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Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 61

“Grandmom is sick. It’s liver cancer, but the good news is that it’s at an early stage,” Mike said on the phone. “The doctor recommended going for treatment in the city. You and your sister have settled down in the city and know how to get around. Make a hospital appointment for Grandmom. We’ll set out in a bit and take Grandmom to the hospital. “This way, Grandmom can see a specialist right away when she arrives. I heard that you must pay some sort of deposit for a treatment, so don’t forget to make the payment. Although your parents aren’t around, she’s your grandmother too. You girls have never contributed to Grandmom and Granddad’s living expenses. Now that Grandmom is sick, you should cover for her medical expenses to make up for the neglected family support.”

Serenity grimaced as her cousin went on about the plan.

She lost her parents at the age of ten. Serenity and Liberty then received their life insurance payout of 1.2 million dollars. Fair enough for Grandmom and Granddad to want a share since they were their dad’s parents. As the sisters were underage then, the grandparents got a bigger share than they deserved. Serenity also knew that the grandparents took half of the insurance money and divided it among her uncles and

aunts. Each uncle received a hundred and fifty thousand dollars while the two aunts got a share of twenty thousand bucks each. The rest was for the grandparents’ retirement.

Although Serenity was only ten back then, she remembered every single detail.

It had not been forgotten that the grandparents made it official through a written agreement , witnessed by the town officials and Serenity’s maternal side of the family, that the sisters did not have to pay for the grandparents’ living expenses so long as the sisters gave up a bigger portion of the insurance payout to the grandparents. The contract was signed and sealed by the grandparents, uncles, and aunts as well as both of them sisters.

There were three copies of the contract, which were kept by the sisters, the grandparents, and the town community. Despite the multitude of witnesses, Mike had the nerve to accuse the sisters of never providing for the grandparents.

No relatives were willing to take in the sisters after they lost their parents. Since their paternal grandparents took half of the 1.2 million insurance payout, the maternal grandparents did not want to lose out and demanded four hundred thousand dollars too. The sisters were left with two hundred thousand bucks in the end.

Liberty, only fifteen years old at the time, arranged for

their parents’ funeral and sorted out Serenity’s paperwork to get into boarding school. Serenity’s education was guaranteed along with her meals without being dependent on the hospitality of others. Such was the life of the sisters after their parents’ passing

The so-called relatives never reached out or lent a helping hand. However, the same relatives showed up unannounced one day, demanding money when Liberty was going to walk down the aisle. The way they saw it was that the family should be sharing the wealth now that Liberty made it big

Only these relatives were capable of such a shameless act.

It came as no surprise that the family was demanding for the sisters to pay the medical fees now that the grandmother was sick.

“Mr. Hunt, you’re twelve years older than me if I remember correctly. Fifteen years ago, you were twenty two when my parents died in an accident. You were there when we were splitting the insurance payout. Don’t tell me you’ve forgotten that we don’t need to pay for Grandmom and Granddad’s maintenance in exchange for the insurance money.

“You used the hundred and fifty thousand dollars from Grandmom and Granddad to build a house. The hundred thousand dollars was also for their retirement. After

enjoying my parents’ blood money, you have the cheek to accuse me of not contributing to the family support and want me to make up for it?!”

Fifteen years ago, a hundred and fifty thousand bucks was a large sum of money. It was enough to build a house from the ground up.

“Oh, I forgot. Of course you do, since you have no shame! I’m telling you right now, Mike. I couldn’t care less!”

Serenity terminated the call.

Mike’s attempt to call again earned him a spot in Serenity’s blacklisted contacts.

Zachary overheard the entire conversation . He had not looked into Serenity’s past and only heard from Nana that Serenity lost her parents to a car wreck at the age of ten. The sister scraped through life and completed their studies with the insurance money.

That explained Serenity’s great relationship with her sister.

Well, they only had each other for more than a decade after all.

To Serenity , Liberty was the only family she had in the world.

It seemed that Zachary should dig further into Serenity’s past.

Serenity never spoke to Zachary about her extended family, nor did Zachary have the curiosity to ask.

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After the couple finished breakfast, Zachary took his keys to send Serenity to work. As the couple walked down the stairs, the awaiting squad of bodyguards downstairs scattered and pretended to be passers-by.

Taking notice of the luxury sedans parked downstairs , including a Rolls Royce, Serenity said to Zachary, “I know we’re living in a nice neighborhood, but I didn’t expect to see a Rolls Royce here.”

Since the Rolls Royce owner could afford such an expensive car, they should be living in a huge mansion.

Why did they live in an apartment building instead? Was it because the place was closer to work or their children’s school?

Serenity could never understand the world of the wealthy.

Zachary answered, "Yeah. Looks can be unassuming. There are many who are rich but keep a low profile."

Serenity thought to herself, 'As if a Rolls Royce screams a low profile.

Playing it cool, Zachary took the wheel of his national MPV and drove his wife to work.

Once he was gone, the bodyguards regrouped and exchanged glances. In the end, they reached a consensus that they would follow behind Mr. Zachary in secret and wait for him to drop the missus off before taking him to the office. Serenity had no idea that her man was the unassuming rich man. Despite owning a Rolls Royce, he took her to work in a ten-thousand-dollar car.

She called Liberty to tell her that Grandmom was sick. As the Hunts intended to have her treated in a hospital in the city, Serenity warned Liberty against footing the medical bill.

Although it had been years since the sisters returned to their hometown, the sisters caught wind that their relatives were living the life there. Their cousins were doing quite well for themselves in their own careers and businesses.

Their grandparents were blessed with many children and grandchildren, so it was not the sisters' job to take care of an absent grandmother's medical fees.

Since Liberty was five years older than Serenity, she had a better understanding of the relatives and harbored a greater grudge. She resented both the paternal and maternal sides of the family.

Liberty scoffed coldly. "I don't have the money. Even if I

do, I won't chip in for the old hag's bills. Seren, don't pick up their calls anymore. Block them all.

"These people are bloodsuckers. We can forget about getting rid of them if you even give in just once."

Liberty learned a painful lesson.

"I'm one step ahead. I've blocked his number, Liberty."

"Good." Liberty could relax now.

It was a good thing that the Hunts had no clue of the sisters' current addresses.

Liberty was not staying at her previous address after getting married. Plus, she threw the Hunts out when they brazenly demanded money. Surely, these people would not have the audacity to look for Liberty anymore.

"Seren, invite Zachary over for dinner tonight."

Serenity took a glance at Zachary and asked, "My sister said dinner at her place tonight. Do you have time today?" "We should go since she invited us. Just say yes."

The couple had a squabble after last night's debacle. "Knowing that he was in the wrong, Zachary adopted a more tolerant attitude and was down with whatever Serenity had planned.

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Serenity responded to her sister, saying that she and Zachary would be there for dinner tonight. After Serenity hung up on Liberty, Zachary asked, "Do you get along with your extended family?" "No."

Serenity was frank and honest. She added, "My parents passed away in a car crash when I was ten. No one from my paternal or maternal sides of the family wanted to raise my sister and I. "However, all of them wanted a piece of the insurance payout. Since my uncles had no right to the money, they instructed my grandparents to get more out of us. My dad was the youngest son, so he didn't get much attention in the family. My grandparents favored my uncles instead.

"They said that we don't have to pay for family support in exchange for a bigger chunk of the insurance payout. They took six hundred thousand dollars and signed the contract to relinquish care for us and our responsibility to them. My grandparents also moved into the two-story house my parents had built just before passing away. They said the house was theirs since my parents were no longer around.

"My grandparents mentioned that we don't need a house

since we can find a guy to depend on when we grow up. We were young back then, and no one had our backs, so the house was occupied by my grandparents. We used to return for a short stay during our school holidays, but we received judging looks as if we were there to steal the place from them.

"Liberty said that our parents' names are on the title deed. We'll file a suit and reclaim the property when our grandparents are gone. We won't leave the house to our uncles."

Zachary uttered, "Let me know if you need our help when you go to court. I know a lot of lawyers." York Corporation had its own legal team.

Serenity was grateful. "I'll ask if I need help."

It would be probably a few years before her grandparents kicked the bucket.

Serenity and Zachary would probably be divorced by the time the legal battle came about. "Did your mom's family stick up for you?"

The maternal grandparents tended to have a softer spot for their grandchildren. Serenity said bitterly, "My mom had a rough life. She had been through the system multiple times before she was adopted. Since Mom isn't my grandparents' own, they only felt the responsibility to raise her without giving her much love. After my mom was gone, they believed they got nothing out of bringing her up.

"So, they took four hundred thousand dollars out of the pot of insurance money. Liberty and I were left with two hundred thousand. No one looked out for us. No one stuck up for us. All they were looking out for was their own interest. If it weren't for the village officials, Liberty and I would probably be left with nothing."

Saddened by the past, Serenity turned her head away and looked out the window. Tears streamed down her cheeks.

Time had not been kind. She still could not get over the matter even after fifteen years.

Blood was thicker than water. Never mind her maternal side of the family as Mom was adopted. However, Dad was the Hunts' flesh and blood, but the family showed no mercy toward the sisters.

It took a while for Serenity to get ahold of herself. She uttered faintly, "Now my Grandmom is sick. It's the early stage of liver cancer. She wants to be treated in a hospital here in the city. My cousin had the nerve to call and get me to organize the whole thing.

"He also told me to pay the medical fees. Cancer treatment is not cheap. Even if I do have the money, I'm not going to waste it on her. To think they expect me to pay after what they've done to me and Liberty.

"The best I can give her is a thousand bucks for food.

They won't get any more out of me."

Zachary unhurriedly replied, "You don't have to give them a penny if you don't want to. They won't thank you for giving the money. They'll call you cheap and ungrateful. You won't feel comfortable giving them more anyway. It's pointless to do it since you can't win.

"Screw them. They did you wrong years ago, so don't let them claim the moral high ground."

Zachary had to be tough to take the helm of York Corporation.

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Zachary believed Serenity should not fork out even a dime.

Serenity would be labeled ungrateful whether she dished out the cash or not. She might as well save herself the pain and not pay the family at all.

The sisters were underaged when they lost their parents. Yet, the relatives had the heart to abandon them, by not only taking a chunk out of the insurance payout but also occupying the sisters' family home. Thank goodness Liberty knew better and managed to overcome the years.

Seeing that Zachary had a point, Serenity thought about it and said, "You're right, Mr. York. I'll take your advice and give them nothing. I couldn't care less what they say about me."

Those people were not ashamed of their own actions back then. Why should she now?

Anyone who came at her about Grandmom being old and she was family would feel Serenity's wrath. Those people should step into Serenity's shoes before they have the right to judge. Serenity would only accept criticism from the people who could forgive and forget as well as repay hurt with kindness for what she had been through.

People should never judge a man until they have walked a mile in his boots.

Serenity could not stand people who claimed the moral high grounds. Soon, Zachary dropped Serenity off at the entrance of Wiltspoon School

Since the students were in class at this hour, business was slow around the school area.

Sitting behind the cash register, Jasmine fiddled with her phone. With Zachary dropping Serenity off, Jasmine immediately rose to her feet.

“Mr. York.”

Jasmine said hello to Zachary.

Without getting down from the car, Zachary rolled down his window and looked into the shop. He responded to Jasmine with a nod and half a smile.

“You better get to work. Send me a text when you arrive at the office.”

“Sure.”

Zachary nodded at the girls before winding his window up. He put the car in reverse to back his way out and drove off.

“Where’s your bike?”

Jasmine asked suggestively, “Is your husband going to do pick-ups and drop-offs from now on? It seems that you’re getting along well.”

“Yeah, we are.”

The couple got on fine when Zachary did not cross her line and Serenity did not whack him.

“For some reason, my bike broke down in the middle of the road. I was lucky to run into your cousin. Shawn got my bike towed to the repair shop. He also drove me home. We should ask him out, so I can buy him dinner. You can come along too.”

“What are friends for?”

“Still, he helped me. The least I can do is buy him dinner. I don’t like owing favors.”

Jasmine was tempted to say something, but now that Serenity was married, it made sense why she would rather not feel indebted to others, especially men. “Okay. You fix the date. I’ll surely be there. I’m happy to do whatever that doesn’t cost me anything.”

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Meanwhile, Zachary got to work and dropped the secretary an instruction on his way to his office. “Tell the administrative executive to see me.” The secretary made an internal call to the administrative executive, Josh Bucham. “Mr. Bucham, Mr. York wants to see you in his office.”

Josh took the request without a question and hung up.

A few minutes later, Josh knocked on the CEO’s office and entered the room.

Zachary was knee-deep in his paperwork. With Josh stepping into the office, Zachary put down his pen and beckoned him to come over.

“You need me for something?”

Josh and Zachary graduated from the same college. Knowing well what Josh was capable of, Zachary signed him to the company. Josh proved his worth as an elite at York Corporation, paving his way up to the position as Zachary's administrative executive. Josh had Zachary's utmost trust.

"Yeah, but it's for something personal. I need a minute alone with you."

Josh took a seat and said with a smile, "You could've said that on the phone."

Although Josh was an administrative executive, Zachary would sometimes entrust him with personal affairs. Josh was used to it.

"Can you investigate something for me?" "Now that you've mentioned it, I've done a lot of legwork for you. You can tell me straight what it's about."

The Buchams were an elusive and wealthy family, albeit discreet and more so than the Yorks. Rarely anyone knew that the Buchams were high up on the social ladder.

Since Josh was not the firstborn of his generation, he did not have to assume responsibility as the head of household. Nevertheless, his words carried weight among his siblings, and the present head had much confidence in Josh. The Buchams had a knack for digging out information, and their network extended far and wide to many major cities.

This was especially true in their home base, Wiltspoon. They could track down whatever they wanted to know.

Of course, not everybody had the privilege to access the Buchams' network of information. Since Zachary had a personal and work relationship with Josh, plus the head of the Buchams held Zachary in high regard, the Buchams would do their best to help whenever Zachary asked.

"Remember I told you about Nana nagging me to marry

her lifesaver?" "Yeah. Didn't you marry her? What? Is your Nana nagging you to take in a second wife?"

Josh poked fun. Zachary winced his face. "One is the limit. The men in my family can't have another woman."

"You're interested in your wife, so you want me to look into her past?"

"Well, I won't say I'm interested. I just thought I should learn more about her now that we're married. I need information on her family background."

Serenity told Zachary a little about the Hunts but not the full picture, so Zachary got Josh to do the legwork. Zachary needed to know what he was getting into before he could help Serenity when she was in trouble.

That was right. Zachary must remind himself not to act on impulse and fling out accusations like he did the last time. Look where it got him.

"You know, you could learn more about her family if you take the time to get to know her."

It seemed like the easiest solution in Josh's eyes.

Well, the investigation would not require Josh to use his family's network when he could just assign a few of his men to snoop around.

As far as he knew, Zachary's wife was an ordinary woman. Grandma May was drawn to the woman's heart of gold after the latter saved her life.

The woman who received Grandma May's stamp of approval must be right-minded. Josh dared say that his old friend would fall for the woman in no time.

"She might run into some problems. I need to get to the bottom of the matter before I can help her."

Josh was intrigued. "Why? Have you fallen in love with her? You're taking her side already."

"It doesn't matter whether I love her. She's my wife. Even though it's only by name, she's still my woman. I'll protect her from trouble, not because of my feelings for her, but for my pride as a man."

Josh chuckled. "You're only fooling yourself."

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"Josh!"

Zachary was peeved.

It was the truth when Zachary said it was all for his pride.

Serenity was his wife. It would be a slap on his face if Serenity was harassed. He could not possibly let that happen.

"Fine, fine. I let you be. It's all for your pride and dignity. Alright, I'll look into the matter. Your wife is Serenity Hunt, right? You could've asked Duncan to help you. As your administrative executive, I had a lot on my plate with the business side of things. I don't even have time to get a drink of water."

Getting up, Zachary went to pour a glass of water. "Drink up. I don't want you going around saying you don't have time to even drink water."

"Well, that took you long enough."

"I thought you weren't thirsty. You would've poured yourself a drink if you were. When have you ever asked for permission? Are we buddies or what?" Josh chuckled.

"Duncan doesn't know how to keep a tight lid."

"That's true. He can be a blabbermouth."

Josh shuddered.

"Don't forget to get me detailed information about all her family members." Learning from Serenity about her family, Zachary had a feeling that trouble was brewing for the sisters.

He could wash his hand off Liberty's affairs but not his wife's.

For that to happen, Zachary had to know what he was getting into. The art of winning lay in knowing your own and the opponent's strengths.

Zachary had never fought an unsure battle. The Hunts could do their worst because Zachary had Serenity's back all the way.

"Doesn't your wife only have a sister?"

"She has a bunch of money-hungry relatives."

Josh replied, "Oh. No wonder you keep your identity and marriage hidden. Things get complicated with that kind of family around."

Zachary remained without a word.

He did not withhold his identity and marriage because of the money-hungry relatives. Zachary's intention was to observe Serenity's character for himself. Zachary had

labeled Serenity as a conniving woman when Nana nagged him into marrying Serenity.

However, it seemed he was led by his own preconception and got off on the wrong foot with Serenity.

Still, Serenity had to go through a test of character.

Zachary would come clean about everything and retreat from the agreement when he decided Serenity was worth spending the rest of his life with. They would then become a couple for real and grow old together.

"Anything else?"

Josh took two sips of water and asked.

"That's all. Get back to work."

Josh put down the glass and got up to leave when Zachary threw a question. "Josh, how do you apologize when you're wrong about a woman?"

"What's your mouth for? It's to say sorry. Do you need me to teach you that?"

Zachary, "..."

"Oh, I got it. Are you asking me what's an appropriate gift of apology? Girls love flowers, jewelry, perfume, skincare, and all that stuff. She'll get the idea if you give her any of these."

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Nothing good ever came out of Zachary's mouth, to be honest.

Perhaps Zachary should show his apology through his actions.

"What's the matter? Were you wrong about your wife? What did you do to warrant an apology gift?"

Josh was in the mood for gossip. "None of your business. Get back to work. You're going to be speaking with Mr. Williams about the partnership tonight. I'll be busy tonight."

Zachary had dinner plans with his wife at his sister-in law's.

"Why are you busy? Where are you going?"

"You should know that a married man shouldn't spend all his time on work, or else it'll give his wife an excuse to cheat on him."

Josh, "..."

He was speechless.

At least Josh found out that the work was pushed to him so his boss could spend some time with his wife.

Zachary sure thought he was all that just because he was married.

Josh could get married too. He could then skip social engagements and overtime to go home to his wife. Alas, he did not have a girlfriend. There was no one in the picture even if Josh wanted to tie the knot any time soon.

After taking the blow, Josh dejectedly retreated.

Under the same blue sky, different individuals were engaging in different activities at various places.

After telling Serenity to come for dinner tonight, Liberty fed Sonny and pushed him in a stroller to get groceries.

She took one step out the door when her husband's call came in.

"What's the matter, Honey?"

"Have you gotten the groceries?" Hank asked through the phone.

"Not yet. I'm on my way out. Do you fancy anything for tonight?"

"Get extra groceries today. My parents and sister are coming. My sister enjoys seafood, so get more of that. Oh, my mom's favorite is beef. Get that too."

Liberty replied, "Seafood is expensive. Your sister always asks for salmon and oysters whenever she comes. She could finish the whole plate. The price of beef is high now. It costs sixty bucks a pound. I can't even spend that kind of money for Sonny."

She did not relish in hosting her in-laws. They would demand the best food and often criticize her in Hank's presence. Liberty and Hank would get into a big fight and there would be silent treatments for days after their visit.

Liberty's sister-in-law was the worst. She loved to meddle and instigate trouble between the couple. "Just do as you're told. What's with the insolence? You spent more than a thousand bucks on clothes last time. You've got to pay me back for that, so don't use the household account to pay for the groceries today."

Liberty's heart sank. She was furious too. She thought her husband only demanded to go halves to kick Serenity out. It never occurred to Liberty that Hank meant what he said.

“Hank, I might not be working, but I’m taking care of your son at home and managing the household so you can be committed to your career. You’re only the man you are today because of me. “You’re determined to go Dutch with me when I can’t go to work. Are you trying to drive me up the wall or push me to work? Fine. Get your parents to take care of their

grandchild, so I can start looking for a job tomorrow.”

“You gave birth to the child. Why should my parents look

after the kid? I mean, the child is our responsibility as parents. We should take care of our son. My parents had it hard raising me and my sister. It’s time for them to relax and enjoy life. Let’s not take that away from them.

“It’s not like you don’t have the money. You could even pay for the damages to an expensive car. Don’t lie to me that you have nothing. You could ask some from Serenity. You can return to work and repay Serenity’s money when Sonny starts school.”

Hank insisted on dividing the expenses.

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He believed he had it hard as Liberty sat and did nothing at home. She was only caring for a child while Hank had to pay for the living expenses and loans. Liberty had no use for money.

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Hank’s mom said Liberty’s education was for nothing. It was not like she could share the financial burden at home.

A woman who could manage the house and earn an income suited Hank best.

Most importantly, Liberty did not bother to primp herself. She lost her beauty and grace, content with becoming a fat and unkempt blob. Liberty was no longer the person she was before marriage. Hank would not dream of taking Liberty to social engagements , worried that his colleagues and clients would make fun of him.

Liberty had nothing on Jessica. Hank’s words saw Liberty’s blood pressure rising.

Liberty hung up the call.

She omitted that she had invited Serenity and her husband over for dinner tonight.

If both the in-laws and newlyweds came for dinner, there was bound to be a huge fight between them once the in laws were gone. Nevertheless, why should Liberty stop her sister and her husband from coming when her in-laws were free to come at any time?

Liberty had a say in the family too.

Although Hank paid for the house deposit and mortgage, Liberty contributed to the renovation and furnishing. All her savings were spent on the home.

With that in mind, Liberty regained confidence.

She would get extra groceries since Serenity and her husband were joining for dinner.

It was a good thing Serenity enjoyed seafood too. Well, if splitting the difference was what Hank wanted, Liberty would keep track of the in-laws' spending at their home too. It was time to settle the accounts with Hank once the in-laws left.

By going halves, Liberty could not run the house on her own.

Starting today, Liberty would not lend a hand in Hank's affairs. He could handle his own clothes, socks, and meals for all she cared. Hank could forget her waiting on him hand and foot ever again.

Hank was such a charmer, convincing her to quit her job when they were newlyweds because he had the means to take care of her. She was to be his prettiest bride at home. Liberty had to resign when she got pregnant early in the marriage. She could not watch her waistline after the birth of napici vo

Sonny. For the sake of breastfeeding, Liberty ate and expanded sideways.

Her change in figure was met with Hank's criticism,

Just as Liberty was staring at her son in the stroller, Sonny turned around and cried, "Mama."

Liberty hummed and caressed her son's head. She uttered softly, "You're a good boy, Sonny." "Mama... Aunt Swer."

"Are you thinking about your Aunt Seren? I invited her for dinner tonight. You'll see her later."

Getting the message, Sonny reflected joy on his young face. He was closest to his mother and aunt.

Her son's young and innocent face gave Serenity a reason to put her anger aside. Since her in-laws refused to help and Sonny was still young, Liberty had to endure another year before she could return to the workplace.

Liberty would not be considering her in-laws' persistent suggestion to have another kid.

She barely held it together with one child. Liberty could forget about regaining a career if she had another one. Without a job and an income, Liberty had no say in the family.

Hank said that his parents could not care for Sonny as it was time for them to relax and enjoy life, but Liberty

knew for a fact that her in-laws took her sister-in-law's children to school and back. Her parents-in-law would rather care for their daughter's children than spend time with their son's child.

At the end of the day, they saw Liberty as an outsider.

Between their daughter's children and daughter-in-law, Liberty's parents-in-law made it clear through their actions who they favored.

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Zachary made an unexpected appearance at Serenity's shop in the afternoon.

Serenity and Jasmine were ready to dig into their takeout after finishing the task at hand when Zachary arrived at the shop. He went directly into the shop.

Surprised, Serenity stared blankly as Zachary approached her.

Zachary made a beeline to Serenity and lowered his gaze to her face. "Did you forget who I am?"

Snapping out of the shock, Serenity replied with a smile, "I didn't expect to see you here. What brings you here? Have you eaten? I can order you takeout if you're hungry." Jasmine said hello to Zachary before picking up her food and hiding behind a huge shelf to eat. She left the space to the couple.

"I had lunch. Why did you wait until now to have yours?"

Zachary raised his hand to look at the time. It was almost one o'clock. Furrowing his brows, he told Serenity off, "Take your meals on time. Your body won't be the same once you develop indigestion."

He had an eleven o'clock lunch appointment with a client at a hotel today. Zachary enjoyed a good meal before dropping by at Serenity's shop. Had he known that Serenity delayed her lunchtime, Zachary would have called her along to his lunch appointment.

Huh?

No way!

Zachary attended the lunch as the CEO. Bringing her along would expose his cover.

Although startled by his own sudden thought, Zachary did not show it on his face. He said faintly, "Have your lunch in the car. I'm taking you somewhere." "Where to? Is it urgent?" Without offering an explanation, Zachary turned on his heel and left.

After a quick contemplation, Serenity grabbed her takeout and informed Jasmine before chasing after Zachary.

Once in the car, she asked, "Where on earth are we going? Must we do it now?"

Zachary continued to withhold that information. Since Serenity got nothing out of him, she turned her attention to her lunch. By the time she finished, Zachary's car had come to a Stop brought her to a car dealership.

"Buy the wires short-circuited."

Serenity walked toward

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"Didn't you say you were only going to help me with the deposit?" Serenity asked Zachary in a hushed tone.

"I could afford the car you picked, so I paid in full."

"Oh." Serenity whispered, "I'll wire you half the money later."

Zachary glanced at her. "It's fine." Serenity blinked.

By that, did he mean he was giving the car to her?

Sure he could afford the car, but it was over a hundred thousand dollars. Although they were husband and wife, they barely knew each other in the short period they were married. Most importantly, they signed an agreement to go their separate ways six months later.

Zachary's sudden splurge on a hundred-thousand – dollar car was a red flag in Serenity's eyes. There was no free lunch in the world. Serenity dragged him out of the dealership and confronted him away from the public eye. "Mr. York, can you tell me why you're gifting me with a car? I won't feel comfortable driving the car unless you clarify that. I don't want to be indebted to you."

Returning favors was the hardest thing to do.

Zachary stared into her eyes.

It took a while before he averted his gaze. Serenity picked up on the blush across his face.

Serenity, "..."

"Last night, um... I misjudged you..."

Everything clicked. "You feel that you've wronged me, so the car is an apology gift?" Zachary's eyes met hers. It was a good thing that she got it right away. "We cleared the misunderstanding last night, and you apologized to me. Although I was really angry then, I got over it. There's no need for you to splurge on a car to make up for it."

"It's handy to have a car around."

Without a doubt, Serenity understood the convenience of a car. you back. Besides, you're going to transfer your car's words. He drafted the agreement and made