Allen looked after Doris attentively, making sure she always had food in her bowl. Sheryl

noticed he barely took any meat, giving most of it to Doris, leaving himself with vegetables and bones.

Sue was oblivious as she went into auto pilot mode and sank into a reverie. Once everyone had

finished eating, Sue started to clear away the dishes but was stopped by Doris. "You can do that later.

Sit down, I want to talk to you about something." Doris didn't sound happy. She was annoyed that

Peggy hadn't brought up the issue and didn't want to wait anymore. She was going to have to do it herself.

Sue looked at Doris with raised eyebrows, stunned at her condescending attitude. She could sense that the words that were about to come out from Doris' mouth were not going to be pleasant.

"What do you want?" Sue feigned indifference. They could demand whatever they wanted but she would not show weakness in front of them.

Doris looked coolly at Sue and said matter-of-factly, "This apartment is too small for all of us. You should move out as soon as possible." She seemed to feel no shame at all for chasing the host out of her own home.

"What? Why the hell should I do that?" Sue shouted in disbelief and anger. It was bad enough that Peggy and Allen bullied her. But for an outsider to treat her the same way? This was unacceptable. Besides, this was her apartment. She could still remember that first happy night she had spent in the apartment after she had gotten the keys. She wasn't going to give up the apartment that easily.

"Because this apartment is going to be mine," Doris replied lightly. "Just ask Allen," she added smugly. "That's right honey. This place is going to be yours." Allen appeared and wrapped his arms around

Doris. He gave her a warm, reassuring smile which quickly disappeared as he turned to look at Sue.

"You heard her. You better find a new place as soon as possible. Once the baby comes out, this place is going to get even more crowded."

"Allen Wang, how dare you!" Sue howled at him. She seemed to be close to attacking him but Peggy quickly intervened. "Doris, you must be tired. Why don't you let Allen take you to bed so both of you can have a good rest? Let me handle this." She knew her daughter well. Doris' presence and provocative words would only make things harder.

"Alright," Doris gave a small nod and replied. She didn't care how it was done, as long as she got what she wanted. All that mattered was the result, and if she didn't have to be a part of the process, then better still.

Since the old woman said she was going to handle Sue, so be it. It was none of her business now, all she had to do was follow Allen back to their room.

Once they were gone, Sue whirled around to face Peggy. "Peggy Li! What do you mean by this? Was that your intention all along? To gain my pity and then drive me out of my own house!?"

"Sue, of course I don't want to chase you out. But you have to understand, I'm stuck between a rock and a hard place. On one hand, I can't let my grandchild grow up without a proper home. On the other hand, I don't want my own daughter to be homeless either," she said in a melancholic tone that deceived nobody. Sheryl was still there so she was still playing nice. She hoped that this sad display would make it easier to borrow money from Sheryl when the time came. She laughed sadly and said, "No mother can bear to see their child suffering, Sue. You have to understand this is a very hard decision for me."

Sue laughed coldly. "Do you really think I'm a fool? You can stop the drama right here. We both know you really want me to move out and leave this apartment for your son. In fact, you can't wait for me to move out too, am I right?" She was getting sick of Peggy's games. It was bad enough that they were trying to chase her out, but Peggy's fake act was making things 100 times worse.

"Do you really think of your mother as such a malicious person?" Peggy put on a hurt expression and retorted in a low voice. She heaved a deep sigh and said, "Sue, Doris is your future sister-in-law, and heavily pregnant too on top of that. Don't argue with her on this, please."

Chapter 833 Borrowing Money

Sheryl stared at Peggy with utter disbelief. "Even though she is pregnant, that is not a reason at all for

creating such trouble for others." Sheryl looked at Peggy who stood right in front of her looking distressed and counseled, "Aunt Peggy, I know how it is like to be pregnant. Even I have been through pregnancy. A pregnant woman can never be as vexatious as you said. The apartment is the dormitory arranged by the company for Sue. Now you come to live here, Sue has said nothing, but you still want to drive her out. Don't you think that is unfair?"

"Sher, you have no idea what's going on in our family." Peggy smiled bitterly and said to Sheryl, "Since Doris is pregnant now, she is the most precious one in the family. When she has asked for one thing, we cannot turn down her request, otherwise she will get angry and lose her temper, which in turn will affect the baby in her womb. And what if she flips out? The baby in her womb will get hurt as a result. That is something that I can not tolerate at any cost."

Peggy walked over, took Sue's hand and said, "Sue, do you think it is better for you to move out for the time being? When... When Doris has given birth to the baby, you can move back and do whatever you like. What do you think about that?"

"No way. If I move out now, would I ever have a chance to get back? Never." Sue turned her face away

from Peggy and replied with a sneer.

"It is your apartment, Sue. Surely you can come back." Looking at Sue, Peggy seemed quite earnest

and pleaded, "Sue, would you please... please do me a favor? Just after she gives birth to the baby,

everything will be fine. I give you my words."

"And where will I go? Where do you expect me to live till the time Doris delivers the baby?" Sue gave a

sarcastic smile as she felt agonized and said to Peggy, "Have you ever considered about me? Where

can I live after I move out?" Sue repeated.

"You..." Peggy made a very sweet face and turned to Sheryl who was standing just next to her and

said, "Sher, if I am not mistaken, you are Sue's friend, I think... she should be able to live with you for

the time being, right? Sher, you just like a daughter to me. Would you please do me the favor? Will you

please accommodate Sue to stay with you for a period of time? Is that okay?"

"What? How can you say that?" Sue returned with a frown, "Sher is also busy with work. She does not

have the time and energy to arrange a living room for me."

"Sher, do you think that is okay with you?" Peggy repeated with an expectant smile on her face, and

she could make out from Sheryl's appearance and gesture that she was too polite to turn her down.

Peggy completely ignored what Sue said and turned around to ask Sheryl, "I know that I am asking for

too much, but... but I really don't know what to do. Sue is my daughter, Allen is my son. Both of them

are my dear children. We can't watch Sue to sleep in the street. Do you think so?"

"Uh, that is okay." Sheryl really felt sorry for Sue and didn't want her to sleep in the street. She turned

to Sue and said, "Mimi, why don't you go pack up your things now? You can stay with me tonight."

"But..." Sue frowned and tried to protest saying, "Sher, you are..."

"Hurry up and go." Sheryl waved to Sue.

As Sheryl insisted, Sue did not say anything more but walked inside the room to pack her stuff.

The more Peggy watched Sheryl, the greedier she became. Seeing that Sheryl had agreed to her

unreasonable request without much argument, Peggy was more certain that the relationship between

Sheryl and Sue was unusually good. She could hardly control her greed to extort money from Sheryl.

She glanced at her from the corner of her eyes and started to scheme for that.

Since Peggy had promised Doris to give her a large amount of money as wedding handsel, she was

thinking of borrowing the money from Sheryl and having Sue repay it.

"Sher, it is so kind of you and I don't have any word to thank you indeed. You have really helped me

solve a big problem." Peggy took Sheryl's hand affectionally and said to her looking grateful.

"Aunt Peggy, it is my pleasure." Sheryl spoke with a smile and continued, "Sue is one of my friends.

Friends should offer help to each other when they are in trouble. Isn't it?"

"Sue is really lucky to have such a good friend like you," Peggy spoke with a big smile on her face.

Then she stood beside her fidgeting with her hands as if she wanted to say something but was

hesitant.

Sheryl marked her gestures but remained silent. She knew that Peggy must have something else to

say to her. Finally, after pondering for a while, Peggy opened her mouth again.

"Sher, to be honest... I have one more favor to ask from you," Peggy spoke, pretending to be awkward.

"Aunt Peggy, please go ahead, I will see what I can do to help you." Sheryl smiled again and continued,

"You are Sue's mother. It will be my honor to be able to help you. I mean it. Please tell me what do you

want me to do?" Sheryl was completely oblivious of the capricious motive that hid behind Peggy's

overtly polite and gentle face.

"Well..." Peggy heaved a sigh, bringing upon a grave look on her face. "It is like this." Peggy gave a wry

smile and talked to Sheryl, "Sher, as you see, Doris' abdomen is bulging day by day. I have also discussed it with Sue that we should help Doris and Allen to materialize their wedding ceremony as soon as possible. But you know, all the money Sue has earned in these years has been used up by my son, leaving her no savings at all."

Peggy sighed and went on, "However, Doris is not that easy to deal with. She is demanding and asks for a high handsel. It will cost more than five hundred thousand, coupled with the cost of holding a wedding ceremony. Sue said she would try to find a way to collect the money. Even though I love my son and I'm more partial to him, still, I can not let my daughter bear such a heavy burden. As a mother, how can I expect Sue to arrange such a large sum of money? I am sure you can understand." Saying these words, Peggy looked at Sheryl, narrowing her eyes to understand her state of mind.

"Five hundred thousand? That is an obscene amount of money." Sheryl sneered, "Aunt Peggy, does it cost so much to have a wedding in the countryside these days?"

"Not really." Peggy coughed as she did not expect this kind of a reply from Sheryl. A mark of embarrassment flashed across Peggy's face. She remained silent for a while and then continued,

"Actually, it is all my fault. The other day when I was having a chat with Doris, I casually mentioned to her that Allen has a sister living in the urban area. Then she just put her foot down to hold their wedding in the urban area. She also said if I didn't promise her, she would not have a wedding. So, I had no way but to agree to her. What can I do?"

"Well, Aunt Peggy, it's really very hard for you." Sheryl nodded her head, looked at Peggy with some contemplation and said, "I can understand your feeling."

"That's all my fault, and I have such a son, good for nothing." Peggy bit her lips to show embarrassment and looked down at the floor for a moment. Then she took a deep sigh and continued, "I thank God for blessing me with such a sweet and caring daughter to help me solve some difficulties."

She took a glance at Sheryl, smiled and then looked ahead as she continued, "But five hundred thousand is not a small expense. I really have no way out and don't know what to do, so I am here to beg for your help. Do you think you can find out a way to help us?"

"My help?" The word 'help' struck Sheryl as a whip as she straightened her spine and looked at Peggy with a surprised face. She immediately asked, "What do you mean by that, Aunt Peggy?"

No matter how kind-hearted and benevolent Sheryl was, she could not promise to take out five hundred

thousand to help anyone. Moreover, it was too ridiculous for Peggy to make such a request to Sheryl.

That too when they just met for the first time today.

Peggy realized that she had perhaps quoted an unrealistic figure. Then she tried to cover up by saying,

"Yes, I know it sounds odd that I am making such a demand to you. But I'm so afraid that I really don't

know what to do." Peggy glanced at Sheryl and said in a pleading manner, "You are Sue's best friend. I

really don't know who else I can turn to for help, except you."

Peggy once again heaved a sigh, "You are from Y City, and I can tell that you were born in a wealthy

family. I am not asking you to give me the five hundred thousand. I just want to borrow it from you, so...

can you find a way to lend me five hundred thousand?" Peggy stared at Sheryl with a lot of expectation

in her eyes. Sheryl looked at her and was rendered completely speechless.

Chapter 834 A Gentle Reminder

As Sheryl fell into silence, Peggy hastened to explain further. She kept looking at Sheryl's face trying to

read her expression. As she noticed Sheryl becoming thoughtful, she immediately started speaking in

order to stop Sheryl from reading too much into the matter. "Sue will give the money back to you for

sure, I promise you. You should trust her. You are her best friend, aren't you?"

Sheryl's lips suddenly twisted in a mirthless smile. It did not take her long to realize what Peggy was

targeting at. This old woman was just taking advantage of Sheryl's politeness and wanted to fraud her

with despicable tricks. She was so greedy! She just wanted to extort money from her.

Peggy continued trying to put up a genuine and truthful expression on her face. "I have no one else to

seek help from, Sher. That is the reason I am sharing my concern with you. Being Sue's best friend,

you are just like my own daughter. I really don't want to trouble you or burden you. It's just that, I am

just helpless. Will you..." Peggy was perturbed. But her reality was harsh; she was pushed up the wall.

There was no alternative way for her other than trying to exploit whoever she could. She had to do it.

Also she had to be alert that Sue did not get to know about it. Because If Sue came to know that she

borrowed some money from Sheryl, she would be furious and reject the money immediately. Given the

recent condition of their relationship, she would not want a single penny from Sheryl. Peggy knew that

she had to contrive in such a way that she would extort money from Sheryl and would not let Sue come

to know about it.

"Could you please help me with that, Sher?" Peggy asked again as she pleaded, "I know you are a

kind-hearted girl. Sue is just so conscious about her self-respect that she can't talk to you about the

money no matter how much burdened she is. So I thought of talking to you it on her behalf. If you can

help me with the money, it will be a great relief for her as well." Sheryl had become absolutely calm by

now. As Peggy requested her, Sheryl gave her a meaningful glance and asked, "Well, Aunt Peggy, I am

just wondering, is this your idea or Sue's? Just asking."

"It's mine," Peggy spoke with a solemn expression on her face. Peggy heaved a sigh in the most

distressful manner, as if she was under a lot of pressure and resentful about Sue. "Since, you are Sue's

friend, I have noting new to tell you about her temper. She is that kind of person who will never ask you

for any help even if she is going to die. She is just so stubborn. But as her mother, I simply can't

tolerate the fact that she will be under so much of financial burden because she needs this 500, 000. If

she even comes to know anything about me borrowing money from you, she will be really annoyed with

me."

"Yea, I know. It's true. She is like that." Sheryl generously agreed with Peggy's comment regarding

Sue's personality. "As far as I know, she would never like to trouble anyone else except herself. She

just wants to get through all the things along, no matter how difficult her life is. I can tell."

"Yes, yes, exactly! You are right." Peggy sighed once more. "So, Sher, are you willing to..."

"No worries, Aunt Peggy, I can help you with that. It's not a big deal." Sheryl agreed. However, Sheryl

was wary and cautious this time. She asked, "I can lend you the exact amount of money you need. But,

it is conditional. Before that, I need you to do something for me."

Peggy's face was wreathed in smiles when she got Sheryl's consent. However the finishing line spoken

by Sheryl wiped her smile off her face. She stammered as she made an extremely awkward face, "Oh!

you want something in return? I thought you and Sue are very good friends. That is the reason I asked

you for help. But now... You are asking... what is my capacity? What can I do for your? This is so

strange."

"Take it easy, Aunt Peggy. You know, there is a widely known saying which reads 'short account makes

long brotherhood'. This should also apply to Sue and m as well. Isn't it?" Sheryl was staring at Peggy

as she still looked puzzled and clueless. She continued, "No worries, it's not gonna be a difficult task.

Just that... I want something as a guarantee. Even you are aware that 500, 000 is not a small number,

right?" Sheryl spoke in a very cool voice.

"So, what do you want me to do?" Peggy was trying to look at the positive side of it. Moreover, she felt

reassured when she heard Sheryl say that it would not be difficult. It was perfectly reasonable to ask for something to safeguard one's own belongings.

"Given that this is not something that you want Sue to know, I will keep it completely to myself. You can rest assured about that." Peggy smiled and looked at her expecting to speak further. She was eager about the deal. Sheryl gave Peggy a serious look. "You can't know her temper more well, Aunt Peggy.

If she knows about it, it surely can't be done. If that's the case, even if I feel so strongly to offer you help, it may be too late. I am sure you agree with me?"

"That's right. I agree with you completely. What you said makes perfect sense, but..." Peggy frowned as she spoke. It was just that all she wanted was free money. If at all there would be any payback, that had to come from Sue. Hence, she couldn't make up her mind.

"Aunt Peggy, I will not ask for anything beyond the line. I just want you to write me an IOU note on your behalf. It will be better if both you and Allen could sign on that note. If you do as I say, I will give you the money right away." Sheryl spoke in her flat voice and stared at Peggy's face.

"You want an IOU note?" Peggy's face became grim. She seemed to be worried and hesitant about the

whole thing. Obviously she was very cautious about this idea. She felt, she had misjudged Sheryl's politeness.

"Yup." Sheryl nodded. "You don't have to worry about this. It is a mere formality to go through and for me to feel assured. Otherwise I will be worried and keep thinking about this. I promise I won't really chase you to pay back with this IOU note."

Sheryl smiled and then continued to reaffirm her, "How about this? When I have the money prepared for you, Sue will get to know about this as well. Then I will tear this note right in front of you, and let Sue to write another note for you."

"Well..." Peggy was unable to make up her mind.

"Aunt Peggy, I won't force you." Sheryl smiled and took her business card out from her purse. Handing it to Peggy, she said, "Anyway I would still need some time to get the money ready for you. You can take your time to make the decision. If you have decided, just call me and I will come to you with the money. In exchange, I just need an IOU note from you. It's like killing two birds with one stone. What do you think?"

Darting a glance at Peggy, Sheryl continued, "Even I am also trying to do a favor on Sue. Why don't

you discuss with your son about this?" Sheryl could make out from Peggy's face that she was not

expecting this kind of a condition to be put forward from her side.

"Indeed, it's not a big deal." Peggy nodded, and replied to Sheryl, "I need some time to think about it. I

will give you a call after I've made up my mind."

"No problem." Sheryl nodded. As the conversation drew to the end, just to provoke Peggy's suspicion

towards Doris, she added, "Aunt Peggy, I have something in mind that I can't stop myself from

mentioning to you."

"What is it?" Peggy replied with a frown on her face.

"I'm not sure how long they have been together, but... it seems to me that the baby in Doris' belly is way

beyond four months old. You have been pregnant before yourself, so you should know it. I just feel that

the size of the belly looks weird to me and is a complete mismatch to the term they are claiming."

Sheryl glanced at Peggy's face and stopped there without further analysis. She knew that Peggy was

clever enough to continue on this train of thought. All Peggy needed was just a spark to ignite the fire of

suspicion and investigation. That was exactly what Sheryl offered her.

"I have packed up everything," Sue said as she walked out from the other room. As they were talking,

Sue finished gathering all her belongings. Though she was truly reluctant and unwilling to move out,

she had no other choice.

"Then we will leave now." Sheryl smiled and stood up as she prepared to leave. "Aunt Peggy, I hope

that you would think through my words."

"Okay, noted," Peggy replied with a cold face and accompanied both of them out. The woman who did

not spare a thought of concern towards Sue all her life, now pretended to be the most doting mother

one could ever have. "Sue, take care of yourself. I know it is not easy for you."

"Alright, Aunt Peggy. Please stop here. No need to come after us. It is already very late. Hope you rest

well tonight," Sheryl spoke with a big grin.

As they came out of the house, Sue didn't want to bother Sheryl any furhter and said, "Sher, it's late

and you should go back now. Don't worry about me. I'll just find a hotel to sleep tonight and think about

where to go tomorrow."

Sue wanted to be considerate for Sheryl, but Sheryl was not willing to leave her alone in the middle of

the night.

"Sue, what do you mean by that?" Sheryl showed her discontent with a frown and asked, "Don't be

ridiculous Sue. Why do you want to put up in a hotel? Come with me to my house."

"Sher, I didn't mean to reject your help." Sue tried to explain, "I just don't... want to cause you any more

trouble."

Sue heaved a sigh and continued, "Because of me and Anthony, you even had to leave the dorm. You

yourself don't have a place to go. How can I even add to your trouble?"

"It's no big deal." Holding Sue's hand, Sheryl offered, "Now I am living with my grandparents. They

have a huge house. Don't worry. You can live there and sleep in my room."

"But..." Sue looked embarrassed and said in a worried tone, "I know your grandparents dislike me.

They..."

"You don't have to worry about that," Sheryl assured Sue. "They are easy to get along with. Trust me.

There will be no problem."

Chapter 835 Late Night Confessions

Sheryl was a woman whose heart was filled with compassion – she would carry her good intentions

around with her, even if it meant that she had to go to the extent of reasoning with her grandmother

Amy, who was a challenge she was always reluctant to take, but, not tonight, because this time she

had to be tough enough to negotiate with her granny since she insisted on bringing Sue home. The

poor woman Sheryl took in was too shy to decline her considerate offer. When they finally got home,

Amy had her arms crossed; she was doing her best not to succumb to emotion as to not express any

feelings of remorse. Sue thought the sophisticated lady looked firm and keen, maybe even too tough

for any man and she thought right – the head of the house always wanted things verified before she

could allow anyone inside their abode. Sheryl was trying not to get intimidated by her grandmother's

exterior and composed herself, knowing the strict lady her elder would hold her accountable and

knowing real well that she looked like she was up for the job. Sue was feeling the tension when Sheryl

asked her to help herself to the guest room and take a shower. The worn out woman immediately

followed the orders of her host and as soon as she left, Amy no longer waited to talk about the elephant

in the room. "Sher, isn't this girl... Why did you bring her back into our home?" asked the old woman

who was clearly in distress.

"She is my friend, Grandma. Please, don't worry," Sheryl explained nervously. "About Anthony's

involvement in this certain issue... Well, I actually don't blame Sue for whatever happened. It wasn't a

pretty conflict to be caught up in, but I don't think it's right to blame her either."

The grandmother was surprised at her granddaughter's remarks. Upon hearing it, she gathered her

own thoughts on the situation. "But you know..." Amy said with her brows now knitted almost too

closely to each other. She was about to rebut her beloved child into a debate but along the way she got

caught up trying to search for the right words for the sake of the conversation, but before she could

even formulate an idea or a thought that would put the young woman back to her senses, Sheryl

interrupted her trail of thought and tried to pick the lock to her grandmother's sympathy towards the

woman she decided to shelter in their home. "Believe me when I say that she is absolutely a woman to

pity, Grandma," explained the woman in hopes to convince her grandmother. "I can't hold back and just

let her carry on like this knowing that she has nowhere else to go. Do you think she can go anywhere

else if you shoo her from the only home that might be the only home kind enough to take her in?"

The older woman scoffed, "Pitiful? Why? What happened to her that you should feel pity towards her?"

Clearly dumbfounded, the senior took time to pause and became more open to the situation; Amy

thought of the benefit of the doubt and thought maybe her grandchild must have a good reason for

what she had decided to do. However, the elder wanted questions right away so she bombarded the young woman with questions, wanting to know the answers to all of them – if she was going to open her home to people she couldn't trust, then she must first get to the bottom of the entire situation.

Sheryl knew that if she wanted her grandmother to agree with the big decision to take Sue in, she had to narrate the full story in detail to her beloved grandmother with patience, not sacrificing a single loophole. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for her to get the woman of the house to get convinced that whatever she was doing was the right thing to do.

Minutes had passed when Sheryl told the sorrowful story of Sue to her attentive grandmother, who offered nothing but her ears. The young woman dotted the whole story with a sigh, still feeling sympathetic over whatever Sue had to suffer. It was bad enough to be mistreated by other people, so

Sheryl was sure nobody would want to be mistreated by their own family. She once again persuaded her grandmother to let Sue stay. It was not long after that when Amy, who happened to be the one to raise such a compassionate child, was able to empathize with their visitor. "Oh, I'm sorry I ever judged

her. That poor woman... Tell her she can stay for as long as she wants and tell her to live here as if this is her home until she can find another roof to put over her head."

Sheryl was delighted to hear the good news. "Thank you, Grandma! Oh, I knew you had it in you." The

young woman rejoiced that her grandmother had finally budged in her favor.

The senior took no time to transform from a very strict manager to a very accommodating host. "Sue

must be anxiously waiting for you thinking that I don't approve of her. You should go up to her room to

assure her that I have nothing against her, dear. I'll have food prepared for the both of you. That poor

girl must be hungry!" exclaimed the old woman, who was a very softhearted person after all. Besides,

she was a mother and her motherly instinct was bound to manifest. When Amy remembered who she

was, she headed straight to the kitchen. Sheryl immediately did as her grandmother instructed and

went up to check on Sue, who had just finished showering. The new addition to their house was

toweled when Sheryl saw that she had scars all over her body; she whimpered, trying to hold back the

tears that would be shed out of pity for Sue. 'How can they do this to her?' thought the good Samaritan.

'How can anyone be this cruel?'

Sue, who realized that Sheryl had spotted the parts of her she tried so hard to hide, smiled bitterly

trying not to seem too vulnerable. "I know what you're thinking and I'm fine. This is nothing compared to

whatever they did to me in the past. This time around, they were nicer to me," explained the victim.

The words that came out of the lambasted woman did not make Sheryl feel a tad bit comfortable about

the thought; she felt worse and even sorrier for the person who now had nowhere to run. "Well, luckily

you've outrun your demons. You don't have to worry anymore; you're safe here," Sheryl assured Sue.

"My grandmother has promised that you can live here for as long as you want and no one in here will

ever try to lay a finger on you; I'll make sure to protect you."

Sue was relieved and was able to breathe better after hearing that the one who rescued her would not

stop at just rescuing her, but would even go the mile to protect her. But she could not help but feel her

impermanence. "I appreciate it, but you know... I can't live with her for the rest of my life," the abused

woman said. Sue was still pessimistic but no one could really blame her; she learned not to trust

anything, not even hope. "You're Amy's granddaughter and you can't stay here forever; what more

myself? I'm in no way related to you, no matter how much I try for that to be the case."

Sheryl quickly cancelled Sue's negativity and affirmed her, "You don't have to worry. Right before we

find a place to stay, I'll make sure we'll be situated somewhere they can never ever find you. And the

house of yours, we can't let them just live there as they wish. Even if it is not in our hands, I will make sure it is not in theirs as well."

Sheryl then paused and realized that she only had futuristic plans, but none of them were apparent.

"But right now, I have no idea what I should do," she admitted. "Me neither. I don't know how I should carry on with my life." Sue said with a sigh as a frown plastered onto her face, "I don't even know if I should carry on with this never ending battle for life."

The two women continued having their late night conversation until they were unable to tell how long they have been talking. Amy, who had cooked food for the two young maidens, went inside to serve the food she had prepared. Even the old woman had not seen anything more cruel than the sight of the scars of their new housemate. "For God's sake! Which devil did this to you, my poor child?" the grandmother exclaimed. "How can anyone be this cruel?"

The grandmother was careful not to overwhelm Sue, so she lowered her voice and comforted the young victim gently, "Oh, child... My poor girl, please stay here. No one in here wishes to banish you; you are a part of this family now."

The rock of the house averted her gaze to Sheryl and reminded her that they still had some medicinal

oils and ointments. "Get them from the room and apply them onto this young lady's skin so that she can recover more quickly."

Sheryl nodded in obedience and once again did as she was instructed by her grandmother. Together, they aided Sue and when they were finished mending her scars, they laid side by side, talking about all the worries that they had inside their minds.

Sheryl began to talk about Charles and gave Sue a quick rundown of the story regarding the subject of her tale. Sue sighed and replied, "I can never imagine that there were so many things between you and Mr. Lu. No wonder you're someone else whenever you're around him."

Sheryl gasped in agreement, "I don't know what to do with myself either! From what I recall, I turned my life understand for this whole thing." The heartbroken woman smiled bitterly and added, "The thing that happened between me and Anthony caused Shirley autism. With the barrier between him and myself, we will never be able to go back to the way we were."

"Oh, Sher." Sue felt sorry for Sheryl. She held the damsel's hand and consoled her gently, "You know what? What's past is past."

The beautiful woman nodded. "Indeed," she agreed with a nod, as if she was trying to savor what the phrase clearly meant. Sheryl grinned with hope and turned to Sue. "Now, you're his girlfriend, Mimi. I really hope for the best."

Sue suddenly fell silent, hesitating to break the news to Sheryl that she and Anthony were already broken up.

"There were surely a lot of things that went on between the both of you and whatever has happened and whatever happens, I will always sincerely hope that you find true happiness in him," the forgiving woman wished Sue as she glanced at her. "About that... Have you ever mentioned your family to Anthony?"

Sue shook her head bitterly, and after much consideration, she finally decided to trust Sheryl with the information she was about to tell her. "I never had a chance to tell you, Sher, but actually... I've broken up with Anthony."

"What?" Sheryl was surprised. Out of shock, she jumped out of bed and asked, "What exactly do you mean by that? Why did you break up?"

Sue stood and motioned for Sheryl to relax. "I'll tell you, but you have to calm down first." Sue sat

Sheryl back down with her, ready to share more about her feelings. "Actually, I always know that we are doomed to departure. As long as I could be with him for even a few days, I am already satisfied. The past few days with him was the happiest days I've ever had."

"What are you talking about?" Sheryl exclaimed. Angered by the words that came out of Sue's mouth, Sheryl questioned in irritation, "Why do you always put yourself in such an inferior position? In love, there is only love; no status, no standing, no barriers – all of these things are irrelevant! Why would you think so lowly of yourselves?"

Sue stuttered, "Sher, you wouldn't get it; we were born into different lives. You have the privilege to live in such a big house, to be entitled to almost everything you want, to have a supportive family who will give you everything you need, but I don't. We have nuances, and those are some of them." Sue smiled wryly and added, "You've seen what they've done to me. Honestly, I did my best to force family matters out of my mind back when Anthony and I were still together, and I did, but now they're right in front of me like ghost trying to haunt me and I'm really scared. I'm afraid that they won't stop hunting for Anthony's money when they find out that I'm related to such a delightfully rich guy; I know them and I

know what they can and will do. How am I supposed to live a life with Anthony if my family will always be breathing down our necks?"

Having heard Sue's huge confession, Sheryl thought of her own experiences and after hesitating for a while, she finally decided to have a piece of her name in the same story. "Mimi, the story I told you about Charles is only the second half. Would you also like to hear about the first half of the whole story as well?"

Sue looked doubtful but nodded; she wasn't about to hide her curiosity.

Sheryl took a deep breath and regained her memory, flashback after flashback. When she had gathered all the elements of her story, she came to realize that she had been Sheryl for so long that she had forgotten to remember her life as Autumn. She thought carefully and recalled every little detail, making sure not to miss anything. It was as if she was re-watching her favorite movie in her mind; it was still so real and vivid to her.

These memories were so deeply embedded to her soul that no power in the world could ever take her memories away.

She started telling Sue about the marriage arranged by Wendy then slowly worked her way up to

everything else: the efforts of Rachel and Yvonne to split her and Charles up, the pregnancy, the memory loss, and whatnot. After an hour and a half, Sheryl finally came to a conclusion, "Then, I finally approached the second chapter, which was the part I conveniently told you first about."

Sheryl anxiously forced a smile and gave Sue the most important piece of advice that she learned from all her past dwellings of cruelty. "Mimi, I was just inferior as you are when I first married Charles. I was in no way confident; I was insecure and anxious that I would never be half the person Charles deserves. But, it was Charles who taught me that love can be just as simple as love – no more, and no less, regardless of everything else that is not love. You are no different, Sue. Make Charles and I your cautionary tale; we illustrate what you should do instead, don't we?"

Staring at Sue with the eyes of affection, she continued to persuade the young woman before her to expel all her worries. "If you really love Anthony, then you definitely shouldn't give up. I'm sure that if you let him go, you will regret it for the rest of your life."

Sue finally responded, "I can't believe you've been through so much hardship. It must have been tough." She then smiled as it all made sense to her. Now, she could finally understand why Sheryl

could say the things that she said.

'She's been through so much with Charles,' Sue thought to herself. 'And they also have children. The

tie between Anthony and Sheryl will in no way ever amount to that of Charles and her. No wonder she

loves him so much.'

Chapter 836 Accepted Her Request

Sue darted her eyes around the room as she gathered her thoughts. There were so many scenes that

kept playing in her head. But all of them were just her wishful thinking, and this made her feel even

sadder. She fixed her gaze on her hands that were clasped together in her lap, taking a moment to

manage her conflicting thoughts and emotions. Then, she lifted her chin, looked steadily at Sheryl and

continued in a low voice laced with helplessness, "But still, you and I, we are not the same."

Sue bitterly chuckled to herself. Her words continued to flow out unhurriedly, "You and Charles can

keep your relationship going because you both deeply love each other. My relationship with Anthony is

an entirely different story. I am madly in love with him, but that love is not being reciprocated. He does

not love me the way I want him to love me. I want him to let me into his heart. As a result, we end with

a break-up."

"No Sue, listen to me..." Sheryl reached out and grasped Sue's both hands in hers. Her eyes bore

utmost concern, gauging Sue's eyes. In a soothing voice she said earnestly, "I have known Anthony for a long time, and I know his personality very well. He did not say anything because he's not sure about how he feels towards you. You have to give him a little bit more time. He will eventually figure out his own heart and soon realize how much you mean to him. Trust me on this."

"You don't have to console me, Sher," Sue said as she retracted her intent gaze from Sheryl. Sue's smile became ever more mournful. "I know us better. It's for the best that we let go early on."

Sue looked apologetically at Sheryl as she said, "It's late now. We should rest early." Her voice was soft and calm. Sheryl nodded her head absentmindedly as she watched Sue closely. Her mind was elsewhere as she pondered on her thoughts. She still wanted to say something to persuade Sue to think things over, but she got a hint that Sue did not want to talk about it any longer.

The room was illuminated by the outdoor lights. The soft glow created a pleasant and soothing ambiance for Sue. It was the most peaceful night that Sue had had in a long time, but still, her mind was fully wide awake. She tossed and turned for the whole night, and finally fell into deep slumber only when it was almost daybreak.

Sue was still sleeping when Sheryl woke up. She had hoped that Sue could finally get a good sleep, since she needed this the most now. Afraid that she might disturb Sue, she moved around cautiously so as not to create any unnecessary noise.

Since Shirley went to bed very early last night, she also woke up early in the morning and came to Sheryl's room. She was about to knock on the bedroom door, but Sheryl opened it before she could. She smiled at her daughter lovingly and whispered, "Shh. Shirley, you're a good girl. Let's go downstairs to play, and let Auntie Sue sleep for a little longer, okay?"

Shirley stared at Sheryl with her large innocent eyes and did not utter any protest. She held her mother's hand and led her towards the staircase.

When the mother and daughter pair came downstairs, Amy had already made breakfast for them. When Sheryl approached her to help her prepare the table, Amy inquired with a concerned look, "Where's Sue? Is she still sleeping?"

"Yeah," Sheryl replied with a small nod. With a worried tone she said further, "She hasn't had a good sleep in a long time. Let her rest for a little while longer."

Sheryl helped Shirley to her seat and ladled a bowl of porridge for her. She then turned facing Amy and

made a polite request, "Grandma, could you help me take care of Sue during her stay here? I'm sorry to trouble you on this."

"I will take care of her, you don't have to worry," Amy said with a soft sigh.

Sheryl smiled at her gratefully. She would like to take Shirley out for shopping after breakfast. The school term was fast approaching, and would begin in a few days. They had not had the chance to buy all the supplies needed for school. Before they could go, Peggy's call suddenly came on the phone.

She immediately took the call. Before she could even manage to say 'Hello', a voice already cut in, "Sher, regarding that thing we've discussed previously... Well, ah I.. I have made up my mind now. Just do it as what you have said." Peggy chirped in a honeyed tone, and then excitedly added, "Where are you? I will go to you now."

"Now?" Sheryl instinctively retorted, grateful that she was able to hide the surprise in her voice. She was stunned for a brief moment. She had never thought that Peggy would be this quick, and she had not prepared the money yet.

"I am not free at the moment." Sheryl came up with a random excuse and said, "I'm heading out. I have

something else to attend to. How about this, I'll go to your place later?"

"No, no. You don't have to make the trip," Peggy adamantly refused her suggestion. "I know you must

be very busy recently. I'll drop by at your place later today when you're free. And I want to see Sue too,

you know... She's still my daughter after all."

A mocking smile crept across Sheryl's face. She knew very well that Peggy would never be so kind,

and Peggy just wanted to see if she really had the ability to get the money ready for her.

But Sheryl agreed anyway. She hung up the phone and began to feel a little worried.

She did not have too many savings in recent years. She was a single mother who had to raise Shirley

on her own. How could she get the money ready in such a short period of time?

She thought about it over and over again. After contemplating for a long time, she eventually decided to

ask Charles for help.

Here on Peggy's side, Allen asked impatiently right after she hung up the phone, "So how is it? Did she

agree to it?"

"She did," Peggy replied nonchalantly. She turned to face Allen, giving him an impassive look and said,

"I'll go to her house later. You'll stay with Doris here at home.

And remember, for now, do not mention anything to Doris." She reminded him sternly.

"Of course," Allen replied, and finally let out a sigh of relief.

Peggy suddenly remembered what Sheryl had reminded her before. She thought about it for a while

and decided to ask, "Allen, you and Doris are together... for only four months now, right?"

"Yeah. What's wrong?" Allen asked seemingly unconcerned.

"It's just... I'm just wondering... How can you be so sure that the child she is bearing right now, is

yours?" Peggy scowled at him as she asked. She was thinking about the conditions laid out by Doris.

She could agree to any of those. But if this child did not belong to Allen, none of them would be fulfilled.

She would never allow herself to be played by her.

"Mom, what are you even thinking about?" Allan found the questions ridiculous. He winced at Peggy's

skepticism. "How can you think of Doris in such a way? I know, without a doubt, that her child is mine,"

Allen said firmly, enunciating each word.

"I just needed to make sure of that. Don't fret about it," Peggy exclaimed matter-of-factly as she

shrugged her shoulders. Thinking about the child somehow made her happy. She softened her tone a

little and said, "Since we are already discussing this, I think it's about time that she visits an obstetrician. When all these things are properly settled, I'll personally accompany her to Y City Hospital for a thorough check-up."

"Fine. Up to you," Allen replied curtly and did not bother to say anything at all. Now he just wanted to get the money as soon as possible. He was getting impatient.

Sheryl asked Amy to look after Shirley and headed to Charles' company alone. Although she had so many rehearsals done previously in Charles' company, Sheryl felt a slight change of mental attitude when she came this time around.

Perhaps it was basically because of the change in her identity. The reception staff knew who Sheryl was. Once Sheryl entered the building, the receptionist immediately ushered her to the lift with a bright smile on her face. She then promptly called Charles' office to inform him of Sheryl's arrival.

On her way to Charles' office, everyone she passed by greeted her warmly. She was a little overwhelmed, but out of politeness, she still smiled back at every staff.

After a few minutes of non-stop greeting and smiling, she finally reached Charles' office. Charles was

busy signing some documents. When Sheryl came in, he lifted his eyes to acknowledge her presence.

He then smiled warmly and said, "Please have a seat, I will be done soon."

"Don't worry," Sheryl said as she found a spot and sat down.

"As for the supplier's side, remember to watch them closely. Don't let it go wrong again," Charles

reminded David. Soon Charles was done with the paperwork. He then handed the documents to David

and said, "Close the door when you leave."

"Yes, Mr Lu," David responded, not forgetting to greet Sheryl before he left.

Sheryl awkwardly glanced at Charles and seemed a little shy. "It's not like my visit here is something

shady. The way you told him to close the door will probably cause some misunderstandings."

"It doesn't really matter," said Charles as he grinned at her. Charles did not care about what others

would think. He was actually quite delighted that Sheryl had come here to look for him on her own will.

He smiled and asked tenderly, "How come you have the time to look for me today?"

Chapter 837 Charles' Suggestion

"I..." Sheryl stammered. All of a sudden, it was, as if, a cat had gotten Sheryl's tongue as she

remembered the reason why she had to see Charles. She then eyed on Charles, embarrassed. "I... I

came to ask for your help, Charles..."

Inside Sheryl's heart, she grew jittery as Charles would assume she only needed him for help.

"What happened?" When Charles finally heard Sheryl's true intention, his lips tugged upwards. 'Sheryl

already trusts me enough to ask me for help... I shouldn't let her down, ' he thought.

"I..." Not knowing where to even start, Sheryl hesitated for a brief moment, collected herself together,

and finally, answered Charles, "I... I want to borrow some money from you."

"How much do you need?" Charles inquired as he eyed on Sheryl.

"F-Five..." Despite feeling reluctant to even continue, Sheryl took a deep breath and threw the last

amount of embarrassment she had in her body. She then uttered, "Five hundred thousand..."

The air felt heavy, and the room was silent. Standing up from his spot, Charles went over to his table,

took out a credit card, and handed it over to Sheryl. "There's eight hundred thousand in this card. I

intended to pay for Shirley's tuition with this card but, nevertheless, you may use it. I'll just add more

cash into the card later on."

"No, you don't have to do that, Charles. This is more than enough for me and Shirley. Besides, her

tuition doesn't cost so much money."

Suddenly asking Charles for help felt different for Sheryl. The feeling had turned into a burden. Regret filled Sheryl's whole body.

"Just take it," Charles remarked. "I want to give this to Shirley. She needs money for education and as my daughter, she deserves it."

"But..." Embarrassment then immediately took over Sheryl's body as she started to frown. Despite Charles being Shirley's father, the money he offered was just too much. Sheryl felt reluctant to accept it.

"I won't be taking 'no' for an answer." Taking Sheryl's hand into his, Charles then placed the card into Sheryl's hand. Sheryl wavered for a brief moment before she clenched her hand to a close. It delighted him that she finally took the card.

Once Sheryl had placed the card into her pocket, she glanced towards Charles and asked, "Why aren't you asking me the reason I need so much money?"

"I don't find the need to," Charles chuckled. "The purpose of why I work to earn money is to support you and our kids. Besides, fifty hundred thousand isn't such a big deal."

Heat shot up to Sheryl's cheeks as she uttered, "You know, I'll end up being spoiled if you keep being this good to me." Cheeks took on the color of roses and Charles couldn't help but grin at the sight he saw with his own eyes.

"My motivation in life is none other than being able to spoil both you and Shirley, you know?" Charles jested. Nevertheless, he meant every word he said.

"So..." Charles' tone suddenly turned somber. "What about Clark?"

Taking a seat down beside Sheryl, Charles continued his statement, "He's a boy so I think he should be trained in a rather harsh condition in order for him to become a true man."

Laughter escaped from Sheryl's lips. She then stated the reason why she needed the money urgently. Once done, she heaved, "Sue's in trouble and I'm the only one who can help her."

Turning to Charles, she continued with a bitter expression, "I'm her best friend and what kind of best friend would I be if I don't offer to even help her?"

Feeling Sheryl's determination, Charles nodded firmly and asked, "What do you intend on doing next?" Pondering long and hard on what to say next, Sheryl spoke of her plan to Charles, "I think Peggy and Allen wouldn't dare to do anything far as long as I have their IOU. For the house, I'll get it back for Sue,

one day. Sue's such a hard worker but, all of the money doesn't even go to her. It's, as if, Sue's being

robbed from everything she worked hard on. I just pity her so much."

"Sher..." In an attempt to console Sheryl, Charles patted her back. "I know you're doing this because

you're a really kind woman but... this way won't help her at all..."

There was no way Peggy and Allen would fold over a single IOU. Innocence could be dangerous.

Eyes dilated, Sheryl turned to Charles. "What do you mean?"

"Peggy and Allen are callous people and they won't even bat an eye on an IOU. If you push the wrong

buttons..." Charles placed a hand on Sheryl's shoulder and continued, "They won't just kill Sue. They

might even go after you as well."

It took Sheryl a moment to process what Charles told her. Eventually, it rang a bell. However, Sheryl

never feared that Peggy would hurt her but, whether it'd put Sue in harm.

Plans crumbling down, Sheryl grew concerned. Now, Sheryl had no idea what to do. Harming Sue in

the process was never in her arsenal.

"What should I do, then?" Starting to grow desperate, Sheryl eyed Charles and asked for an answer.

"Are you saying I shouldn't lend money to them? Wouldn't that put Sue in more danger?"

"No, that's not what I meant." Charles remained calm and collected. "They should get the money, but not from you."

Confusion was evident on Sheryl's profile. "What do you mean?"

Heading to a water dispenser, Charles took a glass and handed it over to Sheryl to calm her down.

Then he began to explain, "Lend them the money and give the IOU to the usury lenders. They can deal with them."

Everything suddenly turned cold. Sheryl saw Charles wearing a cold smile. "A wicked man can only be dealt with someone as wicked as him. This is the only way Sue can get a peaceful life."

"No, that won't work." Shaking her head, Sheryl reasoned out why, "Peggy won't pay the money back. If the usury lenders asked Peggy for money, she'd just drop Sue's name and label her as the real borrower. I can't add more problems in Sue's life, Charles."

"Innocence is a great asset of yours, Sher," Charles uttered lovingly towards Sheryl. "But, don't you ever think that most usury lenders just put up an act?"

The statement Charles uttered dawned upon Sheryl. "Do you mean that I should hire someone to act

like a usury lender?"

"It's very easy to ask several people to put on a show," Charles said in a calm manner. "They could

also amp up their performance by doing things harshly to make it more vivid and believable. However,

you need to get Sue's permission first." Standing up from his spot, Charles then turned to Sheryl.

"This is the easiest, most simplest way to solve the problem for Sue. But, do remember to negotiate

and consult with Sue before rushing to make a decision."

"Alright. I'll keep that in mind." Sheryl then got up from her seat and headed towards the door. "I'll get

going. Thanks Charles."

Without any intention of letting Charles' suggestion slip from her mind, Sheryl immediately rushed back

home. When she arrived, she saw Sue in the living room with Shirley. Clearing her throat, she called

out, "Mimi, I need to talk to you."

"Did something happen?" Sue responded, concerned as to what Sheryl had to tell her as well.

Everything moved quickly and the next thing Sue knew was that she was dragged into Sheryl's room.

Puzzled, she turned to Sheryl with utmost concern and asked, "Did my mom cause trouble?"

"No but, I have something important to tell you," Sheryl answered. With the doors put to a close, Sheryl then disclosed what she and Charles had discussed earlier. The atmosphere was heavy between Sue and Sheryl.

"Look, I know a sorry is in order because I went and did something without telling you but, Charles told me that I can't help you in the way I want to help you as it could put you in severe trouble. With Charles' proposition, I think it is only right to tell you about it but Sue, you have to make the final call."

Chapter 838 Success

Looking deeply into Sue's eyes, Sheryl continued, "I understand. After all, she is your mother and we can't change that but, if you find it hard to reach a decision, we can act as if we never even talked about this and we'll just follow through with my original plan. If ever something goes wrong, we can take action. What do you think, Sue?"

The atmosphere between them was heavy and Sheryl sensed Sue's hesitation. Nevertheless, Sheryl tried to expel Sue's worries, "Mimi, don't think about it too much. Those people know what to do and they won't kill Peggy for real but, terrorize her just enough for her to learn her lesson."

It took a moment until Sue had finally reached her decision. Raising her head, she had courage and resolution in her eyes.

"Alright. I'll follow what Mr. Lu has arranged for me."

It never bothered Sue that Peggy and Allen had been leeching on her but, it struck odd for Sue now

that they had gone even further. Their greed was insatiable. Adding to the team was a foxy sister-in-

law. Situations were bound to escalate if Sue remained idle and silent.

Born with a kind and loving heart and taught to never fight violence with violence, Sue had finally put

her foot down and decided to fight back. "Regarding the money," Sue started, "I'll make sure to pay you

back. But, you know Sher, I'm new here and there's no way for me to gather a group of people who are

willing to do that for me. Will you be still be able to help me find people who are willing to do this,

Sher?" Sue asked.

"Of course. Like I said, I'm here for you." Sheryl beamed. "So, let's focus on this, okay?"

Nodding her head firmly in response, Sue clenched her fists tightly. "They've treated me as if I'm just an

animal. I'll spare no hint of mercy towards them. I'll never let them have their way with me anymore. I've

learned my lesson and it's highly time for them to learn theirs as well." Delighted at Sue's display of

prowess, Sheryl smiled. "Great! Don't worry, I'll handle this for you so, there's no need to worry about

anything!"

Turning to Sue, Sheryl continued, "Oh, and about the money? You don't have to pay a single penny for it. Your mother and brother will be paying for it instead."

"It's beyond their capability," retorted Sue. A thought struck Sue and it was that, no matter how badly Peggy and Allen had treated her, they were still family. How could Sue stomach the thought to see them die right under her nose? No one wanted to stain their hands dirty thus, all she could do was to offer a deal for an undisturbed, peaceful life. For Sue, that was priceless.

"I'll definitely pay you back, Sher," Sue asserted. Seeing how Sue was set on paying Sheryl back, Sheryl knew she couldn't say no. "It won't be easy but, I hope you'd be patient with me about it," Sue added in, weakly laughing as she did so.

Innumerous times had Sheryl helped Sue throughout her entire life. It was, as if, Sheryl was the only person who had looked at her as an equal. No words could express how Sue was thankful for Sheryl. Despite how thankful Sue was for Sheryl supporting her, Sue still wanted to thank her in return, which was to pay that amount to the best of her abilities.

Everyone knew that 500, 000 was, in no way, a small sum.

"Let's settle all of that once all is done." Sheryl beamed. "Now, let's give her a call."

After calling up Peggy, all Sheryl had to do was sit and wait for her to arrive. No later than half an hour,

Peggy arrived. As Peggy entered, Sheryl watched as she examined the interior of the house closely

with eyes filled with jealousy but at the same time, joy.

"I didn't know your family is able to afford such a large house, Sher," Peggy spoke as she approached

Sheryl. "It must have cost a great fortune to have a house this size in Y city, right? Oh, how I wish Allen

would have such a stupendous house!"

"That, I am not sure." Sheryl responded in a flat and somber tone, a clear contrast in zeal from

Peggy's, "This house was purchased by my Aunt Abby for my grandparents. I'm just residing in this

home temporarily. As for how much the house costs, I can't exactly say that I have an estimate to tell

you."

Noticing how Peggy was still wishing for the house to be hers, Sheryl gestured for Peggy to take a

seat, "Aunt Peggy, come and take a seat."

"Ah, alright." Peggy nodded. Forgetting her original intention, Peggy ran her mouth about the house.

The more Peggy egged on about it, the more Sheryl's irritation grew, until she couldn't bear it anymore.

"Aunt Peggy." Sheryl's tone was sharp. "This house has absolutely nothing to do with me so, can we please not focus on the house?"

Sensing the discontent from Sheryl, Peggy then stopped. Sheryl cleared her throat and got the topic back on track, "Sue's currently at work and since she isn't coming home anytime soon, why don't we start?"

It was then, Peggy remembered what she had said as an excuse. Peggy smiled with a hint of embarrassment and replied, "You see? My girl is so carefree! How can she even go to work at a time like this when there's so much unsettled business here?"

"Does Sue even have a choice?" Sheryl threw the question at Peggy, "I think she's quite unlucky as she has to support her brother for living. Don't you find that pathetic?" Upon hearing Sheryl's statement, Peggy's profile turned dark.

'I can't say anything towards Sheryl, ' Peggy thought to herself, 'until I absolutely drain her from everything she has.'

Glancing at Peggy, Sheryl asked, "Aunt Peggy, I have the money ready. Do you have the IOU that you promised?"

"It's here," Peggy answered as she carefully took out a piece of paper from her purse. "Allen's

signature was there as well, right beside mine," Peggy added in as she handed Sheryl the note.

When Sheryl's mere fingertips touched the note, Peggy reeled her hand back in with caution and eyed on Sheryl. "Where is it? Where's the money?"

"Don't worry, the money's in here," Sheryl answered with a scoff.

Taking out the card given to her by Charles, Sheryl revealed it to Peggy. In the card, there was an exact amount of 500, 000.

"The money's in the card but," Sheryl's tone was firm, "I will only hand you the card over after you give me the IOU." With her eyes glued to the bank card, Peggy couldn't bear to even tear her eyes away. To Peggy, it was a symbol of wealth and the feeling of euphoria filled her as she was the soon to be the owner.

In spite of the lingering feeling of doubt and hesitation she felt from Sheryl, Peggy still decided to pass the IOU to Sheryl, letting her greed for money take over her.

Putting on a fake but indiscernible smile on her profile, Peggy thanked Sheryl, "Thank you so much for saving me from what I thought was an unsolvable situation. I'm freed from all of my worries thanks to your help. You are a generous woman. Your heart is so kind to even help others from situations like these..."

"You're quite welcome, Aunt Peggy." Sheryl flashed a grin. "I'm happy to help." "I do want to help out Sue, after all. Sue's been through too much sorrow all these years. If I can help with lessening her stress and her pain, I'll do anything I could," Sheryl added in.

"Yes, yes..." Peggy responded dismissively. All of Peggy's attention was gone the moment Sheryl handed over the bank card into her hands. Peggy felt absolutely victorious. Right now, she only cared about the money in her hands and nothing else.

Having succeeded with their plan, it was time for Peggy to move on with her life. There was no use in wasting time simply chatting with Sheryl. Standing up from her seat, Peggy excused herself. "Well, Sher, I'll take my leave now," Peggy spoke. "I just remembered that I have important business to handle soon. I must take my leave."

"Oh, are you in a hurry?" Sheryl questioned with a surprised tone, though it didn't surprise her at all.

"Wouldn't you like a cup of tea before leaving, Aunt Peggy?" Beaming brightly, Sheryl continued, "Sue's coming back soon! Let's both wait for her and have a cup of tea together. It won't take much of your time."

"Ah, thank you for the thought but," Peggy waved her arm in rejection, "I think it'd be best for me to leave rather than wait for Sue to arrive. You do remember what we just discussed, yes? A secret is a secret, after all. We agreed to avoid any chance for her to know about it. So, in order to keep it as a secret, I better go now I guess."

As soon as Peggy finished her sentence, she briskly walked away from Sheryl. She couldn't bear to stay even a second longer and didn't want to risk seeing Sue and revealing this valuable secret. After all, a secret should be kept hidden.

The moment Peggy left the home, coming down from the stairs was none other than Sue, who failed to hide her bitterness as Peggy trotted away with the bank card in her hands.

"My goodness. She acted as if she was going to die if she stayed any longer." Sue wryly smiled and sighed.

Patting Sue's shoulder, Sheryl tried to lighten up the mood. "It's alright. It's not the first time you knew her true colors, so don't feel sorry. She's not even worth your attention or your emotions."

Turning to Sheryl, Sue had a smile etched on her profile, but it wasn't one of happiness. Rather, it was a smile of pity. "I don't feel hurt. I just pity her," Sue responded.

As soon as Sue finished her sentence, she turned her heel and headed back upstairs. Despite her words, Sheryl knew that Sue was once again victimized by her mother. As Sue's friend, Sheryl chose not to follow Sue up the stairs and decided to give her personal space as Sue needed time to take in her emotions, after all.

From there, Sheryl found the time to send the note to Charles and left him to handle everything as he had her complete trust.

Despite having a nice house to live in, Sue still had to attend work every day. It wasn't all bad, as with Sheryl, Sue was not alone.

Noticing that Sue and Sheryl were terribly close with one another compared to the past, Holley quickly asked Sue to get in her office and got to the bottom of things between Sue and Sheryl.

The moment Sue arrived, Holley didn't spare a second for Sue to even greet her and shot the question immediately, "What has gotten into you?"

"What?" Sue replied with a confused expression. "What are you talking about?"

"I'm asking about you and Sheryl." Holley frowned. The questions kept on coming. "I think I made myself clear. You understood and agreed, didn't you? Since when did you and Sheryl become friends again?" Holley spat out, her words growing more firm. "Aren't you afraid that she'll..."

"Miss Ye," Sue cut Holley off. With eyes full of resolve, Sue continued, "I have made a big mistake.

Sher was never the person I perceived her to be. I had gravely misunderstood her. Sheryl is a woman with a good heart and it pained me to only know that now as I was blinded by my own judgement. I'm terribly sorry."

Chapter 839 He Is Back

The moment Holley looked at Sue, she knew it. The very brief words that Sue gave her were enough to tell her that something had changed between them. 'Something's not right,' Holley thought.

She knew that she could make good use of Sue, and she did all that she could to drive a wedge

between Sue and Sheryl. She had put in a good show and put tremendous effort to destroy the friendship between Sue and Sheryl. As long as she could keep Sue away from Sheryl, she could make

her way to win her trust. It came as a complete surprise that her attempt to break them apart had

actually brought Sue and Sheryl even closer. How could they act like nothing had happened between them?

Holley felt a roaring monster inside which nearly pushed her to act outrageously. The questions inside

her head echoed in her ears, and each waited for an answer she couldn't even find. Why did she fail to separate them? She tried to find an explanation on why Sue showed no resentment with Sheryl despite

everything that she had done to ruin their connection. The thought of being a failure hurt her pride, but she had to pretend it did not bother her. Behind her facade was a crazy woman eager to flip the world over to get the answer on how Sheryl beat her in this game of relationship.

She took a deep breath before she asked, "Sue, is there... anything bothering you?" Faking her tone

came natural. No one should know that her intentions were never pure. All Holley needed to do was to maintain the good impression Sue had of her.

The least that she had expected was silence. It stirred her more that Sue seemed to have ignored her question. All she needed was a response from her to assess the situation, but Sue seemed to make it

too difficult for her to get one. Holley tried asking her again, "Sue, did you not hear me earlier? I am sorry if I sound annoying but I am really worried about you. You do know that you can tell me anything, anything at all. I would be more than happy to sit down and listen if you need someone to talk to. All you have to do is to ask."

Sue looked at her with warm eyes and said, "Thank you, but I am really fine. Everything is good." It took Sue a lot of thinking before she made up her mind to keep her lips tight about her family issues. She found herself uneasy to let anyone know about it. "If there is nothing else, then I would be going now. Thank you, Miss Ye."

That was the last straw. Holley tried her best to control her emotion as Sue made her way out and closed the door. Her heart thumped so hard that she felt she was about to explode. She wanted to throw whatever object she could grab against the wall and imagined if the crash would give her satisfaction. No way could Sue just leave her defeated.

Holley still had her mournful look when George stepped into her office. "You look terrible. What did I miss?" he asked in a concerned tone.

"I just felt so stressed for some reason. It's no big deal." Holley found herself an easy excuse. George

could be nosy at times and the last thing she needed was to explain herself. "What brings you here?

"Are you heading somewhere?" she asked to divert his attention.

"Oh, I have a business dinner tonight so I would probably come home late. You can go ahead and

sleep early, even without me," he explained. "Are you sure you are okay?" he asked with a worried

tone. "If you need to, we can go to the hospital right now and get you all checked up. Prevention is

always better than cure."

"It's okay. I'm fine. You are worrying about me too much," she responded with a grin to reassure

George. "It's only a common headache so there's no need for a doctor. I guess getting sufficient rest

will be enough.

As for you, please be mindful of your alcohol intake later tonight. I understand that it's unavoidable

whenever you go to these business dinners but I don't want you getting sick and all," Holley reminded

him.

"Sure, my lady." George nodded gently to show his consent. Holley's response earlier that she was

feeling okay did not have him convinced. "Are you feeling okay? I really don't mind accompanying you

to the doctor now."

"I'm really feeling okay. Don't worry unnecessarily. I promise to go straight to the hospital if ever it gets

worse," Holly assured the worried man once again.

That was all that George needed to hear to be at peace. He was about to leave for his appointment

when he remembered something important. "By the way, my mom and Sula have both decided to stay.

I have no idea what's keeping them busy so, hopefully, they do not end up looking for you. In case they

do, let me know and I'd be more than happy to handle them for you. I absolutely don't want to see you

get hurt again."

"Surely, I will," Holley confirmed with a mild smile.

Her pretense of being the victim seemed to have George eager enough to protect her all the time. Little

did he know that his damsel in distress was an evil witch in disguise. If he ever came to know about it,

he would definitely not be her knight in shining armor anymore.

Donna was still her mother though, and the bond between them would remain to be thicker than blood.

No matter how horrible she had been, nothing could change the fact that she had given him life and

supported him all this time.

Holley's anger still had not fully subsided after George left. After considering that a chat with Sue would make her calm, she stepped out of the room to find her. Just then, her phone started ringing and an unknown number came up on her caller ID.

She initially hesitated to take the call. 'Could this be someone I knew from the past or a total stranger?' she thought. However, there was only one way to find out.

"Long time no see." The sound of a familiar voice rang on her ear but she couldn't put a face to it.

Holley tried digging through her thoughts but she still came up blank. "You are?" she finally asked.

"What? Don't tell me you can't remember me now? How long has it been?" His laugh seemed to not

bring her comfort. Something on this man's voice did not sound right. "It may have been three years

and you've changed a whole lot from the last time I saw you. But come on, no need to bury me on your past. I would be hurt if you have already forgotten about me," he said with detectable contempt.

"It's you!" The horror in Holley's voice couldn't be concealed. She suddenly felt cold with sweat as she found his name from her long forgotten memories. It was Ferry! How could she forget his name!

Three years ago, he had offered her his services, which caused her a lot of sufferings and torment.

Her chance to temporarily escape and leave her painful memories behind was all thanks to George.

However, the presence of this man now reminded her that she couldn't run away too long. Just the

mere presence of this man, who was now back from the dead, had everything about her bitter past

flood back to her. How could a single phone call turn her life around?

There was no way she would have made herself believe that she could get rid of those memories. It

was a part of her then, and his presence would remind her more of it now.

"It's me," Ferry responded. His confirmation lacked any emotion.

"You... Are you back in Y City?" Her voice trembled as Holley nervously waited for a response.

Ferry had been on the run for fear that he would reap the seeds of his evil deeds. He got himself into a

lot of trouble after he succeeded in his plan to torture Sheryl. Though it was a huge success, the fact

that he had crossed the line with some powerful and strong people such as Charles and Andy, had him

fear for his life.

He had to move overseas to stay away from all the chaos.

As much as he wanted to stay, he knew that he couldn't return to Y City with Charles and Andy on his

tail. It was too risky. Holley was clearly surprised to learn that he seriously just got back.

"Yes, I am back." Ferry made sure it sounded confident. "Are you not happy to hear the good news?"

"Are you crazy?" Holley exclaimed, only to realize how it was inappropriate for her to be shouting at

someone over the phone. What would people think of her if someone heard her just now? Her image

would be ruined. She decided to lower her voice but retained the intensity of her questions. "Do you not

fear for your life? After all the ruckus that you have made, do you think that Andy and Charles will just

let it slip? You have the nerve to be running around the city. Are you out of your mind?"

"Yvonne, mind your language. I don't think that I need to remind you on who you are talking to. Do you

think that I have forgotten how you and Leila messed the whole thing up? I would have not been hiding

if it weren't for you!" Ferry stressed out.

"I..." Holley was rendered speechless. She composed her thoughts and replied in her defense, "I don't

think that you should blame us for what happened in the past. We did try our best but it was just

impossible to succeed given that she had too many people to protect her at the time. I doubt if we can

still work out a plan to catch Sheryl alone now, since Charles has arranged an even larger group to

make sure she's under his surveillance all the time."

"You should know how to play this game by now. If physical torture doesn't work, try a mental one."

Ferry scoffed, "Think about it. You are her boss now. I hope you won't tell me that you can't even get such a simple thing done."

"I mean, don't get me wrong. I didn't mean that..." Holley started. She clearly needed to explain the reason behind her actions to this man but none of her hard work had actually given her anything to brag about. Ferry interrupted her abruptly, "Enough! I don't want to hear your useless excuses.

Now that I'm back, you better not waste your time. I want to see you get something done at least, otherwise..."

He was warning her. Knowing Ferry from before, she understood him so much that he didn't need to finish his sentences to clarify the consequences. She couldn't imagine her fate at the hands of this ruthless and cruel man. Failure was never an option.

He never took anything lightly -- there were more than a thousand ways he could think of and take action to torture her.

Chapter 840 Confiding

The very thought of Ferry returning to Y City made Holley tremble with fear. Her throats dried up as she answered the phone. After clearing her throat, she asked, "Now that you are coming back, is Charles

aware of it? Have you thought of the consequences if he comes to know about your return?"

"You forget about it." Ferry sneered as he spoke to Holley over the phone, "That is none of your

business. It is I who has to deal with it. You just mind your own business."

Saying this Ferry hung up the phone abruptly. Holley stood there dumbfounded not knowing what to do.

A sudden pensiveness dawned upon her heart making her feel as if she had a very heavy rock on her

chest that was pushing her down. Holley picked up her bag hastily and drove straight to the cemetery

in Y City.

She made her way to Wendy's grave. She stared at her picture on the grave that was still the same as

before. She stood there like a little girl with tears in her eyes and a heavy heart, looking at her mother's

smiling face and whispered, "Mom, tell me what should I do?"

Standing by Wendy's grave gave her some kind of peace as her mind traveled to the past. She was

once a privileged young girl of a rich family. However, following her parent's demise life had not been

the same again.

It was all because of Sheryl. She was the only one to be blamed for Holley's condition to be reduced to

this state. She was the cause behind all her miseries.

"Mom, just tell me what should I do now?" It was the first time Holley had visited Wendy's grave ever since her death.

Her mind was in a mess. On one hand, she wanted to take revenge on Sheryl. On the other hand, she thought about dealing with Donna. And now she had one more opponent to deal with -- Ferry. And Ferry was a nightmare to Holley.

No matter how much she transformed herself, she would never have a chance of being able to rise above the masses as long as Ferry was there. She would always be a puppet in his hands.

"That year you killed dad, and you were put to death. Mom, I really don't know what to do now. I'm so tired. I don't know if I'm right or not if I continue to be like this." Holley started to feel light as she spoke her heart out. She paused for a moment and sobbed for a while. Then she started speaking again, "I know George is taking me seriously. He has been treated me very well. He has even gone against his family for my sake. But the person he has fallen in love with... is under disguise. I don't know if I should tell him the truth. How will I face him? I'm really tired. Could you please help me, mom?"

Holley was under too much pressure. She didn't even have someone who she could talk to in the city.

And the only place she could turn to was her own mother's grave.

Talking to her about all her troubles and hesitations made her feel better.

Wendy was a good mother to Holley. Though she had made lots of mistakes, whatever she did was for Holley's sake.

But as fate would have it, she was dead, leaving Holley alone to fight her own battle. Holley squinted her eyes she thought of Wendy's death.

She stood in front of Wendy's grave and swore to herself that she would definitely take revenge for Wendy's death.

She stayed there for two hours. She had a lot to tell Wendy all the things that happened in Korea during the past three years. She felt much better when she finished.

She looked at Wendy's photo on the tombstone and said, "Mom, don't worry. I will definitely get justice for you. I promise it will happen soon. I'll make Sheryl to repent for what she did to you. I will make her go down and apologize to you personally. That's my promise to you."

Holley wiped off her tears and gathered herself. Then she let out a cold laugh and walked out of the

cemetery. Not long after she left, someone appeared in front of Wendy's grave. The person stood there for a moment and left in a hurry.

In the Zhao family house

Sheryl and Sue went back to their rooms after dinner. Peggy had not bothered them any more. She

seemed to have disappeared completely after having received the money.

When Sheryl mentioned about Sue's apartment, she spoke of Holley. She looked at Sue and said,

"Mimi, if you are unwilling to let them live over there, you can go and discuss it with Miss Ye to think of a way to chase them away. Miss Ye treats you well. I believe she will help you if you talk to her."

"She?" Sue creased her brows.

Sue found Holley to be very strange right from the very beginning.

On one hand, Holley claimed to be friends with Sheryl, while on the other hand, she was encouraging

Sue to fall out with Sheryl pretending as if it was all for her own good.

Sue could not count on Holley for anything. She got a very weird vibe from her. How could Sue ask a two-faced female like Holley for help?

"What's wrong?" Sheryl looked at Sue inquisitively and asked, "Is there anything wrong with that?"

"Sher, I won't ask for her help." Sue forced a diplomatic smile. She thought it was better not to discuss the matter with Sheryl at this point. Instead she would keep a close eye on Holley in case she stabbed her from the back.

"Why not?" Sheryl felt Sue's reaction at the very mention of Holley was a little weird. She looked at Sue and explained, "Mimi, the easiest way to get Peggy and Allen leave is to get the company to tell them that the dormitory is meant for employees. We would take legal measures if they don't vacate it. In this way, Peggy and Allen will have no choice but to leave. This is the best way. Why don't you agree to it?"

"Sher, you won't understand." Sue did not explain the reason directly. She frowned slightly and said to Sheryl, "Holley is not as simple as you think. I don't want to have anything more to do with her. I won't ask for her help and neither will you."

Sue looked at Sheryl and added, "You should keep an eye on Holley. I have a kind of feeling that she might be up to something malicious for you."

"What are you talking about?" Sheryl looked at Sue in confusion and said, "There is nothing between us. We have no conflicting interest. Why would she do anything bad to me?"

"I don't know exactly what she is up to. But I have a strong intuition that she is certainly up to something not so pleasant." Sue did not have a substantial evidence so she could not say anything with enough certainty.

She looked at Sheryl and continued, "Anyhow, keep an eye on her. Don't trust her too much. It won't hurt you if you are a little careful."

"Fine." Sheryl looked at Sue and thought that there must be some misunderstanding between Sue and Holley. So she didn't have to take Sue's words seriously.

"But, then, what about your apartment? What are you going to do with it?" Sheryl looked at Sue and said, "Mimi, you can stay with us if you want. Or we can find another apartment. Right now, your apartment is taken by them. Are you really cool with that?"

"Of course not." Sue sneered and said to Sheryl in front of her, "But... Mr. Lu's idea is great. Sher, please talk to Mr. Lu. There is no time for us to lose. We can find other solutions if his idea doesn't work."

"Okay." Sheryl nodded her head.