

Wedded Bride 981

Chapter 981 A Charity Dinner (Part Two)

Susan was stopped by a stranger when she was on her way to catch up with Sheryl. It was undeniable that the evening dress which Cary had picked out for Susan was brilliantly exquisite.

He was drawn to it the very first time he saw the evening dress. He had thought, 'Susan would look absolutely gorgeous in this dress.'

And sure enough, Susan looked so glamorous in the exquisite evening dress that she caught everybody's attention as soon as she walked in. Her attractiveness gave birth to gossips about her mysterious identity. Everyone wanted to know which renowned family she belonged to.

The elite circle was so close knit that all of them knew each other. But even after asking around, nobody knew anything about Susan.

Susan stared at the man who was blocking her way. "Who are you? What do you want?" she asked, tensed.

It was Susan's first time attending such a grand banquet and she was already extremely nervous.

"What's your name?" The man who stood in Susan's path was a popular and notorious playboy in the business circle. He didn't really care about what other people said. The moment he saw Susan, he was

flipped. When he noticed her out of place behavior and her nervousness, he knew that Susan didn't belong to the elite circle.

Susan began to feel extremely awkward. She looked around in a frenzy, hoping to be saved from this situation. She had no idea who this man was or how she was supposed to deal with him.

"I... My name is Susan," she politely replied. 'I guess it's all right to give my name at least, ' she thought.

"Susan..." the man repeated, as if he were testing the sound of her name from his lips. He continued with a gentle smile, "It's a beautiful name. Would you like to be my date for the night?"

He was very much interested in her and didn't want to let go of the opportunity to get close to her.

However, Susan was shocked by his sudden request. She didn't even want to attend the charity dinner in the first place, let alone be anyone's date.

"I'm sorry, I..." she stammered, trying to politely refuse him. She stepped back hoping to move away from him.

But as she did so, she unfortunately stepped on her skirt. She lost her balance and was about to fall

down when strong hands held her waist tightly. She was wrapped in his arms.

Susan was still in shock, but she sighed deeply when she was stable on her feet once again.

Her head was pressed against his chest and she couldn't see his face, but she almost immediately

recognized the familiar scent.

"Are you okay?" Cary asked, concerned.

Susan nodded and tried to wiggle out of his arms.

A light of desire flashed in his eyes as he stared at Susan. He was completely enchanted by her. When

he saw that Susan was being approached by another man, he was jealous.

"It's very kind of you to attend the charity dinner, Mr. Xia," Cary said, turning to the man in front of them.

Cary shifted Susan to his side and held her shoulders protectively. "My girlfriend is a bit shy. Thank you

for your considerate care towards her."

"Dear me! Mr. Su, she's your girlfriend?" The man glanced at Susan who was in Cary's arms. He never

thought that Cary, who never had any love affairs, would openly admit that he had a girlfriend. He

wondered whether the Su family knew about this.

"Yes, she is," Cary said, with a polite smile. "I was hoping I could invite you to dinner later. What do you think?" Susan continued to struggle to get out of his arms, but he held her tightly.

Cary looked at the man keenly, waiting for his response. He knew that the man was a notorious playboy. When he took interest in a woman, he would do anything to attain her and no one could escape from his clutches. Cary wanted to make it clear to him that Susan wasn't his to take.

The man was disappointed to hear that Susan had a lover, but he did not show it. He kept the smile on his face and said, "It would be my honor. I'd like to invite you to dinner some day. I have some business to talk with you as well."

"Okay," Cary replied with a slight nod. "I will see you later then. I apologize, I am a little busy today."

"That's fine. Go ahead," the man said calmly.

Cary then left with Susan in his arms. Susan stayed silent during their conversation. She knew that Cary was trying to help her.

And she knew that staying with Cary was better than dealing with the man.

When they were out of his sight, she finally said, "Let me go." She shook off his arm around her and glared at him. "You go ahead with your business. I will go and find Sher."

"Really? I just saved you. Is this your attitude towards your savior?" Cary asked with a sullen expression.

"How dare you say that?" Susan complained, "Why am I at this charity dinner in the first place? If you hadn't forced me to be here, I wouldn't have had to go through that."

Looking at Susan's angry eyes, Cary wore a warm smile on his lips. Susan was still complaining about what he had done when Cary interrupted, "You... You look gorgeous today."

Susan was stunned by his words. She stared at Cary, at a loss of words.

After a moment's silence, Susan's face turned a bright red. She said in an embarrassed tone, "What...

What are you talking about?"

"I said, you look absolutely beautiful," Cary said in a sincere tone as he locked eyes with her.

Susan couldn't take anymore of his intense gaze and she quickly fled away from him, hiding her tomato red face.

Cary smiled warmly as he gazed at her retreating back.

Sheryl was standing beside Charles and they were discussing a negotiation with a client. She was so

into the conversation that she didn't notice Susan's presence behind her.

Susan waited for her silently without interrupting their dialogue.

When Sheryl was finally done, she saw Susan and walked straight to her. "You could have come and talked to me," Sheryl said.

Susan smiled shyly. "I didn't want to disturb you."

Sheryl eyed her from head to toe and said with a gentle smile, "Cary has a very good eye. This dress suits you so well that even I can't dart my eyes off you."

"Sher, please don't flatter me. This is really overwhelming," Susan said uneasily. "I don't feel comfortable in this. All I want is to take it off as quickly as possible."

"Why do you want to take it off? It's so beautiful," said Sheryl with a sweet smile. "Besides, you'll have to get used to such occasions for the future. This is just a rehearsal."

"What do you mean?" Susan asked in a stunned tone.

"It's nothing," Sheryl replied with a grin and then she quickly skipped to another topic. "Have you seen Holley around here?"

"Holley Ye?" Susan frowned and asked, "She is attending this banquet as well?"

Chapter 982 A Charity Dinner (Part Three)

When Susan and Sheryl were talking, the host walked to the stage and announced the opening of the charity dinner. "Dear distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, welcome! It's a great honor to have you all here tonight. Now please allow me to announce the start of this charity dinner initiated by Skyline Property."

His opening remarks were met with thunderous applause. The host continued, "Let's invite the President of Skyline Property, Mr. Cary Su to say a few words on this special occasion. Welcome, Mr. Su!"

Cary swiftly walked onstage amidst a huge applause and some inspirational music. When Susan saw the radiant and graceful Cary on the stage, her expression changed a little.

"Dear distinguished guests," Cary started, "thank you so much for attending this charity auction tonight.

It's such a great honor for me to see you all here! Tonight, we'll introduce you to some great artistic

works, including calligraphy Chrysanthemum by the famous calligrapher, Mr. Manuel Xie, the painting

Returning Home by national-level artist Mr. Quinton Shen, the final work of Miss Paulina Chen and

many others by talented artists. Let's give a round of applause to the good-will providers of the auction

items and all the guests present tonight! Thank you!"

Cary paused and waited for the applause to die down. Then he continued, "We will be presenting ten art collections and five other items. All the proceeds from the auction will be donated to Hope Primary Schools."

When he finished, the audience cheered him once again. Each item in the auction was invaluable, and Cary was able to bring in so many of them here tonight. The auction was meant to help people and every penny earned would go straight to the charity fund. This was not just a show to promote his real estate business.

Susan, who stood by Sheryl, was pretty surprised by Cary's behavior. She mumbled, "I didn't think Cary was such a philanthropist."

Sheryl was amused by her words. She said in a calm tone, "There is so much that you don't know about."

Susan didn't answer her, but stared at Cary quietly. She felt something changing within her. Cary had become much more charming in her heart.

"Since you have all contributed handsomely in this auction, I want to make a small contribution as well.

I am donating a villa of the Skyline Property for the auction. And no matter the price, all of it will go to the charity fund."

The audience cheered and applauded loudly. The host walked onto the stage and stated, "Now, let's begin the auction. The first item is a couplet created by Mr. Vance Kong, a member of the Calligraphy Association. Upset price is ten thousand dollars. Do we have a higher bid?"

Many guests raised their cards to bid for it. Sheryl took Susan's hand and walked her to a nearby chair.

"Sit down. Your feet are not entirely recovered. Get some rest."

However, Susan was distracted and ignored her words. She kept her eyes on Cary, who was entertaining the guests not far away from her. His movements were graceful. When she was about to look away, Cary turned towards her direction as if he had sensed her hot sight on him. A soft smile appeared on his lips as their eyes met. He said something to the guests around him and walked towards her.

Susan felt her heart skip a beat at that moment. And then it started pounding in her chest crazily.

"What's wrong, Susan?" Sheryl asked, noticing Susan's unusual behavior.

"I'm fine," Susan replied immediately as she came to her senses. She threw a quick glance at Sheryl and then swiftly looked at the floor as she tried to hide her emotion. She fidgeted a little and said without looking into her eyes, "I guess it's too stuffy in here for me."

Sheryl wasn't convinced by her words, but she played along. She grabbed a glass of orange juice from the table and said, "Drink this. You'll feel a bit refreshed." Susan took the glass from her and was about to take a sip when Cary appeared in front of her. She froze when her eyes met his gaze once again.

Cary stood next to her and asked, "Miss Su, would you please accompany me to meet someone?"

"Meet someone?" Susan was stunned. She turned to look at Sheryl in a reflex as if asking for her advice.

Sheryl smiled to her. "You don't need my opinions on this. It's not a big deal. Just make your own decision."

Susan was nervous and flustered around Cary. She mustered up the courage and asked, "Who are we meeting?"

"You'll see." Without anymore explanation, Cary grabbed Susan's arm and pulled her up. He put her arm in his and turned to leave. The picture of the both of them together made Sheryl laugh.

"Sher..." Susan called her in a panicked voice. "Don't worry. He won't do anything to hurt you," Sheryl reassured her.

"She is right," Cary echoed, disappointed about her lack of confidence in him. "I only want to take you to meet someone. Why do you think of me as a human trafficker?" he complained.

Sheryl burst into laughter. Cary turned around and grinned at her. "Thank you Sheryl, for all your help!"

Sheryl had helped him to organize this charity party and she also brought Susan here. He owed her a huge favor.

Sheryl nodded at him in reply. She watched them for a while as they walked away and blended into the crowd. Then she went in the opposite direction looking for Charles.

Susan and Cary walked arm in arm as they moved past the crowded bouquet hall. It might have looked like Susan had her arm wrapped around Cary's willingly; however, her arm was tightly held under

Cary's, making it impossible for her to free herself.

She frowned and said in a whisper, "Let go of me!"

"No!" Cary refused her resolutely. They continued walking through the crowd together until they

reached Donna.

"Aunt Donna, do you remember me?" Cary asked as Donna took a sip of her wine.

"Oh, Cary!" Donna exclaimed with a smile. "How could I ever forget you? You were George's roommate and his best friend."

"Thank you for attending the auction dinner tonight." Cary's lips broke into a full smile.

Donna looked appreciatively at Cary and said, "I knew that you would one day become a successful man the first day I met you. And how right I was! You are more successful than I had expected."

"That's very kind of you, Aunt Donna. I'm flattered. But George is much more successful than I am. His business is growing even as we speak. And now, he has a branch in Y City as well," Cary said, with a genuine smile.

"Oh please! I don't even want to be reminded of him!" Donna felt her head ache when she thought about George. She couldn't help but throw a glance at Holley who was not too far away from them. She fretted and her disapproval was evident on her face. When she turned her glance away from Holley, she noticed Susan. "And this is...?"

Cary smiled and took Susan's hand in his. He said, "Aunt Donna, meet my fiance, Susan."

"Your fiance?" Donna was taken aback. She hadn't received any news about Cary's engagement.

"Well, congratulations, Groom-to-be! This is such great news and she is gorgeous. She is the daughter of...?"

Embarrassment flashed across Susan's face when she heard Donna's question. She opened her mouth to tell Donna that she was born in an ordinary family, but Cary beat her to it. With her hand tightly held in his, he said, "Susan was born in an ordinary family. Her father is a teacher."

"Oh...I see." Donna was lost for words. She was surprised, unsure how to react. Never had she expected that Cary would choose to marry a girl who didn't match his family background and status. She smiled awkwardly and tried her best to pay a decent compliment. "Well, that's good! A scholarly family!"

Chapter 983 The Auction

Cary couldn't resist letting out a laughter. Anyway, it was undeniable.

Though Donna's words were polite enough, Susan could tell from the surprise in her eyes that Donna believed she was not a fine match for Cary.

This was the first time that Susan had been aware of the facts about Cary that she hadn't noticed

before. She used to recognize him as an idle man. Now, he struck her as some sort of rich and successful man. Abruptly, she felt lowly about herself, for she had totally misunderstood him. She never noticed the gap between them.

'He is such a wealthy man, born in a rich family. Why would he waste his precious time on a nobody like me?' Susan couldn't help feeling a little more inferior with this thought.

Donna seemed to perceive the subtle change on Susan's face. She was afraid that her words would hurt her unintentionally, so she added, "Susan must be a very thoughtful and caring girl with many virtues to get your attention. I just hope my son could marry a girl like her one day. I would be more than happy if that would come true."

She smiled at Susan and then looked back at Cary. "Anyway, you do have a good eye for girls."

"Aunt Donna, please don't talk like that." Cary felt pleased with most of Donna's comments, and joked,

"If you continue to speak highly of her, this girl will gather too much cockiness."

In mild irritation, Susan patted Cary on his back to let him shut up. "Stop talking that kind of nonsense," she said in a bashful tone.

The scene of this couple teasing each other was such a satisfying sight for Donna. She was almost lost

in thought when she remembered her son. Her expression suddenly turned gloomy as she ended up comparing them.

"Oh, Aunt Donna." Beyond the casual chat, Cary finally found an opportunity to state his purpose. He explained in between smiles, "I actually came here today to ask you a favor. It's more of a personal request. Hope you can help me with that."

"What kind of personal request is it?" Donna was a little surprised he needed her help. She was a bit curious to hear about it, but cautious at the same time. She thought to herself that as a senior, she should behave generously in front of a junior. "What is it exactly?" she repeated. "You and George were schoolmates, so I've always regarded you as my own son. Just tell me and I will try my best to give you a hand."

Cary felt more than happy to hear that. He immediately seized his chance. "Given that you agreed to help me, let me be straightforward. Aunt Donna, I came here today for Susan's sake. Believe it or not, by a strange twist of fate, the paths George and I have taken often crossed. We used to be schoolmates, and now Susan is working as a staff in George's company."

"Oh, Really?!" Donna got really surprised so she commented, "What a coincidence!"

After that, she remained silent. She attentively looked at Cary and waited for him to continue.

"Okay, here is the thing. Susan and I are coming to a point where we are planning to get married. I

have put a lot of thoughts into her present job in terms of our future. She has been a model in George's

company for so many years. But I suggest she shouldn't do that job anymore and she agrees. So I am

trying to help her quit her job. However, the problem is that she has signed an agreement to work for

several years. I have talked to George about her resignation and asked him to help us cancel the

contract."

Cary paused for a while to steady the pace of his speech, in order to make himself clearer. "Surely, I've

promised him that we would pay the full amount of penalty to terminate the contract. You should know

that I have no intention to make this difficult, and that nor we want to take this to court. Considering that

George and I have always gotten along pretty well, I was sure that he wouldn't disagree with me."

Hearing this, Donna seemed to know where the story was leading to, but she was still unsure.

"Do you mean that he refused your request in the end? But why?" she finally asked.

"What he said was," Cary answered with a helpless smile, "he couldn't help me since Holley is in charge of it. He claimed that there was nothing he could do to help me about the contract without her permission. I could barely find another way if he couldn't help me. In the last resort, I decided to turn to you for help, and hoped that you could help me to persuade Holley."

Cary was unsure whether Donna would be willing to help him with that. He added, "I come up with this idea since you would be Holley's future mother-in-law. She may listen to you if you ask her to do us this favor. Would you talk to her for me and Susan?"

"Holley again! Such a troublesome woman!" Donna got really annoyed to hear her name in this scenario. "Be at ease. I will take care of this for you." She promised Cary with a determined voice.

"Really?" Cary felt so happy with his face full of expectations. "I know you will definitely agree if I turn to you for help," he added.

Donna felt it was impossible to endure Holley's conduct any longer. Still, she smiled and then congratulated the couple, "Don't forget to invite me to your wedding."

The more she thought of Holley, the angrier she got. She thought, 'Who owns this company? Why does Holley have even greater authority than George?'

She couldn't complain to George about his involvement with Holley, but she had the absolute right to criticize him when it came to the company at least.

"Of course. I wouldn't forget." Cary gave her a thankful bow and then immediately turned back to Susan. He patted her head and reminded her, "Silly girl. Why you are so calm? Now you should show your gratitude to Aunt Donna."

Susan was dragged back from her thought and immediately smiled toward Donna. "Thank you, Aunt Donna."

Donna nodded her head with admiration as she looked at Susan. Despite the fact that this couple was not well-matched in social or economic status for marriage, Susan was better than Holley. She got a terrible impression on Holley. Growing more concerned about her own opinion, Donna couldn't wait to meet with her future daughter-in-law so they could have a chat.

With Donna's promise, Cary let out a big sigh with relief. He then grabbed Susan's hand and went straight to Sheryl. As he had to leave for a while to prepare for the dinner, he hoped Sheryl would keep Susan company.

There was a house of guests in the gathering that Cary had to entertain. He also needed to personally deal with a lot of things that required attention. Susan watched him from a distance, with her head full of uncertainties. While Cary was busy saying hello to some people here and there, she felt like she just saw him in a completely different light, which struck her as quite odd.

"What were you thinking about?" Sheryl asked as she approached her. She could tell that something was not right with Susan. Seeing the pink flush over her face, Sheryl understood what was inside her mind. However, instead of putting her on the spot, she pretended that she didn't notice and just kept it to herself.

She had a clear idea about Cary's glamour as a man.

As long as Susan paid a little more attention to this man, she would notice it and be easily attracted to him.

"Nothing," Susan replied nervously, dragging both her thoughts and eyes back from Cary. She felt awkward that she couldn't even look Sheryl in the eye. Instead, she stared at the floor and stammered, "I thought Cary looks kind of different today."

"I think he is always the same." Sheryl couldn't help smiling and then explained, "You used to ignore

him because you didn't know him at the time. But now that you see the other side of him, you have changed your mindset and then start to pay more attention to him, and find out he is different."

What Sheryl had just said made Susan lower her head as she got wrapped up in her thoughts.

The charity dinner went very well. Before it came to an end, Cary suddenly stepped onto the stage with an etiquette model right on his heels, and greeted everyone with a mysterious smile. Then he pointed toward the box held by the model's hands and declared solemnly, "Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce to you our final Easter egg. Here is a box containing a jewelry named Tear of the Mermaid. I happened to acquire it by accident. You will soon get the chance to take a look at its beauty. It is the nature of a diamond, but underneath its surface, it holds a holy blessing with lingering sentiments, hides eternal promises and reflects gorgeous rays with incomparable glory. The light of this diamond can penetrate any barrier, directly to the deepest of the soul.

About this great diamond, I believe everyone might hear of its romantic myth. It is said that the couple who possess it would be together forever. Despite that, we all know that the myth might not always be true, but this diamond's value is undoubtedly reliable and real." After Cary said that, the model took out

the diamond from the box and walked around the stage to show it to everyone. Seeing the shining diamond clutched by the model between her forefinger and her thumb, all the women gathered around the stage. They got excited and their eyes all gleamed with envy.

Chapter 984 Bidding

Even Sheryl, who was not much keen on jewelry, gazed at it in astonishment.

"Do you like it?" asked Charles, noticing that Sheryl couldn't take her eyes off the jewelry.

Sheryl smiled lightly. "Not really. It's just that it looks kind of gorgeous."

Cary smiled and went on, "This jewelry is from my private collection. Today, I have decided to auction it for the good cause. I believe you are aware of its value. The bid starts at ten million and we will raise it with the least amount of two million at a time. Let's begin!"

As soon as Cary announced the beginning of the bidding, Charles raised his card. "Fifteen million."

Charles hadn't bid for anything the whole night. Although he was very much willing to donate to the charity, he wasn't really intrigued by any of the previous items, but this one was different. Sheryl had obviously taken a liking to it and he wanted to give it to her. He even fancied how pretty she would look if she put it on.

"Charles! What are you doing? This is crazy!" Sheryl exclaimed in a low voice. She was utterly shocked

by Charles' bid and tried to pull his hand down. She inquired, "That's a lot of money. Why are you bidding for the jewelry?"

Sheryl wasn't against donating the money to charity, but spending it on such a useless and extravagant object was a lame idea.

Charles could read her mind clearly. He patted Sheryl's hand to put her mind at ease. "Don't worry about the money. I can afford it. And since you like it, I will make sure that I win the bid."

"No! I don't really like it. I was just... I..." Sheryl stammered. She didn't want Charles to spend so much money in buying her some luxurious jewelry.

Seeing Charles' gushing demeanor towards Sheryl, Holley was filled with envy. She was jealous that Charles would waste so much cash only to make Sheryl happy. Despite the fact that she felt sulky, she turned her head to confront George who was sitting beside her and pulled his sleeve lightly. "George, I like it."

George looked at Holley, and realized at once what her actual goal was. He figured that Holley didn't need the jewelry, yet she simply wanted to contend with Sheryl. In any case, she had requested

something and George couldn't just deny her.

And since he loved her, he wanted to do his best to fulfill her needs. Without any hesitation, he raised the card and stated, "Twenty million."

Charles showed no surprise and raised the price to thirty million. George followed with a forty million bid and Charles raised the price of the jewelry again to fifty million. And this time, George hesitated.

"Why did you stop bidding?" asked Holley, annoyed at the delay in his response. George knew clearly that Charles had an advantage over him, yet Holley didn't want to give up.

She simply wanted to take away everything that Sheryl set her eyes on.

She nudged George with her elbow and demanded, "What are you waiting for? Raise the card. Don't you love me? I want that jewelry. Aren't you going to buy it for me?"

"Holley, I think we should stop here. If you really like ornaments, I will buy better ones for you. Don't you think that's a much better option?" asked George with a slight frown. He was certain that the diamond was worth around thirty million and no more, yet the bidding had now unquestionably surpassed its own value. George knew that it was not beneficial to proceed with the bidding.

"No!" Holley retorted firmly. "I like this one and I want it. Nothing else can replace it. You must get this

one for me today."

George heaved a long sigh and raised the bidding card again, putting the price of the jewelry at fifty-two million.

On the other hand, Charles was bound to get the jewelry. When he was about to raise the card once again, Sheryl squeezed his hand and shook her head. "Enough, Charles! Don't bid higher than this. It's really not worth it and I don't even like the diamond that much."

She gazed lovingly at Charles and smiled. "I know that you truly desire to gift the jewelry to me, but Charles, if Holley really likes it, then just let her have it."

Sheryl really wanted this to end.

Charles frowned. "Sher, are you sure? Do you really not like it?"

"I don't." She grasped Charles' hand and realized that he loved her with all his heart, which was more important than anything else.

Charles sighed and gave up the bid to George.

"Fifty-two million! Mr. Han's bid is fifty-two million. Do we have another bid?"

Fifty-two million going once! Fifty-two million going twice! Fifty-two million—"

"Sixty million!" A voice suddenly came from the back of the hall just as George was about to win the bid.

Holley looked towards Charles, but discovered that he wasn't the one who had raised the card. She glanced around, and found that the person who had increased the bid was Donna.

There was a trace of resentment in Holley's eyes. It looked like Donna was all set to bid against her and had no intention of letting her have the jewelry.

She sneered and was about to ask George to continue the bidding, but she saw the look in his eyes.

He said, "I'm stopping the bidding right here.

If my mother likes the jewelry, then I will let her have it."

Holley was furious and she shouted at George, paying no mind to the people around them, "Don't you love me? I want that it. Get it for me if you really love me."

"No matter how much I love you, I won't let that or anything else damage my relationship with my mother. Holley, you should stop being so stubborn," replied George lightly.

In the end, the bidding was closed at sixty million. After Donna paid for it, she smirked and gave it to

Sula. Holley gritted her teeth in frustration as she watched this. She cursed them under her breath.

The rest of the auction went by smoothly. Cary sent Susan home. Charles and Sheryl returned home as well. Everyone was absolutely satisfied with the day's event, except for one person—Holley.

She never said a word to George on their way home. George could sense the tension between them and her anger. As they entered the house, he grabbed her wrist and questioned her, "What's the matter with you? Are you still mad at me for not winning the bid? It's only a piece of jewelry. I can buy a dozen of those things if you like. Could you stop being so childish?"

"I am being childish?" Holley scorned, and shook off George's hand. She turned around and bellowed,

"Your mother was trying to humiliate me! She bid for the jewelry on purpose. She did that to insult me.

Didn't you see that the moment she got the jewelry, she gave it to Sula? Why do you think she did that?

Are you blind?"

Holley couldn't control her rage anymore. "It's just some jewelry today. What about tomorrow? If she keeps doing this to me, what will you do then? If she asks you to be with Sula, will you comply with her request?"

"What nonsense are you talking? You are not making any sense." George knitted his eyebrows in frustration and said, "I really don't understand why you always have to think so badly of others. My mother surely didn't mean to hurt you. Besides, it's just a diamond! What in the world makes you think that she tried to humiliate you with it? That's totally absurd. Why do you bear this grudge against my mother? Why?"

"It's not about the diamond! For me, it's..." Holley paused and sneered. After a while, she sighed and said, "Forget it, you wouldn't understand my feelings. I am tired. I just want to get some rest."

Holley didn't want to waste her time explaining her emotions to George. She knew perfectly well that Donna had done it deliberately and she would get her back, no matter what it took. She made up her mind that she would not let anyone look down on her again and that she was not that easy to be struck down either.

That night, George was distressed because of his argument with Holley. He didn't go back home, but stayed at a hotel for the night. When he woke up the next day, he received a phone call from his mother, asking him to come back home for dinner after he was done with work.

Originally, he had calmed down after being alone for the night and had planned to have a proper talk

with Holley, but after considering it once again, he felt that he could not indulge Holley at the moment

and decided not to tell her anything.

Chapter 985 Donna's Trap

After finishing his work, George headed straight to his mother's house. The moment he stepped inside,

he saw a variety of delicious dishes in the dining room and Sula was setting the table alongside Donna.

'They really do look like mother and daughter. No wonder Holley gets jealous, ' he thought.

When Sula heard the door open, she turned around and saw George. Her face lit up in joy and she

gushed, "George, you're here! Dinner is ready. Why don't you go wash up?"

"Hmm," George replied flatly.

During the dinner, they didn't talk anything about the charity auction. After the delicious meal, George

settled himself down on the living room couch and watched TV while Donna went to the kitchen.

Knowing that the two might need some privacy, Sula retired to her bedroom upstairs.

Donna brought a plate full of fruits, placed it on the center table and sat down next to her son. Seeing

the shadow of sadness on his face, she asked, "What's wrong? Did Holley snap at you last night?"

"No, she didn't," George lied. He wasn't the kind of person who would talk behind his girlfriend's back.

With a slight smile, he said, "Holley is a sensible girl."

"Oh Come on, son! Stop defending her," Donna reprimanded him. With a cold sneer, she said, "I know her better than you do."

"Mom..." George knitted his brows in worry. He couldn't contain his doubts anymore and blurted out his complaints to her. "You can't blame her. Why did you bid for that diamond?" he grumbled.

He turned to look at Donna as he admonished her, "It would have been fair if you had bought it for yourself. But why did you have to give it to Sula in front of her? What were you thinking?"

"I had to do that because of you! Don't you know that you have broken her heart?" Donna shot back angrily. "I brought her here hoping that you two could be together. We have been here for so long, yet you totally ignored her. And all women love jewelry. So, I gifted her one. Did I do something wrong?

Don't you think that we owe her at least that much?"

"I..." George faltered. 'She does have a point, ' he thought.

A bitter smile appeared on his face as he said, "But Mom, you shouldn't have given her such an expensive gift."

"Sula is from a rich family and you know it. Do you think it's proper to give her some cheap third rate

stuff?" Donna scowled at her son. "Besides, she might feel displeased if I didn't treat her according to her status."

Seeing the dismal look on George's face, she continued, "You should talk to Holley and ask her to stop sulking. She already has you. There is no need to get angry over some jewelry."

"Mom, you got Holley all wrong."

"Enough of that. I'm done with this subject," she said with finality, sparing George a glance. "Anyway, I have settled down here. I will be going to the company from tomorrow."

"What?" His eyes widened in surprise as he asked, "You are resuming work?"

"Oh yes. Is there a problem?" Donna asked acidly. "I will be staying here for quite some time. I have already put some work on hold. I can't continue to stay at home. I've got things to deal with and I will be starting tomorrow. I will need an office."

"No problem." George nodded reluctantly.

Donna poured him a glass of milk and said, "It's late. How about you sleep here tonight? I have set up a room for you upstairs."

George hesitated for a moment, but then nodded in agreement.

He decided that it was time to teach Holley a lesson. This time, he wasn't going to compromise.

He took the glass of milk from Donna and emptied it. He put down the glass on the table with a thud.

He had intended to stay in the living room for a little while longer, but he felt his head spin wildly. With a scowl, he shook his head to clear his vision, but failed. With a sly smile flickering across her lips, Donna said, "If you're sleepy, you should go upstairs and rest. Your room is the first one on the left."

"All right," George said, drowsily. He rubbed his temples as he stumbled up the stairs. As he pushed open the bedroom door, he saw Sula sitting on the bed.

"Oh sorry! I thought this was my room," George apologized awkwardly as he realized that he had entered her room without even knocking. When she saw him turn and totter towards the door, Sula jumped off the bed and sprinted towards him. She threw her arms around his waist and pressed her head against his back. "Please stay, George," she cooed.

A strong desire rose in his heart. He held her hands and was on the verge of losing control of himself.

Shaking, Sula tightened her grip. When Donna had told her about the plan earlier, she was shocked and nervous.

'There is no turning back at this point. I can't give up now, ' she thought.

She loosened her grip around him slowly and came out from behind him. She stood facing him for a moment and then quickly leaned in to kiss him on his lips. The moment her lips touched his, she was overcome with excitement and ecstasy.

She finally had the man she loved in her arms.

Actually, she was in the arms of the man she loved.

George pulled her into a tight hug. His eyes were dull and blank, and he had no idea what he was doing.

He felt a fire burning inside his body and he kissed Sula fervently on her lips. It was as if he was desperate to vent his sexual desire. He lifted Sula up and placed her on the soft bed.

Soon, he was entwined in thrones of passion with her underneath his body. After a crazy round of love-making, he fixed his unfocused eyes on Sula and murmured, "I really love you, Holley."

A wry smile emerged on Sula's face. 'This is the only way I can be with George. But it doesn't matter. I love him, ' she thought.

She caressed his handsome cheek and said affectionately, "I love you, George."

George sank into the bed and fell asleep beside her. Sula had such sweet dreams that night.

The next morning, Sula woke up before George. She stared obsessively at the man lying next to her.

She could never get sick of his charming face.

When the morning light hit his face, George slowly blinked his eyes. Sula quickly closed her eyes and pretended to be asleep.

She didn't know why she did this. Perhaps she didn't know how to face George after the crazy night.

When George's eyes finally adjusted to the morning light, he was taken aback at the sight of Sula lying beside him. With a tensed frown, he tried to focus and recall what had happened last night. But he couldn't remember anything and he had no idea why he had ended up sleeping with her.

'Oh my God! What's going on?' his mind screamed.

With a rattled expression, he yanked his quilt away with shivering hands. His pupils dilated in guilt and astonishment when he found that he was naked under the sheets.

He jumped out of bed without making a sound and fixed himself up in a hurry. He tiptoed to the door and turned to steal a glance at the sleeping Sula.

He couldn't believe that he had made love to the woman he had considered as his own sister. Out of instinct, he chose to escape from the scene as fast as possible.

But as soon as he stepped out of her room, he ran into Donna. With confusion and surprise written all over her face, she asked, "What's going on in here, George? What were you doing in Sula's room?"

Chapter 986 Let Him Go

The moment George left, Sula opened her eyes and faked a smile. She heard George whispering to Donna, "Mom, not now..."

George's voice sounded quite nervous, as if he were afraid Sula would find out.

Donna was not going to let him go that easily. She grabbed George's hand roughly, and yelled anxiously, "George, what the hell is going on? Aren't you with Holley? And what were you doing with Sula?"

Donna frowned and continued, "I tried to fix my mistake and send Sula home. And when I get here, I find this. What the hell do you think you're doing?"

"Mom, would you just stop for a minute?" George pulled Donna's coat nervously and said, "Let's go."

Let's go downstairs and talk about it."

Reluctantly, Donna followed George downstairs. She plopped herself down on the sofa angrily and addressed George, "I tried to fix you up with Sula, but you told me you loved Holley. So I followed you and tried to send her back home. And what do I find? You were in Sula's room. Something going on between you two?"

Donna let out a cold smile and added, "I've seen a lot. I've let a lot of stuff just go. But this? You trying to break up with Holley?"

"No!" George said resolutely as he found a break in Donna's tirade.

Donna looked at George, studying him. 'Obviously he's very much in love. What did Holley do to make him fall for her?' she thought.

Donna sneered and turned to George, "So what were you doing with Sula? Trying to get some on the side with her? Or... you want her to be your new mistress? Let me tell you. Won't happen. As your mom, I won't allow it. I'm sure Sula's family won't either."

"Mom..." George's brows lowered. His frown was deep. He took a hard look at Donna and said, "Don't push me. I don't know what the hell is going on... "

He really could not remember anything about yesterday, and he had no clue. Why was he in Sula's room? He certainly didn't remember going there.

"Well, we're already here. Can't go back and change it now. Question is, how are you going to fix it?"

Donna asked.

"I have no idea." George's mind was utterly confused and disconcerted. He raised his head and looked at Donna, "Mom, I'm not going to break up with Holley. It was love at first sight. As for Sula, I have no clue what happened yesterday. But... she's like my sister. How could I date my sister?"

George smiled ironically and added, "I know I should feel bad for Sula, but that's the way it is. I can give whatever she wants, except my heart. "

"You've changed since you got with Holley." Donna sneered and said to him, "Do you think Sula's like her? Do you think you can make this go away by throwing money at it? Sula is from a wealthy and powerful family. You two are a perfect match. You need to think about what you're doing.

Think! If Sula's parents find out what happened, will they let you off easily?" Donna smiled coldly.

He frowned tightly and was really sorry for doing this. But he had no idea what to do and what was the

right choice.

With a wry smile, he said, "Mom, I get it, I really do. But I love Holley. I have no idea what happened last night..."

Afraid of being driven mad by staying any longer, he stood up and made to leave in a hurry. "Mom, I'm taking off now. Please let Sula know when she wakes up. I... I'll do my best to make it up to her."

"Stop!" Donna commanded George to stop, sharply. He did, and turned her. She said to him with a stern look, "Is it fair to Sula that you're just going to walk away?"

Donna looked at George indifferently and said, "Call Holley, and get her over here. We can all sit down and try to talk this out.

Anyway, you should be guilty for Sula. You can't just run away like this."

George said to Donna, frowning, "Mom, I feel sorry for Holley. She is my girlfriend. I did this... No matter what you say, I'm sorry. I can't be with Sula."

George continued, looking at Donna slightly, "If Sula's parents have a problem with me, I'll do whatever they want. But I'm not dating Sula. I will agree to anything except that."

"You..." His words pissed Donna off. She looked him straight in the eye and said. "I just don't get it.

What's wrong with Sula? Why won't you even give her a chance?"

George forced a smile and said, "She's alright. But I'm in love with Holley."

George was about to leave, but Donna kept him there. She insisted that they need to talk it out.

A voice came from the stairs, full of exhaustion and helplessness. Sula forced a smile and said,

"Auntie, just let him go."

"Sula, you're awake!"

Donna walked over to Sula and gave her a big hug. "You must be hungry. What do you want to eat?"

Chapter 987 The Proposal

"I'm good," Sula replied to Donna shortly. She stared at George silently until he felt ashamed and

lowered his head. Finally Sula said, "Leave! I don't want to see you anymore!"

"Sula, I..." George wanted to comfort her even though he knew that it was impossible for him to cure

her broken heart. When he saw Sula standing in front of him, he panicked. After all, it was all his fault.

"I'm so sorry. I have no idea what happened last night. I was not in my senses."

"Save your apologies." Sula burst into a bitter laugh. "When you hugged me, I didn't push you away

because I love you! I thought you were..." She choked on her words and couldn't go on.

"Sula... Are you saying that George came to you last night?" Donna asked as she creased her eyebrows, pretending to analyze Sula's words.

"Of course, he did!" Sula cried. "He came into my room."

In fact, George was suspicious about this whole affair. Originally, he had assumed that it might have been a trap which Sula had set for him. But now, it looked like Sula was innocent.

He was the beast who refused to take responsibility for his actions.

"What the hell is this?!" Donna grabbed George by his shirt collar. "What have you done? Why did you do this to her? If you don't like Sula, then why did you touch her? What do you take her for? You have dishonored her!"

"Mom, I really don't remember what happened last night. I only remember going upstairs to sleep. My memory is totally blank after that." George tried to explain his innocence, feeling hopeless.

As Donna comforted Sula on one side, she continued to scold George, "You can't just excuse yourself like that! You have to take responsibility for what you have done to Sula. I won't allow you to insult her this way. Call Holley right now! You must break up with her today."

"Mom... Please don't make me do that," George pleaded. He looked at Donna and begged, "I can't lose

her!"

"I really don't understand why you are so obsessed with her! What enchantment has she done on you?" Donna asked angrily. She felt powerless in front of her stubborn son.

"I don't know that either." George's expression softened as he mentioned Holley's name. His memory went back to the first time he had met her and a sweet smile appeared on his face. "When I saw her for the first time, I swore to myself that I would treasure her and protect her for the rest of my life. And no matter what happened, I would take care of her. That is the promise I had made. I will never betray it."

"Enough!" Sula shouted. George's frank confession about his love for Holley utterly broke her. She pleaded to Donna, "Aunt Donna, please let him go! I don't want to listen to more of this. Please, just let him go!"

"Relax, dear. I will," Donna comforted Sula for a while. Then she turned around and yelled at George,

"Why are you still here? Leave now!"

George looked at Sula's sorrowful expression and said in a guilty tone, "Sula, I know that I am at fault here. I know that I could never make it up to you in this life for what I have done to you. But I promise

you that no matter what you want, I'll try my best to support you in whatever way I can. I'm really sorry."

George turned around and left as soon as he finished saying that. Sula gazed at his receding figure and finally burst into a rage of tears.

"My dear, don't cry," Donna took Sula in her arms and comforted her. "Sometimes, you have to sacrifice something in your life before you can gain what you want. Do you understand?"

"Aunt Donna..." Sula sobbed and raised her head to look at her. She cried desperately, "I don't understand the point of my sacrifice. I have given myself to him thoroughly. But what does he give in return? His love declaration to Holley! I...I don't have a reason to carry on. I'm tired. I..."

"I understand, dear girl," Donna comforted Sula. "Believe me, you won't have to wait too long. I promise you, George will come around and change his mind. He will return to you before long."

"Really?" Sula asked in disbelief. She had always been hopeful that George would love her someday.

However, after what had happened today, there was only desperation left inside her.

She even started to doubt whether Donna's plan was the right choice or not.

Donna patted on her back and reassured her, "Believe me. That day will soon come."

Sula gave her a bitter smile. She didn't answer Donna because she was unsure whether she should hold on to that hope.

After George had left his mother's house, he headed straight to a jewelry store. He picked the best diamond ring he found in the store. He was more anxious than ever to get married to Holley.

He had a feeling that if he did not go through with this as soon as possible, it would be over between him and Holley.

He couldn't live without Holley, so he just had to propose to her as soon as possible.

Even though the diamond ring was not as valuable as the necklace from last night's auction, it was the most precious piece of jewelry in the store and it was also the best one he could find at the moment.

When the ring was ready, he went to a flower shop. He asked them to decorate a room for him with flowers and then he called Holley to invite her for dinner.

Holley showed up at seven at the restaurant he had reserved. George walked out to welcome her. He gave her the beautiful bouquet of roses. "Holley, you look gorgeous tonight."

"What's up with you?" Holley asked coldly, untouched by his loving gesture. She was still mad at him about the incident at the auction. She glared at him and said, "Do you have anything to talk to me

about? If not, I'm leaving. I don't want to waste any time with you."

"Let's go inside first." George didn't care about her cold attitude. He opened the door for her and let her in.

The moment Holley entered the room, she knew that it was especially prepared for her. Beautiful flowers were arranged all over the room. Warm candles were scattered around in different places, giving a faint angelic glow. It was like a fairyland. She turned around towards George in surprise. Even though they had been together for a very long time, this was actually the first time he had done something romantic.

"You..." Before Holley could say anything, George went down on his knee. He gazed at her with his loving eyes and took out the ring box.

Tears of joy filled Holley's eyes. She had been waiting for this moment from the very first day they had met. She had thought that this day was too far away and unforeseeable. However, it had come sooner than she had imagined.

Chapter 988 Make A Proposal

Holley was utterly surprised by what George was doing. She couldn't believe it and responded, "What..."

what are you doing? Get up now!"

"Holley, I've been rehearsing this all day. Please let me finish!" George kept still, kneeling on one knee.

He continued, "The first time I saw you, I knew you are the right one for me. The years we've spent together are the happiest days in my life. When you are happy, I'm happy for you. When you are upset, I feel upset as well. When you don't want to be alone, I'm always by your side. No matter what, I'm and will be always there for you, because I love you! You are my dearest one! You're everything to me! You bring happiness to my life!"

As George confessed his love affectionately, he opened the tiny box, inside which rested a sparkling ring. Finally, he proposed, "Holley, I will love you forever! Will you marry me?"

"You...I..." Holley was so touched that she could not answer him. To be honest, it was a total surprise that George would propose to her right now, because his mother didn't like her. No matter how much George loved her, she thought, he couldn't go against Donna's will.

She had even imagined them as a pair of star-crossed lovers. As long as Donna was alive, she could never be with George.

However, it proved her assumptions wrong. Now the man she loved was kneeling before her, ring in

hand, and proposing marriage.

At this moment, Holley had the impulse to give up everything for him, as long as George could be with her. The rest didn't matter anymore.

She stared at George, vision blurred by tears of joy and asked carefully, "Are... are you sure?"

"Of course!" George assured her resolutely. "I swear I will be with you for the rest of my life no matter what. Unless..." George paused.

"Unless what?" Holley asked nervously as George stopped.

"Unless you lie to me," he finished. George smiled at her and asked, "Holley, you won't lie to me, will you?"

Silence. "No," Holley answered after some hesitation. She took a glance at George in panic. She was clear that it was literally a lie from the very beginning. What George loved was her surgically altered face, and the disguised Holley, not who she really was. He had no idea that he was actually proposing to Yvonne Gu.

But so what? As long as she could be with George, she would wear this disguise her whole life.

"Then... Will you marry me?" Holley felt his loving eyes gazing at her.

'Holley, you know what? I know you lied to me before, but I chose to ignore that. I turned a blind eye to them because I love you. I only hope you won't lie to me from now on, '

George said to Holley in his mind.

"Yes! Yes I will!" Holley nodded.

She had other things on her mind. George was the best choice for her right now. She wanted revenge, and she wanted a better life as well. Only George could do these things for her.

George was overjoyed by her answer. She reached out her hand and George put the ring on her finger carefully. He stood up and explained to her nervously, "Holley, I was in a hurry when I bought this, so it might not be perfect. But I promise you that I'll give you a better ring at the wedding. I'll make you the happiest bride!"

"George..." Holley murmured. She was so touched and she nestled herself in his arms. She looked up at George and grinned, "I'm so lucky I met you!"

George also smiled. He kissed on her cheek and hugged her tightly.

"Holley..." George's voice broke the romantic tranquility. What had happened last night occurred to him

all of a sudden. He didn't know whether or not he should confess to her.

It was painful to try to hide this.

"What?" Holley raised her head from his shoulder and asked.

"I need to ask you something," George smiled, trying to look normal.

"Go ahead," Holley replied carelessly as she was appreciating the diamond ring on her finger.

"It's just... I want to ask you, what would you do if I did something that hurt you? But I didn't mean to?"

George asked and stared at Holley nervously.

"Something that hurt me?" Holley frowned. She turned her eyes from the ring to George and asked,

"Honestly, did you really do anything to hurt me?"

Alarm bells were going off in Holley's brain.

"No! Of course not!" George denied resolutely. Then he smiled. It was a cat that ate the canary smile.

He could not breathe a word of this to Holley.

He thought to himself, 'I must keep the secret.' He'd drop it for the time being until Holley discovered it on her own.

A relieved smile spread over his face. He put his hands on her shoulders and assured her, "I love you so much! How could I do anything to hurt you? What I'm trying to say is... misunderstandings happen all the time. I want to gauge your reaction to find out if you'd run off half-cocked, without knowing the whole story."

"Are you sure you're not pulling a fast one?" Holley asked suspiciously. She was not convinced.

"Yes," George answered shortly. He defended himself nervously, "How could I ever knowingly hurt you?"

"You'd better not!" She stared at George and warned him, "Get this: I won't let it go if you do anything to

hurt me. So don't push your luck! And don't try to lie to me—women's intuition never lies. If I find anything wrong, I won't forgive you!"

"Don't worry! That day will never come!" Since Holley had warned him, he dared not to mention his affair with Sula now. It was courting death!

He smiled and continued, "But enough of that. Let's grab a menu."

"Fine." Holley took a seat. She looked at the glittering ring and asked worriedly, "George... Your mom

knows you proposed to me?"

"No. This is between us. Why let her know?" George replied, unhappy. "Holley, we've been together for a long time, and I think it's time for us to move forward and get married. I proposed to you, because I want to settle down with you."

George stared at Holley, full of love. "Don't worry about Mom. I'll schedule our wedding ceremony as soon as possible. It doesn't matter whether she's happy about it or not, we'll get hitched."

He took her hand lovingly and continued, "Holley, I know you have been waiting for me for way too long. I can't let you wait any longer. I promise, I'll treat you like a princess."

"George..." Holley could not even finish her sentence. She was so deeply touched. Indeed, she couldn't even form words at this moment.

Chapter 989 Dispute In The Meeting

Donna was still oblivious about George's proposal to Holley. Sensing that Sula was all but ready to give up on George, she had spent quite some time talking to her last night. She persuaded the girl not to lose heart and promised that she would help bring George and her together.

Donna was ready to take some action to break the relationship between Holley and her son.

She woke up early in the morning, put on her best business suit and wore delicate make-up before

making a beeline for BM Corporation.

George and Holley were in the middle of a meeting with the shareholders of the company when Donna barged into the conference room to everyone's immense surprise.

Since those present were top management staff, most of them knew Donna. They smiled at her politely to show their respect because they knew that she was the individual who was really in charge of the company.

However, George and Holley knitted their brows at her intrusion.

Standing up, George frowned at his mother and said acidly, "What are you doing here, Mom? We are in a meeting. If you have something important to tell me, please wait in my office."

He was anxious for his mother to leave since he thought that she had come to talk to him about Sula.

Donna sneered and said to George, "I have nothing personal to say to you. I have come here to know how the company is doing."

"Knock it off, Mom. I am serious," George retorted. He was getting frustrated by her presence.

Oblivious to his words, Donna sat down in George's seat. With a resigned look, he pulled up another

chair and sat next to his mother.

Donna glanced around at the shareholders who were present and said, "Please, carry on with the meeting. From today, I will be present at the office. We will be meeting frequently. So you don't have to be overcautious around me."

George suddenly felt a rush of relief wash over him. He recalled that Donna had mentioned this to him.

But after what had happened between him and Sula that night, he had forgotten about it.

The rest of the staff at the table started whispering to one another. Holley couldn't hold back her displeasure any longer. Controlling her anger, she tried to sound as polite as she possibly could, "You surprised us, Aunt. Why didn't you discuss this with George before deciding to come to work? After all, this isn't some trivial matter."

Although Donna owned BM Corporation, George was the one taking care of the business of its branch in Y City. 'He and I have devoted a lot to the company and it has thrived so far. I can't let Donna take it away from us as she pleases, ' Holley decided.

"And what makes you think that I haven't talked to him about this?" Donna retorted gruffly, sparing a cold glance at Holley.

Holley froze for a moment. She turned to look at George. He nodded slightly, confirming that Donna had already filled him in.

She couldn't help but draw a bitter smile. 'I am just an outsider, while he is her son. He doesn't have to tell me everything, ' she thought.

After George's proposal, she had thought that he wouldn't keep anything from her. It turned out that she

was a fool to think that anything had changed. She was still kept in the dark and she had ridiculed herself.

Donna cast a cold glance at Holley once again and said, "I have been absent from work for these past days, so I don't know how the company is doing at the moment. I would like to be filled in. I hope the heads of the departments wouldn't mind giving me a brief report. Let's start with Miss Ye."

"Me?" Holley asked, dumbfounded. She finally understood why Donna had returned to the company.

'She wants to put me down, ' Holley said to herself.

She scoffed. She didn't think it was a good idea to turn against Donna in front of all the shareholders.

That would just make the company look bad. So, she gave a brief report about the developments in her

department. But of course, she chose to hide some of the details.

Donna didn't make any immediate comments. After a pause, she asked, "Is there an employee in your department named Susan Su?"

"Yes." Holley felt her heart clenched when Donna brought up Susan. Without sounding too obvious, she asked, "What about her?"

"Well, it's nothing important," Donna replied flatly as she stared lazily at Holley. "Cary came to me for a favor. It seems that Susan is his girlfriend and he wants us to terminate Susan's contract. I agreed.

Deal with this matter immediately and send the contract to Mr. Su as soon as possible."

"What are you talking about?" Holley burst with rage. Glaring at Donna, she seethed with uncontrollable anger, "Who gave you the rights to poke your nose in matters of my department? Susan is my employee. It's my call to decide whether she should stay or leave. Who do you think you are? You cannot make decisions for me!"

Donna stared at Holley in absolute disdain and asked, "Is there a problem?"

'Looks like I was too nice to her that she has forgotten her place. I will show her who is in charge of the

company now, ' she smirked.

"Yes, there is!" Holley raised her voice as she slapped away George's hand which had attempted to hold her back. Donna snorted at her son's disgraceful behavior as she said coldly, "Let her be, George. I'd like to hear what she has to say."

"Holley, please don't do this," George pleaded, looking sideways at the other members present in the hall. They were very intently listening to the banter. He tried to pull her back again. 'We're going to be married and we will be a family soon. I can't watch her fighting with my mother. We will be a laughingstock in the society.'

"Let me go!" Holley shouted at George as she shook his hand off. "I need to make my stand clear to her once and for all."

With stern eyes, she turned to face Donna and sneered, "I admit that the company is yours. But George and I started this branch and we have done so much for its growth. I don't care that you meddle with you son's matters because you have the right to do so. But you can't intervene in my business."

When Donna didn't respond, she continued with a tone laced in cold warning, "Remember that I

initiated this department and I take care of everything that goes on in there. It's my call whether Susan stays or leaves. You have no right to get involved. I hope you understand. Am I making this clear to you?

It's true that you are my boss. But I am telling you that you have no say in my department."

Chapter 990 Death Anniversary

George stared blankly at Holley for a moment. He hadn't expected that she would blow up like that in front of his mother. He grabbed her arm and said, "Holley, that's enough! She's my mother. How could you speak to her like that?"

"Oh? Are you blaming me now?" Holley sneered. "I've told you already that I hate it when people intervene in my business. I don't need anybody telling me what to do. And that includes your mother. And rest assured that it's not going to go so easily if she pisses me off again."

Donna finally spoke, "So, are you saying that I'm not qualified to manage my own company?"

Holley looked at her and said very clearly, "Yes."

From her expression, George knew that Donna was incredibly angry.

He tried to talk to her, "Mom, don't be mad. Holley didn't mean that."

"Shut up!" Donna glowered at him. "Mind your own damned business."

George didn't want to anger his mother any further, but he had to protect Holley. "Mom, look, Holley is in charge of her department. Could you at least consult with her before taking decisions instead of commanding her?"

Donna threw a nasty glance at him and thought, 'Is this really my son?

As they say, grown girls can't be kept at home. But it's my son who's against me now. I have to think of a way to get my boy back. I can fire her. Everything's going to be okay if she leaves the company for good.'

She scowled at Holley, "With all due respect, Miss Ye, I have to say that you're not suitable for a job at my company.

I'm not tolerant enough to have someone who would disobey me deliberately on my payroll. You may go to the HR to collect your documents and your pay. I'll inform them to allocate extra three months' salary as compensation. This termination is very much under the norms of the labor law. Is everything clear, Miss Ye?"

George was alarmed by his mother's quick verdict. He said, "Mom, you can't do this to Holley! She didn't do anything wrong and she didn't mean to go against you. Why do you have to fire her?"

Donna bellowed, "Enough! She dared to speak to me as if she owns this company. It's because you've spoiled her. It was your job to keep her in check."

George wanted to defend Holley, but he was afraid that Donna might divulge about the incident that had happened the day before, so he reluctantly fell silent.

Holley stared at the mother-son duo in stunned silence. She had spoken boldly against Donna because she thought that George would support her.

She wasn't afraid because she figured that George would help her no matter what, but looking at him now, she wasn't so sure anymore. George truly wanted to help, but he couldn't disobey his mother.

Donna turned to Holley and said coldly, "You may leave now." And soon after she dismissed Holley, she had someone else take her place.

It seemed like Donna had laid out all her plans in advance. It was like she knew how this meeting would play out.

Holley froze at the unexpected turn of events.

George pulled her away from his mother. "Holley, would you walk out with me?"

And Holley followed him outside. When they were out in the corridor, George gritted his teeth in frustration and asked, "What's gotten into you? Why did you have to go against her in front of all those people? She's the president of the company! Even I don't disobey her. Why were you so impulsive?"

Holley jerked her head towards him. "Impulsive? I was being impulsive?! I am the one who got fired, and it's me that everyone is laughing at. You just stood there and watched her humiliate me in front of them! I'm starting to wonder if you are really a man! You couldn't stop your mother from firing me, but you turn around and blame me for going against her. What's gotten into you?!"

Holley raised her hand to show him the ring on her finger. "Do you still remember what you said when you put the ring on my finger yesterday? It's only been a few hours and yet, you have already forgotten your promises."

George looked at her helplessly and said, "I haven't forgotten. Holley..." He paused and sighed before continuing, "I know that you're mad at me, but what do you expect me to do? Do you want me to fight her and run away with you? Come on, she is my mother and the president of our company. We can't

abandon our company now, can we? You know how much we have invested in this. I don't think it was

sensible to speak to my mother like that. You should have been more careful with your words."

Holley was now sure that George was blaming her entirely.

She smiled coldly and said, "I was a fool to say yes to your proposal yesterday. How foolish I was to

believe that you would protect me from all this! I must have been blind to think that."

Holley turned around to leave. George rushed towards her and grabbed her arm. He pleaded, "Holley,

wait! Believe me! I told you that I'll love you forever. Won't you just give me another chance?"

Holley shook him hand off violently and yelled, "Don't touch me! I don't want to see you anymore!" And

then she walked away without any hesitation.

George shouted from behind her, "Where are you going?" Holley replied coldly without turning back,

"That's none of your business."

And she walked out the door of the company, leaving George behind.

Holley was so disappointed and disheartened that she went straight to the cemetery. It was Wendy's

death anniversary that day. She was the only one whom Holley could trust and talk to. She had a lot of

things to tell her. She was about to walk towards Wendy's grave when a man grabbed her hand and took her aside.

Holley was terrified. She turned around to see who it was and she couldn't believe her eyes when she saw his face.

She hadn't seen him since she had gone abroad three years ago, but he always haunted her in her dreams. Every time she woke up from the nightmare, she was drenched in cold sweat.

Holley stammered incoherently, "You... What are you doing here? How is this possible?"

Ferry looked at her shocked face. He gently touched her cheek and asked in a low voice, "Why do you wanna know? Did you miss me?"

Wow, look at you. You're so different now. What did those Koreans do with your face? How did they make you so pretty, huh?"

Holley stood up trembling and asked, "What do you want?" She didn't want to go through those nightmares once again.

Ferry felt excitement soar through him when he saw her frightened eyes. He said, "Don't worry. You're useful to me now. I won't hurt you." He pointed towards Wendy's grave and said, "Look who's here."

Holley looked in the direction he pointed and saw someone standing in front of Wendy's tombstone. It was Sheryl.