

Gu Lingfei 191

Chapter 191

After the meal, Liberty wanted to go home and rest. Liberty felt exhausted having looked for a job all morning. Her confidence took a hit as she did not get to find a job.

Thus, she wanted to go home and rewrite a few resumes while mentally preparing herself to see if she could get hired.

"Liberty, I'll take you back," Serenity said.

Liberty looked at her brother-in-law, Zachary said timely, "I'll head back to the office then." "Okay.

Drive carefully," Liberty instructed.

After her brother-in-law left, Liberty carried her son, who was still asleep, and got into her sister's car.

"If Zachary doesn't have a long lunch break, you can send him back to his office so he doesn't have to drive. Else he won't get to rest during his break." "Alright," Serenity said as she started the car.

She would never go to York Corporation again. However, Serenity did not say this aloud lest her sister lectured her.

Serenity could tell how much Liberty approved of Zach- brother-in-law.

Lunch break was over by the returned to the office.

As soon as he got out of the elevator, the secretary saw him and said respectfully, "Mr. York, Mr. Bucham is waiting for you." Zachary nodded while walking toward his office with steady steps.

At the same time, he instructed the secretary, "Please make me a cup of coffee without sugar or milk." He liked his coffee black. The secretary replied instinctively, "But you don't drink coffee in the afternoon." Zachary usually drank a cup of coffee in the morning, which could keep him awake all day.

If he drank another cup in the afternoon, he would not be able to sleep at night.

Therefore, Zachary did not drink coffee in the afternoons.

Zachary did not respond to the secretary, and the secretary did not dare say another word.

After Zachary entered the office, the secretary quickly made coffee for his boss.

Entering his office, Zachary saw that Josh was standing by the window, looking out with a pair of binoculars.

Zachary had a heavy expression on his face as he strode over and took back the binoculars.

"Don't touch my things." "Someone sounds a little guilty..." Josh teased further, "You put it on the table, so I just took a look." The two returned to the table and sat down.

Zachary put the binoculars away.

“Did your wife come at noon?” “Josh, are you so free that you only know how to gossip every day?” Josh chuckled.

“Working for you is so boring. Now that you finally have something interesting going on in your life, I just can’t help but gossip. Your miniature tree is a little bigger than the one on Callum’s desk. Your wife is certainly skilled in making such life-like sculptures.” Zachary said blankly, “How can Callum compare to me?”

He was Serenity’s husband while Callum was just Serenity’s cousin-in-law.

Josh said, “I’ll ask my secretary to place an order for me later. I’ll buy a bigger one to put on my desk. Let’s see if I can actually make a fortune!” Zachary glanced at him.

“You’d better buy all the handicrafts in her store.”

“I work for you, and you pay me wages. But you want me to spend my wages at your wife’s store? That means my salary is going into your wife’s wallet. Zachary, can you be more cunning?”

“Next time, I’ll dig a big hole and bury you in it. That’ll show you how cunning I can be.” Josh surrendered, “Okay, okay! I won’t make fun of you.”

“Is Remy gone?” Zachary asked about the business from earlier.

“Yup, he left. He returned to Anni after signing the contract and having lunch. His bodyguards...really don’t leave his side.

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Zachary said lightly, “Remy’s self-defense isn’t up to par. The Johnsons, like my family in Wiltspoon, are the

richest family in Annenburg. For safety reasons, Remy has no choice but to bring more bodyguards everywhere he goes.

It’s not like you’re not aware of this fact, so why are you making a fuss now? If you’re envious of Remy’s ostentation, you can also hire eight to ten bodyguards to follow you around.” Josh did not have bodyguards because he was proficient in martial arts.

Moreover, not many people knew of his identity, so it would be too conspicuous for him to go out with bodyguards.

The two were talking about business when the secretary knocked on the door.

“Mr. York, this is the coffee you asked for.” The secretary brought over the freshly brewed coffee and placed it gently in front of Zachary.

After the secretary left, Josh joked with his friend-cum-boss.

“You don’t have the energy to work after your little romantic- ‘zvous with your wife, huh? You should drink two more cups of coffee then.” Zachary’s face was glum.

Romantic rendezvous? Zachary felt that there was some unpleasantness between him and Serenity. Serenity came to pick him up for lunch, but he was not too happy about it.

Although Serenity did not say anything or let alone get mad at him, Zachary had a feeling that she would never come to pick him up at his office again. "What's with the long face? Did you two quarrel? I thought your wife was good-tempered." Serenity did not seem like an unreasonable person. Zachary was silent for a long time and did not tell Josh the reason.

Josh was tight lipped, but he was nosy. Zachary was afraid that if Josh knew too much, he would accidentally spill everything when he was drunk. However, Zachary wanted to ask Josh for some advice to ease the invisible deadlock between him and Serenity. Thus, Zachary said, "I think I hurt her feelings." Josh's eyes lit up. He asked repeatedly, "How did you hurt her feelings? Tell me more about it." Zachary kicked Josh from under the table. Josh felt the lock and said with a grin.

"You only said half of the story and left me hanging Zachary, I don't take in students like you." "You don't need to know how I hurt her. Just tell me what should I do?"

"Give her a gift. Hershey's for blurred plum. Hecke no bring, hinsell to do ront things like thar. "The most direct method is also the most effective one.

All you gotta do is jump her and give it to her real good.

"I guarantee she won't stay mad at you." After Josh finished what he had to say, he was kicked by Zachary again.

Josh got up and dragged his chair far away from Zachary so that Zachary could not reach him.

"You're husband and wife after you get a marriage license.

All married couples have sex.

Are you two staying abstinent forever?" Zachary frowned.

He did not even allow Serenity to step into his room for fear she would take advantage of him.

Zachary also did not want to go into Serenity's room for fear of seeing something he should not have seen, like the first night.

"But I guess that's your usual style.

After all, your nana forced you to marry her.

You might even get divorced soon." Josh knew Zachary well, so he figured that Zachary and Serenity were merely husband and wife on paper and lived a very dull life.

"You're looking forward to my divorce?" Zachary asked gloomily.

He picked up the cup of coffee al.....

two sips.

Josh smiled and said, "Why would I look forward to your divorce? That doesn't do me any good.

I just know that with your temperament, you probably don't plan to spend the rest of your life with Serenity.

You married her for your nana's sake.

Otherwise, you wouldn't have kept your marriage a secret.

"Hiding your marriage is unfair to your wife.

She'll feel aggrieved because of it.

If you don't care that her feelings are hurt, it means you don't plan to live with her for the rest of your life.

In this case, it's actually better for her to keep your marriage a secret for her protection.

That way, she won't be affected and can remarry after you two get divorced." For some reason, Zachary felt uncomfortable after listening to Josh's analysis, especially when Josh talked about the possibility of Serenity's second marriage.

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"I'm warning you, Lyndsey.

Mia is the backbone of our company.

Be nice and don't say or do anything stupid, okay?" Afraid that she might displease Maria, Jeremy made sure to advise Lyndsey to be on her best behavior.

"I know, I know! Mia's my super idol.

I'll be good, I swear." "Alright.

I'm counting on you." Finally convinced, Jeremy agreed to let her meet Maria.

However, he worried about how Lyndsey might react once she found out how old the other woman really was.

"Ding dong." A few minutes later, the doorbell to the office rang.

As a matter of fact, Maria's fingerprints could unlock any encrypted equipment in Yeez Entertainment, including the safe in the CEO's office.

However, she believed that ringing the doorbell was a common courtesy, so Maria stood outside the door and patiently waited for the door to open.

"Is that her? Am I finally gonna meet Mia?!" In her excitement, Lyndsey jumped off the table and fumbled to pat her wrinkled dress.

Jeremy could only roll his eyes and shake his head.

After all, even if he was her boss, Lyndsey had never taken him seriously before.

Not once did she show him proper respect, yet here she was, all ready to behave just because she was about to meet Mia, the famous script writer.

“I’ll get the door!” Before Jeremy could even respond, Lyndsey had already darted in front of him.

However, when she opened the door, she found a young girl standing outside.

“Um...” Lyndsey tilted her head, feeling a little underwhelmed and disappointed.

Granted, she didn’t actually know what she was expecting Maria to look like.

However, this girl in front of her seemed to be no more than twenty years old and was even dressed so modestly.

There was no way this was who they were waiting for, right? In her confusion, Lyndsey found herself studying her face and realized how beautiful the girl was.

For an adult who had just turned 27 this year, Lyndsey felt so shocked and amazed that someone this young could look this pretty.

A few seconds later, she came to her senses.

“Sorry, but this is the CEO’s office.

Are you here for the audition? The studio’s on the first floor.

You can take the elevator down there.” “No, I’m not.” Maria spoke concisely.

“oh.

Are you a fan then? I can give you an autograph or even take a photo with you if you want, but we’ll have to be quick because I’m actually really busy right now, okay?” Lyndsey was known for being nice to her fans.

Still, if it weren’t for Maria’s pretty face.

Lyndsey wouldn’t have been so patient, Meanwhile, Maria felt lost for words.

She wasn’t even fond of talking, but Lyndsey astounded her enough to render her completely speechless.

Instead, she handed her the final script of The Legend of Anne, then walked past her into the office.

“What– Hey! Where do you think you’re going? Stop!” Lyndsey was stunned and even felt a little annoyed.

Not only did the girl ignore her, she even had the audacity to walk into the CEO’s office without permission.

As pretty as she was, Lyndsey thought she was a little rude.

She was about to tell Maria off when her eyes suddenly fell on the document in her hand.

It took a second before her mind processed what was written on the cover.

“W–wait... What?!” Finally, Lyndsey realized what was happening.

She quickly turned around only to find Maria already sitting on Jeremy’s chair.

At the same time, he was making freshly ground coffee for her.

“Please excuse her, Mia.

Lyndsey can be a little silly sometimes, but she’s not so bad.” Jeremy could only smile awkwardly, obviously feeling apologetic for how Lyndsey acted.

Today was their first meeting, yet Lyndsey had already shown her eccentricity to Maria.

He couldn’t help but feel embarrassed, not only for her but for himself as well.

“I know.” Despite their chagrin, Maria was actually still pretty calm and unaffected.

After all, from her first short story, “The Mountains”, to most of her other works for Yeez Entertainment, it was Lyndsey that was usually cast as the heroine.

Besides, if she had a terrible personality, Jeremy wouldn’t be investing in her and trusting her so much.

“Ahhh! Y–you’re... Mia?” No longer able to contain her elation, Lyndsey screamed in amazement.

“Hello.

Nice to meet you.” Maria sounded so cool.

“You can also call me by my real name, Maria.”

Since Jeremy hadn’t finished making the coffee, he stood at the side when Maria introduced herself to Lyndsey.

However, he didn’t expect that she would actually mention something about herself that personal, so he discreetly wiped the bead of sweat off his temple.

When she spoke just now, Jeremy thought her aura was extremely overwhelming.

She just casually stated her real name, but there was something in her tone that issued a grave warning.

Even without her saying anything, they easily understood that if they dared

Chapter 21 A Misunderstanding leak this secret to anyone, they would suffer dire consequences.

Slightly trembling, Jeremy turned to Lyndsey.

Like him, she was also in a bit of a daze.

Then, after a few moments, she couldn’t help but act like a shy school girl.

The truth was that she was intimidated by Maria.

Lyndsey was several years older, but this young girl was far more accomplished than her.

“Anyway, why do you want to see me? I understand that the script i sent over earlier is still incomplete.

Did you have a problem understanding your role because of that?" Maria asked softly, wanting to address any issue right there and then.

Hearing this, Lyndsey blushed so hard, feeling very embarrassed.

She had always been a loyal fan of Mia, but she didn't expect that the person she was respecting and idolizing so much was actually just a teenage girl.

The s Maria wrote had extraordinary momentum, far-reaching meaning, and brilliant foreshadowing.

How could they be written by someone much younger than her? As a fellow woman, she felt like a failure.

Lyndsey couldn't help but look back at her life, questioning the choices and decisions she made in the past.

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The Chief Director In the president's office, Maria began to walk them through the script.

She articulated the story clearly in an unhurried tone.

Through her narration, every character in the script seemed to come alive, turning from words on a page to real people with flesh and blood.

When she finally finished her words, she grabbed the mug in front of her and took a sip of coffee.

Only then did she notice that the usually stone-faced Lyndsey was dabbing at her tears with a tissue.

After crying for a long time, Lyndsey spoke in a solemn tone as if she was making a sacred vow.

"Don't worry, Mia.

I'll play the role of Anne well and won't let you down." Jeremy, who was standing aside, couldn't help but roll his eyes secretly.

Didn't Lyndsey just tell him that she wanted to play the role of the leading man? How could she change her mind so soon? Unbothered by Jeremy's reaction, Lyndsey sat upright like a primary school student and raised her hand to ask Maria questions about the script and the characters.

Meanwhile, Jeremy carefully took notes, sighing appreciatively every once in a while at how deep and detailed Maria's explanations were.

Her storytelling was so immersive that Jeremy even believed that he could now personally direct this play.

"Transfer the payment for the script to my designated bank account within three days.

If there is nothing else, I'll take my leave now," Maria said indifferently.

"Okay, no problem!" Jeremy replied.

Then, after a moment, he added, "How about I send you a list of promising candidates after today's audition? You can have a look first and then we can decide the actors for each role together." Jeremy had the final say on Yeez Entertainment's affairs.

No one in the company dared to question his authority.

But if he had the opportunity, he would gladly hand over the company to Maria and be her loyal follower. Jeremy's words ignited Lyndsey's excitement in an instant.

Nodding fervently, she suggested, "The auditions are on the first floor, Why don't you go and take a look now? It's better to watch them in person than read the comments later." Maria had never interfered in the management of Yeez Entertainment before.

The casting of The Legend of Anne had never even registered in her mind as an important event.

However, it just so happened that her schedule for today was completely free, apart from the "date" with Anthony.

Since the engagement with Anthony was maintained, she was more or less idle now.

"Okay, why not? I just so happen to be free," Maria agreed.

Shoving his surprise aside, Jeremy hurriedly said, "Please wait a moment.

I will inform the audition staff to arrange the main seat for you!" The author of the story was personally going to the casting spot.

Who was more qualified to sit in the main seat other than her? Even Jeremy wasn't more qualified, let alone the director of the crew.

"Don't bother.

I'll just stand in a corner and watch," Maria said firmly, shaking her head.

Only then did it occur to Jeremy that Mia always kept a low profile.

He blamed himself for being so careless.

"Got it.

Please wait a moment.

I'll call the director and ask him to let you in." The director of The Legend of Anne, Francis Jackson, was the most experienced director in Yeez Entertainment.

Many film and television schools around the country had appointed him as a lifelong honorary professor..

Francis was sixty years old already.

He used to be an obscure director of avant-garde films.

It was not until he signed a contract with Yeez Entertainment and directed The Mountains, the adaptation of Maria's first , that he had become a household name.

However, Francis had no idea who the legendary Mia really was or how she looked.

“Hello, Francis.

Are you at the audition?” Jeremy asked on the phone.

“I’m sending someone over there.

She wants to observe the casting process.

Just let her in and do whatever she wants.

Don’t disturb her, understand?” A flicker of unhappiness crossed Francis’s eyes.

He was a stubborn man.

His pursuit of the art of filming bordered on madness.

And there was nothing Francis hated more than the hidden rules of the entertainment industry.

When he directed a movie, he would make every decision from an artistic perspective.

Words like favoritism and nepotism were not in his dictionary.

When he heard Jeremy’s ambiguous words on the phone, he immediately assumed that there was some actress who wanted to bypass the audition and get a role in *The Legend of Anne*.

“Fine, send her over,” Francis said coldly.

“However, Mr. Bradley, I have to let you know in advance that I have my own standards of casting for each role.

Don’t think of forcing me to cast any Dick and Harry you want.

You’d have to fire me before you do that!”

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At The Audition Hearing this, Jeremy smiled bitterly.

“Francis, what nonsense are you talking about? Am I really that kind of person in your eyes?” Although his tone was sharp, he felt aggrieved.

Not only was he the president of the company, but he had also been working together with Francis for several years.

Why was there no tacit trust and understanding between them? However, Francis remained unmoved.

He clucked his tongue and said, “I’m not going to be your puppet.

I have read the script of *The Legend of Anne* more than twenty times! It can be said that my understanding of this story is only second to that of Mia herself.

It is a masterpiece that will be recorded in the history of literature.

I won't allow anyone to desecrate my adaptation of The Legend of Anne!" Without waiting for a reply, Francis hung up the phone in a huff.

Jeremy had been talking on speaker phone, so both Maria and Lyndsey had heard the whole conversation.

Maria was expressionless as usual, but Lyndsey was stunned.

Francis... was really a badass director! He even dared to retort to the president of the company he worked for.

No wonder he used to be jobless for a long time.

"I'm sorry, Mia.

Francis's just..." Jeremy shrugged, feeling embarrassed.

He wished that he could turn back time and stop himself from having that conversation on speaker phone.

"You don't have to apologize," Maria said calmly.

"Francis is right.

He is a good director." Then, she stood up to leave.

Even though Jeremy wanted to go with her, he simply nodded and hung back.

After all, if Maria walked into the audition room followed by the president of Yeez Entertainment himself, it would cause disorder among the candidates.

Lyndsey didn't seem to be as careful as him, because she stood up as well and followed Maria closely.

"Where are you going?" Jeremy interrupted, glaring at her.

"Don't make trouble for Mia."

Lyndsey was an A-list actress now dressed in an eye-catching outfit.

If she went to the audition hall like this, it would definitely cause a sensation! Maria cocked an eyebrow at the famous actress, curious to see her reaction.

"Don't worry, Mia.

I am a master of disguise.

I can completely transform my look in just five minutes.

When I'm done, even my own mother won't recognize me!" Lyndsey

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promised in a hurry.

Now that she had finally met Mia, she didn't want to let go of this opportunity to become familiar with her.

"Okay, I'll wait for you." Maria nodded.

Seeing how kind and understanding her idol was, Lyndsey was overjoyed.

Lyndsey's private dressing room was on the same floor as the CEO's office, so she hurried over there and changed her whole outfit.

Sure enough, it only took her five minutes to complete her disguise.

Maria was surprised to see the famous actress return in a hip-hop outfit.

Lyndsey was wearing a varsity jacket and jeans, paired with a baseball cap and sneakers.

She had put on foundation that was two shades darker than her natural complexion, and filled in her delicate eyebrows to look thick and dashing, both of which gave her a masculine vibe.

The top half of her face was covered by her fringe and the brim of her cap.

At first glance, she looked like just another handsome young man who had come to audition.

Maria gave a silent nod of approval before saying, "I don't know where the audition hall is.

You can lead the way." "My pleasure!" Beaming from ear to ear, Lyndsey led Maria towards the audition hall.

A few minutes later, the two of them arrived at the doors of the hall, where two security guards were stationed.

Obviously, the security guards must have received word of Maria's arrival, because they let her and Lyndsey in without so much as asking a question.

When Maria followed Lyndsey into the audition hall, she saw a line of desks near the wall.

Francis and several assistant directors were sitting there, grading the actors who had come to audition.

"Francis, these two are...?" A new assistant director turned to Francis and asked in a low voice.

He didn't know Maria, nor did he recognize Lyndsey.

Francis was so stunned by the sight in front of him that he barely even heard the question.

He didn't look at Lyndsey at all; his attention was completely fixed on Maria, and he found that he couldn't take his eyes off of her.

"They are... They are here for an audition," Francis finally said with a complicated expression on his face.

Just now, he had talked back to Jeremy and warned him that he wouldn't allow anyone to get through the backdoor.

Moreover, he didn't intend to give a woman who would use such tricks the chance to audition in the first place.

But now he had changed his mind

Chapter The Audition As soon as Francis set eyes on Maria, he knew that she was the one he was looking for.

Chapter 196

The Director Is Very Upset The auditions were held in a dance studio inside the company that was over a thousand square feet in size.

The laminated wooden floor was smooth and flat.

The panel of judges sat at the end of the room, in front of the wall.

The other three walls of the studio were completely covered with mirrors.

Francis was watching the auditions with a long face.

Actors walked up to the center of the room one after another and gave it their best shot, but none of their performances seemed to move the director.

Francis's face was so gloomy that some of the actors waiting in line wanted to quit right there and then "I've heard that Mr.

Jackson is the strictest director in the industry, but I didn't expect him to be so scary..." "I know, right? The actress who just auditioned, Rita, won the Best Supporting Actress award last year.

I mean, to me it looked like she did a good job, but Mr.

Jackson didn't seem pleased at all.

How could he not be impressed with her performance?" "Exactly! I'm still a student, and my acting skills are nowhere near Rita's.

I definitely have no hope.

I'd better quit..." Tensions were on edge, and the actors in line whispered worriedly among themselves.

Some of the more timid ones quietly decided to quit.

By this time, Francis was quite vexed.

He was waiting to see the audition of the actress recommended by Jeremy.

Usually, people who wanted to get in through the back door would take the initiative to make a good impression on the director by coming up to him and requesting for an audition in a flattering tone.

Unfortunately, Maria did no such thing.

Every now and then, Francis stole a glance at her out of the corner of his eye and found that she was just appreciating the performance of the other actors, as if she was a serious audience member or a professional judge.

It was the same for the handsome young man standing next to her.

Aside from occasionally whispering comments on the performance of the actors, he didn't take any action.

"Why hasn't she asked me for a chance to audition yet?" Francis murmured moodily.

He had watched countless actors audition since morning, but he still hadn't found a suitable actress for the lead role.

Chapter 24 The Director is Very Upset In fact, Jeremy had already hinted to Francis long ago that he should cast Lyndsey again for the lead role, which was not a bad idea.

However, as a director who constantly pursued perfection, Francis still nursed hope that he could find an actress who was born to play the part of Anne Hade.

It was only when Maria walked in that Francis found the woman who matched his expectations, at least in terms of appearance and temperament, to play the part of Anne.

"If her acting skill is better than her appearance... No... As long as she has been trained in professional acting... No... As long as she has the willingness to learn, I can teach her slowly..." As the auditions droned on and Francis grew increasingly dissatisfied with the actors in front of him, he lowered his requirements for Maria again and again.

In the end, Francis decided that as long as Maria worked hard and wanted to learn, then even if she was a newcomer who had never been trained in acting before, he would cast her for the lead role and personally teach her everything she needed to know about acting.

While Francis was burning with anxiety, Maria seemed to be blissfully unaware of it.

There were even several times when Francis noticed Maria glancing at the door with her toes pointed towards it.

In order to improve his craft, Francis had studied a bit of psychology.

Judging by Maria's stance, he knew that she wanted to leave already.

But how could she leave? No way! She hadn't even changed into a costume and given her audition yet! Francis was really frustrated.

When was this young lady going to begin her performance? Didn't she want to get in through the back door? What was she waiting for? Did she perhaps get scared after hearing Francis' phone call with Jeremy just now? "Lyndsey, there are many actors who did a good job just now.

I think they're suitable for some of the supporting roles in the show.

Please give this name list to Jeremy and Mr.

Jackson for their reference." After stepping into the studio, Maria had watched the auditions of more than a hundred actors.

Some of them were actors signed to Yeez Entertainment, some of them were experienced actors from other companies, and the rest were newcomers with great potential.

Although none of them were good enough to be cast as the protagonists, Maria found a lot of them to be suitable to play the distinct supporting roles.

Every time Maria mentioned an actor's name and their possible corresponding role in the play, Lyndsey immediately made a note of it on her phone.

While listening to Maria's judgment, Lyndsey was secretly ecstatic.

The Director is Very Upset In her heart, she couldn't help but squeal, "Mia is awesome!"

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Serenity did not know that Zachary was having lunch at Grace's Diner with his friends, Serenity, Jasmine, and Shawn chatted while they ate and spent quite some time there.

Shawn received a call and had to excuse himself by leaving early, so Serenity said, "Jas and I are done eating.

I'll get the bill soon.

Shawn, you can go ahead and deal with whatever you need to.

Jas and I will go to the cafe next door." Serenity fell in love with Beans and Cream's tranquility the last time she accompanied Jasmine on a blind date there.

This street was busy, so surrounding businesses were booming.

The owner of the cafe was willing to spend money on sound insulation, so when customers walked into the cafe, the noise outside would be filtered out.

Shawn thought that his cousin drove, so she could take Serenity home later.

He said, "Jas, Serenity, I'll get going then." "Go ahead! Drive carefully on the road," Jasmine urged her cousin.

"Jas, please send Serenity home later." Serenity had a car, but she seldom used it because gas was getting more expensive.

A full tank would cost her hundreds of dollars.

Serenity would not use the car unless necessary.

Managing a home required careful planning.

Although Zachary gave her a considerable sum for household expenses, Serenity could not squander it.

Jasmine said with a smile, "Yeah, I'll send Serenity home even if you don't remind me.

Hurry up and go do your work.

It's so sad that you can't have a peaceful meal on a weekend."

It was not easy to be the successor of a big company.

Shawn was a little reluctant, but he still had to take his leave.

After Serenity settled the bill, she walked out of the restaurant linking arms with Jasmine.

They walked to the nearby cafe, Beans and Cream.

As soon as Serenity entered the cafe, Zachary's bodyguards spotted her.

They immediately notified Zachary.

Zachary was not drinking coffee.

He just wanted to sit at his nana's cafe to calm himself down and forget about Serenity's effect on him.

Hearing about Serenity's arrival from his bodyguard, Zachary's face turned tense, cold, and stiff.

At that moment, even Duncan noticed Zachary's change in mood.

Duncan and Josh exchanged glances.

Duncan said, "Should Josh and I give you some space?" Zachary looked at the door, only to see Serenity coming in while holding Jasmine's arm.

However, Shawn was nowhere to be seen.

Although his love rival was gone, Zachary still looked glum and stiff.

After hearing his friend's question, he said in a low voice, "She doesn't know you two." Duncan and Josh were speechless.

That was true.

Serenity did not know who they were and would not recognize them, so there was no need for them to avoid her.

Seeing Zachary sitting still, Josh teased, "You're not going to say hello to her?" Zachary said indifferently, "She has her circle of friends, and I'm not close with her friends, so there's no need to say hello." Josh shrugged his shoulders.

After all, Serenity was not his wife.

If Zachary was not bothered to say hello, Josh and Duncan would not go over either.

The seats Serenity and Jasmine picked were a little far from where Zachary was seated.

Serenity sat with her back facing him, so she did not notice that he was there.

However, he could easily see her every move.

Zachary, who was still angry, was indifferent to his wife coming to the cafe.

He did not greet her, nor did he spare another glance at her, as if she was a total stranger.

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Josh was a little dumbfounded when he saw this.

Was Zachary merely acting all this while when he showed off about his wife?

However, Grandma May no longer cared about the company affairs and rarely went to the office, so there was no need for Zachary to act in front of Josh.

Josh was confused.

Forget it.

That was Zachary's private affairs, so Zachary could manage it himself.

They were just Zachary's friends and would just wait to watch the drama unfold with some popcorn in hand.

If there was no drama to watch, Josh would just go home and sleep.

Two hours later, Serenity looked at the time and saw that it was already three o'clock in the afternoon.

She said to her friend, "Jas, let's go back.

I have to go to my sister's house." "Alright." Jasmine also looked at the time and did not object to Serenity wanting to go home.

"Let's drop by the supermarket later to buy some fruit and toys for your sister and Sonny.

I want to visit your sister's house with you.

I don't want to go home to see my mother's disgruntled face." Serenity laughed.

"Who told you to pass out at the Dawsons' dinner party? You embarrassed yourself and your aunt, so it's not surprising that your mom will be mad at you." Jasmine thought about what she did and said with a smile, "So be it! I don't care if I embarrass myself.

It's better than having my mom and aunt think that I'm Ms.

Universe and can be a queen one day.

Now that they've completely lost hope in me, I can finally have some peace!

"Hey, Serenity.

Look at that table of three.

Is one of them your husband?" When Jasmine got up, she saw Zachary and quickly patted Serenity's hand so Serenity could confirm it.

Serenity followed her friend's line of vision and looked over.

It was indeed her husband.

"It's him."

Zachary's aloofness was one-of-a-kind in Wiltspoon.

Serenity could confirm that it was him anywhere with a glance.

"Do you want to go over and say hello?" Serenity said hesitantly, "He's with his friends, and I don't know them, so I'd better not go over to say hello." In fact, Serenity had never seen any of Zachary's friends.

He would not tell her about them either, "Then, let's just slip away quietly." Jasmine felt that it was not good to disturb them either, so she thought they could slip away before Zachary noticed them.

Serenity shared the same idea.

Thus, the two ladies slipped away quickly and quietly.

Little did they know that Zachary had noticed them long ago.

Seeing that Serenity pretended not to see him and chose to slip away without saying hello, Zachary snorted coldly and thought, 'I won't talk to her even if she came over to say hello.'

'At least she has some self-awareness! After coming out of Beans and Cream, Serenity laughed to herself.

"Why do I feel like I'm acting like a thief?" Jasmine laughed at her.

"That's because you didn't want to go over to say hello to your husband and decided to sneak out like a thief."

"His expression was so grim that I was afraid he'd pretend not to know me if I went to say hello.

That would've been awkward..." The two of them kept their marriage a secret.

After Jasmine gave it a thought, she said, "That's possible.

Look at all these luxury cars! That's a Rolls-Royce!" Serenity glanced at the luxury cars nonchalantly and said, "You said that Beans and Cream is the largest and fanciest cafe in the city, so isn't it normal to see luxury cars here? By the way, there's a Rolls-Royce in my neighborhood too.

It looks similar to that one.

"It's always parked downstairs right outside my block.

Anyway, I can see that luxury car almost every day when I go to work." Serenity felt like Brynfield's value was suddenly raised a notch because of that luxury car's existence.

Chapter 199

Jasmine asked in surprise, "Really? Brynfield is a high-end neighborhood, but I didn't expect someone who drives a Rolls-Royce would live there.

If they're so rich, why not live in a villa?" "Mr.

York said that perhaps some rich kid went to a nearby school, so the parents bought an apartment for the kid in Brynfield.

That way, it's more convenient for the kid to travel to school.

That family might have countless villas.” Jasmine smiled.

“True.

Let’s go to the supermarket.

By the way, didn’t Grandma May say that she’s coming over?” “Not anymore.” “Why now?” “The owner of the house disagreed.”

Jasmine was speechless.

The owner of the house was Zachary, Grandma May’s grandson.

Grandma May wanted to come over for the weekend, but her grandson did not allow it.

What an unfilial child! The two got into Jasmine’s car and left Beans and Cream.

Shortly after, Jasmine parked the car in a large shopping mall.

After strolling around the mall, the two of them came out with many bags of goodies.

At this time, Serenity missed going to the mall with Zachary.

With him around, he would help her carry the bags no matter how much she bought.

After Jasmine put the things into the car, she was gasping for air.

“This is the only time I think of wanting a man to accompany me when I’m out shopping.

I didn’t think about the logistics wherfi was buying all that stuff.

Now that I’m carrying all the bags, they’re so heavy that my arms are about to break! I regret having bought so much...”

Serenity laughed.

No wonder she and Jasmine could become best friends.

They had the same thoughts.

Serenity was just thinking about the benefits of going shopping with Zachary, but Jasmine said it first “Hurry up and find a boyfriend, then!It’ll be easier to go shopping in the future.” Jasmine sat in the driver’s seat and fastened her seat belt while she said, “Ya think a good boyfriend is easy to find? I want one that suits me.

Someone that I have feelings for.

If a boyfriend like that is so easy to find, I wouldn’t have been single all this while and wouldn’t need to hide from myfamily because of their constant urging.” “You just haven’t found the one for you yet.

There’s no rush.

You’re only twenty-five this year.

You’re young and can afford to be single for a couple more years.”

“My mom wasn’t so anxious before when you were still single.

Once you got married, my mother started to rush me as if I could never get married.

She’s been pushing me since then and wishing she could arrange a thousand blind dates for me in a day so I would be married off the next day.” Jasmine could understand where her mother was coming from.

Her mother thought Jasmine had better conditions than Serenity, but Serenity got married before her.

Even if Serenity and Zachary got married at first sight, Zachary seemed like a decent man.

On the other hand, Jasmine still did not have a boyfriend, and her blind dates fell through time and again.

That was why Jasmine’s mother was so anxious.

Fortunately, Jasmine’s mother stopped urging her to get married these days.

That was because Jasmine was willing to go all out for some peace and quiet.

Serenity giggled.

She often saw Jasmine’s mother and knew that Jasmine’s mother was only anxious about Jasmine’s marriage after seeing that she was married.

“Your mother is relentless, but that’s normal with mothers.

I want to have a mother to encourage me like this, but I can’t even remember what my mother looks like now...” Serenity’s parents did not take many photos while they were still alive.

Smartphones were not popular at that time, so the only photos of her parents left behind were a few which were kept by Liberty.

Serenity had to look at the photos every time to remember what her parents looked like.

Jasmine comforted her friend while she drove.

“Your parents must be up in heaven, blessing you and Liberty.”

Serenity was silent.

If her parents were in heaven blessing them both, the viral incident on Twitter would not have happened.

Serenity and her sisters also would not have suffered through such a tough and pitiful childhood.

Jasmine knew that parents were a heavy topic for her friend, so she quickly changed the subject.

It took a while to revive the mood.

Chapter 200

Jasmine and Serenity went to Liberty’s apartment.

Serenity got out of Jasmine’s car.

Her face stiffened when she saw a familiar car parked there.

“What’s wrong?”

“That car belongs to Liberty’s sister-in-law.

She must’ve come to trouble my sister again.

Liberty’s sister-in-law is definitely one of the worst people I know.

She’s comparable to the relatives from my hometown.” !

Jasmine said, “Let’s hurry up, then.

If she bullies Liberty, we’ll kick her out together!”

Serenity had already grabbed her things to head inside.

Jasmine quickly followed.

The Browns visited again.

As usual, it was just Chelsea and Mrs.

Brown.

They came to persuade Liberty to take Hank back from their house. Hank went to live at his parents’ house but ate his meals at his sister’s house because his parents took care of Chelsea’s children and cooked at her place. Fortunately, both his parents’ and sister’s houses were close by.

They were in the same neighborhood but opposite blocks. Chelsea watched as her parents bought loads of delicious food for her brother every day.

Although her family also ate them, Chelsea was jealous of her parents’ partial treatment of buying expensive food for her brother.

Fortunately, Chelsea had a sense of propriety even though she was money hungry, so she did not express her discomfort. After enjoying the help of her parents for so long, Chelsea was used to the benefits of monopolizing her parents. Hank was at his parents’ house for a few days, and Chelsea took the most initiative in trying to reconcile Hank and Liberty so he could return to his own home as soon as possible.

“Liberty, it’s inevitable for a couple to quarrel and fight.

There are only a handful of couples who had never quarreled or fought before.

You should get over this after cooling down for a few days.

Life has to go on, don’t you think?” Chelsea said.

“Hank is a big man with a strong self-esteem, but he actually feels remorseful for hitting you that day.

We’re also wrong for taking his side.

You should compromise and bring him back.

Forget that it ever happened and continue to live a happy life like you always have.” As soon as Serenity opened the door, she heard Mrs.

Brown persuading her sister. Chelsea said, “Liberty, you should watch out for another woman stealing your husband if you keep giving Hank the cold shoulder.

Hank is young and has a promising future.

He’s quite handsome and looks like a bachelor.

Many young women have a thing for mature men like him with a successful career.” Hank was a manager with a five-figure basic monthly salary.

He also made extra money from commission, which would add up to nearly a hundred thousand dollars a month.

To Chelsea, Hank was considered a man with a successful career.

Therefore, Chelsea always looked down on Liberty, thinking that Liberty was not worthy of her brother. Moreover, Liberty still had yet promised to help take care of Chelsea’s children, which greatly displeased Chelsea.

Chelsea’s oldest child was starting junior high school the next year.

Her child’s school pick-up and drop-off problem must be solved quickly.

Naturally, Chelsea had to coax Liberty into agreeing.

Otherwise, Chelsea would not willingly soften her stance and accompany her mother to persuade Liberty.

Liberty was feeding her son some porridge and did not seem to have not heard her in-laws.

“Sonny.”

Mrs. Brown went to play with her grandson when she saw that her daughter-in-law remained silent.

“Sonny, do you miss your dad?”