Married At First Sight Chapter 3821

Chapter 3821

Zachary remarked, "Well, Rowan can play for a couple of days, but then he needs to focus on his studies. The college entrance exams are approaching, and we can't let him relax too much."

"Rowan's grades are consistently good," Serenity replied. "He'll have no trouble getting into a university. Don't put unnecessary pressure on him—he doesn't need to attend your alma mater."

Serenity remembered the pressure of high school vividly. Unlike Rowan, she didn't face overwhelming expectations. Her sister, Liberty, simply encouraged her to do her best. Liberty's approach was that if Serenity got into a top-tier university, it would be great, but if not, that was okay too. Liberty accepted any outcome, as long as Serenity stayed healthy, both physically and mentally, and endured the three years of high school without breaking down.

Liberty had seen others buckle under academic pressure, with some dropping out due to depression and, in tragic cases, taking their own lives. She didn't want Serenity to suffer like that, so she reassured her that as long as she made it through high school with her well-being intact, she was already ahead of many.

Although Serenity didn't get into a top-tier university, she still secured a place at a first-class university, and both she and Liberty were satisfied. Looking back, Serenity did have some regrets, as she missed a top-tier university by just a few points. However, she knew that her college entrance exam score was her personal best, and her family agreed that she had performed exceptionally.

Serenity believed Rowan would achieve his goal of getting into a top-tier university, especially since his current grades were far better than hers had been. His ambitions were set higher than hers were at that time.

Zachary assured her, "We're not putting any pressure on Rowan. But he feels some pressure on his own, and that's okay. If he can't handle this small amount of pressure now, how will he deal with life later on? Once he steps into the real world, he'll see that studying is the easy part. The adult world is filled with real challenges—that's what pressure is."

Even though their family was wealthy and ran successful businesses, Zachary knew that being in charge came with its own set of burdens. "Being a boss isn't easy," he continued. "Every day, you have expenses to worry about. Employees can do their jobs and collect their wages, but the boss has to think about bringing in business, collecting payments, and maintaining cash flow. The bigger the company, the bigger the stress."

Serenity nodded in understanding. As a business owner herself, she knew what it meant to bear those responsibilities, although, in her case, the risks were shared among three partners, making the pressure more manageable.

She reassured him, "Rowan is resilient. Since he was young, he's been compared to his eight older brothers, all of whom are exceptional. If he didn't have a strong sense of self, he would've broken under that pressure long ago."

Zachary agreed. He was confident that Rowan could handle the demands of his studies and felt certain his younger brother would get into the same prestigious university that his older siblings attended.

"There's no weak link in the York family," Zachary said with pride. "Strong family values create strong individuals."

Serenity smiled, "Even when he starts focusing on his studies, we'll still make sure he has time to relax. You know Rowan better than I do and love him more. If you say he's fine, then I won't worry or interfere."

She added warmly, "Unless Rowan asks me for help, I'll stay in my lane as the eldest sister-in-law."

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As soon as Zachary entered the pavilion, his phone rang. He glanced at the screen—it was Evan.

"It's the fourth brother," Zachary muttered quietly, "It must be something urgent."

He still got a bit anxious whenever Evan called, as it often meant Evan needed a favor.

Serenity took a seat at the stone table, and Zachary instinctively placed his hand in front of her belly to shield it, ensuring she wouldn't accidentally bump into the table as she sat down.

This considerate gesture didn't go unnoticed by Kiera, who whispered to Julian, "Mr. York is really thoughtful towards Serenity."

Julian smiled and replied, "I can be just as considerate with you."

Kiera chuckled, "It's not a competition. I wasn't trying to compare."

"But you envy Serenity a little, don't you?" Julian teased.

Kiera shook her head, her eyes softening. "Not at all. I don't want you to compare yourself to anyone. I want you to be the one others envy."

It was something Zachary had once said to Serenity, and now Julian seemed to have picked up on it too. Kiera felt a warm, sweet feeling in her heart. She held Julian's arm and whispered, "I'm already the envy of others. I don't envy Serenity. I just admire her. Everyone says Young Master York dotes on his wife, and now I've seen it with my own eyes. But I'm lucky too. You treat me so well. I'm content and don't need to envy anyone."

Meanwhile, Zachary was too focused on Serenity to hear the couple's conversation. He waited until she was comfortably seated before answering Evan's call.

"Brother, are you back?" Evan asked directly.

"Yeah," Zachary replied.

"Did you pick up Serenity and Sonny?" Evan continued.

"Yeah," Zachary affirmed.

Evan chuckled. "Great. I'm heading over now. Let's have a few drinks tonight, and I'll call Elian too."

Before Zachary could respond, Evan hung up. He put the phone back in his pocket and sat next to Serenity.

The servants began setting the food and drinks on the stone table, as Zachary had ordered earlier.

"What did Evan say?" Serenity asked curiously. She was interested in knowing how Evan and Elian were progressing in their pursuit of love.

Elian was good at keeping secrets, and Serenity still didn't know who he was interested in. She had some insight into Evan's situation, though. Evan had once suspected that Bianca was the mysterious woman known as "Fox," without realizing that Bianca was actually Abby.

It seemed that Evan hadn't truly considered Abby as a romantic possibility, but his heart was clearly drawn to her, even if she was disguised under an alias. It was a strange situation—Abby felt like Evan had fallen for someone else, even though both personas were her own.

"He just asked if we made it back and said he's planning dinner with Elian," Zachary explained, gently pushing Serenity's favorite snacks closer to her. "You've walked quite a bit. Have some snacks to regain your energy."

Serenity, however, didn't reach for the snacks.

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Serenity said, "I haven't been in the mood for desserts lately."

Zachary asked, "Is it because the desserts at home aren't to your taste?"

Serenity was usually a big fan of sweets, so whenever she refused to eat, Zachary would immediately worry that the chef's skills were slipping, making it hard for his beloved wife to enjoy the food.

"It's not that," Serenity replied. "I just don't feel like eating them. Maybe the baby takes after you and doesn't like desserts."

Zachary smiled warmly. "It's good if our son is like me—steady. That way, he and I can both protect you."

If it were a daughter, Zachary hoped she'd take after Serenity. His own personality wouldn't make a very likable daughter, in his opinion.

Serenity countered, "I don't need your protection. I can protect myself."

Zachary sighed playfully, "Wifey, don't be like that. I'm your husband, your man. You have to let me have a chance to prove myself, or people will think you married a useless guy. That'd be so unfair to me."

Serenity laughed and asked, "Do you want to go see Sonny and the others playing?"

Serenity glanced over at Julian and Kiera, giving them a nod. The young couple got up and stepped outside. Zachary turned to Julian and said, "Julian, show Miss Caron around and help her get to know the place. We're going to see Sonny. That kid loves to play."

"Sure," Julian replied.

Not wanting to intrude, Julian didn't bring Kiera with him. He figured his presence with her might be seen as awkward for the others too.

Before long, Josh arrived with Jasmine, followed by Evan and Elian. They all gathered for a lively meal.

The old lady was overjoyed. In her old age, she cherished the company of her children and grandchildren. The elderly, after all, often fear loneliness. In truth, most people do.

After a long day of play, Sonny managed to stay awake for just half an hour after dinner before Serenity took him upstairs for a bath. He quickly fell asleep like a log. Serenity sat on the edge of the bed, watching him sleep with a tender gaze.

A gentle knock on the door interrupted her thoughts.

Serenity got up and walked to the door. When she opened it, she saw Evan standing there, looking slightly awkward.

"Sister-in-law," Evan greeted.

"What's wrong? Do you need my help?" Serenity sensed he had something on his mind.

"Is Sonny asleep?" Evan asked hesitantly.

"He played all day and was exhausted. He's fast asleep now," Serenity replied. "I'm free at the moment. Where's your eldest brother and everyone else?"

"They're barbecuing in the yard," Evan explained. "Second Brother Callum brought Sister-in-law Camryn and Trenton back for a barbecue."

Serenity nodded and shut the door to Sonny's room. She turned back to Evan, saying, "Are you trying to keep this from your eldest brother Zachary? Then talk to him in his study."

"No, it's not that," Evan clarified. "I actually already told him, but he didn't bother with me. So, I tried Brother Julian, but he's busy. He's taking Miss Caron to get their marriage certificate tomorrow. I just wanted him to help me out, not necessarily do it himself."

Evan seemed a bit frustrated with Julian for brushing him off.

Julian, on the other hand, likely thought, Why should I help? Zachary himself isn't getting involved.

If not for Zachary's close friendship with his cousin Josh, even Zachary might not hold much sway over Julian. The person Julian respected most in the York family was the old lady.

Of course, when it truly mattered, the Bucham family would always step up to help.

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To Julian, Evan's request seemed trivial. Evan just wanted to investigate Fox, but Julian already knew what Zachary knew. He supported Zachary and preferred to sit back and watch rather than help Evan.

Serenity quickly pieced it together after hearing Evan's explanation.

"Is this about Miss Fox?" she asked. "Didn't you say you couldn't find any information about her? You don't even know her real name or where she lives. How could Young Master Bucham help you track her down?"

"Fox' is just her nickname," Evan replied, feeling somewhat embarrassed. "Do you understand why she's called the 'ever-changing Fox'? She shows up in different places, with different looks and identities. Even if you have a picture, it's hard to find her."

"That's because 'Fox' is a persona, not her true identity," Serenity pointed out.

Evan sighed. "She hasn't come to see me in a long time. I'm worried about her and... I miss her."

Serenity shook her head. "It's almost the New Year. People want to spend time with their families and friends. She probably wants to do the same. And why would she come to you? You two don't seem to have the best relationship."

Evan was left speechless.

Serenity continued, "Last time, you thought Bianca was Fox, and your second sister-in-law even helped you test Bianca. You already know the answer to that."

"If it's Bianca, you can reach her through Dr. Carden. But if it isn't, you're just provoking Bianca for no reason. Don't make the same mistake you made with Miss Du. You pursued her, and when she was finally interested in you, you told her you could never love her. You left her heartbroken just when she was starting to feel something for you."

Evan's face turned red with embarrassment. "Sister-in-law, that was my mistake. I apologized to Miss Du. She's an exceptional woman and deserves someone better suited for her than me. Let's go downstairs and talk in the living room. I feel too nervous in my brother's study—like I'm about to get scolded."

Serenity gave him a lingering look, then decided to head downstairs.

She couldn't help but silently criticize how Zachary used to discipline his younger brothers, leaving them anxious even to enter his study.

"Your brothers and cousins all followed Grandma's matchmaking, and those who did ended up happy," Serenity said as they descended the stairs. "But when it came to you, you kept rejecting her choices and went off on your own

path. After more than half a year, you still don't even know this girl's real name."

If Evan had followed his grandmother's advice, he would probably be planning his wedding with Abby by now. And after getting married, Abby might have been open about everything with him.

"Sister-in-law, a marriage without love is a miserable experience," Evan replied. "Miss Du, the woman Grandma chose, is wonderful, but I don't love her. While I don't dislike her, marriage is a lifelong commitment. I want to marry someone I genuinely love, not just settle."

Evan didn't feel he was wrong to resist his grandmother's arrangements; he was simply searching for true love.

He had given it a shot with Abby, spending two or three months together, but he didn't develop the feelings he hoped for. He decided to be straightforward with her and sought her forgiveness. Pursuing Abby while still longing for Fox would have only hurt Abby and made him a deceitful person.

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Back then, Evan didn't need to figure things out alone—his brothers could have helped him avoid trouble. But by resisting, he risked tarnishing the family's reputation and affecting his siblings. They were all grateful to their grandmother, affectionately called "Old Fox," for guiding them. Even the youngest understood the value of following her advice. His brothers followed their grandmother's choices and found happiness. They believed Evan could find the same if he listened to her.

But Evan's situation was different.

While the others fell in love with the partners their grandmother chose, Evan couldn't.

What was he supposed to do?

Serenity considered telling Evan that Abby was Fox, but she hesitated. It was only a suspicion, not confirmed. What if she was wrong? If Evan pursued

Abby based on this and later discovered it wasn't true, he would end up playing with her feelings.

It was better for Evan to figure it out on his own.

Serenity looked at Evan and said, "Out of all your grandmother's grandchildren, you're the only one struggling. I don't believe it's a coincidence. She chose Abby for you, and I'm confident you'd grow to love her. How well do you really know Abby? Have you ever considered that she might have different sides to her?"

Evan wanted to argue, but paused as a thought crossed his mind.

In a low voice, he murmured, "Could it be? I haven't noticed any similarities between Abby and Fox."

Serenity smiled gently. "She's skilled at disguising herself and creating different identities. Her real appearance could be completely different from her persona. How could you spot any similarities? Besides, you only spent two or three months with Miss Du. It's hard to truly know someone in that short time. Some people stay unclear even after a year or two. So, do you want me to ask your eldest brother for help investigating Fox?"

She continued, "Evan, I can't help you with this. Your eldest brother made it clear: if you won't follow Grandma's guidance, then you're on your own—as long as you don't regret it."

They reached the living room and settled on the sofa.

Evan sighed, "Sister-in-law, please speak with Sister-in-law Jasmine for me. If she's willing to help, Brother Josh won't be an issue. I'm desperate. That girl is cunning, and it's been so long since she's reached out. I'm worried something might've happened. She's not easy to deal with and has made a lot of enemies."

Serenity replied frankly, "The people she's bold enough to offend are likely not a real threat to her. Everyone involved should be aware of the risks. If you can't track her down, why not quietly investigate Abby instead? Just be discreet and don't provoke her again. If she decides to move on, only to have you raise her hopes and then let her down, it'll strain our family's relationship with the Du family."