

## Gu Lingfei 871

### Chapter 871 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Old Mr. Hunt said, "Fine, takeaway food it is. Serenity, don't forget to pay the man later."

Serenity wanted to laugh.

Leopards sure could not change their spots.

These people were always trying to milk her in every way possible.

She coldly blurted, "You order, you pay."

Serenity took a glance at the local produce John and Mike hoisted into the shop. Since the sacks were not sealed, she could see they were a bag of sweet potato and a sack of yam.

Old Mr. Hunt thought he could handle the money of her business with two *sacks* of produce.

She could not make this stuff up. Only her granddad would do such a thing.

"Let bygones be bygones, Serenity. We have put the matter behind us. Don't hold grudges. I'm your granddad no matter what. We're more than willing to make it up to you and even make a public apology online.

"I told John to draw up an apology, and it will soon be published online.

"Now that all the misunderstandings are cleared up, we're still one big happy family. You made it big. Your husband's family is wealthy. I'm talking billions! Tell your husband to stop his open fire at your uncles and cousins. Leave them to run their businesses and work.

"John was a top executive in a company, making up a million a year, but he lost his job because of you. By right, you should compensate for his loss of income, but since you're cousins, we can forget about the compensation. Just give your cousin back his old job.

"You're rich now. What's breakfast going to cost you? Don't be so stingy and fuss over every single detail. That reminds me, where's my grandson-in-law? I knew he was the finest, the best of the best when I first met him.

"Haha. You have good taste in men, Serenity. I heard your husband has eight younger cousins and brothers. Can you help set your cousin sisters up with them? I can die happy, knowing they would be well taken care of by the York family."

Serenity and Jasmine were lost for words.

The pair knew the Hunts were something else and wacky, but this statement took the cake. Every time they thought the Hunts could not go any lower, the Hunts always seemed to outdo themselves.

"Old Mr. Hunt, do you think just anybody can marry into the York family?" Jasmine jumped in to give her sarcastic two cents.

The old man was a dreamer for sure.

To think he tried to get the Yorks' last name attached to all his granddaughters.

It was unimaginable even to Jasmine.

Old Mr. Hunt spoke in a matter-of-fact manner. "Serenity is an orphan, and she could marry into the York family. My other granddaughters have both parents around and come from good families. They're no lesser than Serenity, so why can't they marry into the York family?"

"Serenity, your granddad's right. Family should always come first and stick together. Hook your cousins up so they can marry into the York family. Your position as the lady of the house will be secured with them around to help you. No one will be the boss of you."

One of Serenity's uncles had a daughter who was younger than Serenity by two years. She was still single.

The uncle's eyes lit up at the opportunity of marrying his daughter into money.

In the past, the Hunts believed marriage with the rich and powerful was out of reach. It was not like they had seen the upper crust up close and personal before.

Now that a nobody like Serenity became the wife of the wealthiest man in the city, they thought marrying up was not that hard after all. They began to fancy themselves in Serenity's position.

Their niece married a rich husband, but she might not help them since they were not on good terms. However, it was a different story if their daughters were the ones with wealthy husbands. Surely, their daughters would help out the family financially.

The Hunts might join high society in a few years with the York family taking them under their wing.

The Hunts would go on and tell people that they were related to Mrs. York, and the envious looks the Hunts got from the public fed into their ego. Alas, the Hunts were too blind to tell apart envy from cynicism.

## **Chapter 872 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

It was no secret to the whole of Wiltspoon what the Hunts had done to Serenity and her sister.

The Hunts put on airs and walked around town as the in-laws to the Yorks now that they realized Zachary was Mr. York. The Hunts took shamelessness to a whole new level.

"You must be kidding. The door's right there. Get out right now!"

Annoyed by their brazenness, Serenity did not want to waste her manners on them and showed them the door.

John and the others fell back, but they only kept one foot out of the door.

They were counting on Old Mr. Hunt to face Serenity solo.

Since the old man was a senior, Serenity would not resort to violence no matter how angry she was.

"Serenity!"

Scowling, Old Mr. Hunt shouted Serenity's name and waited until he got Serenity's full attention before uttering, "We can leave but not before I get a million bucks. I can go back and look after your grandmom. I'll take them to cause a scene at your husband's office if you don't give me the money.

"Without the money, I'll make sure to embarrass you and make you a laughingstock so you'll never live it down with your in-laws."

Serenity turned on her heel to grab the broom.

With Serenity ready to pick a fight, John and the rest scrambled out of the shop.

Still, Old Mr. Hunt held his ground, thinking that Serenity would not lay a finger on him. It would be better if Serenity hit him as he could demand more money.

Serenity did not hit him.

Putting the broom down, she turned around and walked away.

It was a triumphant win for Old Mr. Hunt.

Whatever the reason, it was wrong to inflict physical harm on a senior, especially when he was just sitting there.

Serenity could not play rough with a shameless old man like Old Mr. Hunt, so she went into the loo and filled a bucket of water. She carried the bucket and splashed the water on Old Mr. Hunt.

Old Mr. Hunt was taken aback by the surprise attack.

The water came gushing down his head, drenching him from head to toe.

The Hunts were dumbfounded.

That was cold, even for Serenity!

She did not whack the old man, but she poured water all over him.

"Serenity!"

Old Mr. Hunt wiped the water off his face, feeling his authority as the head of the household challenged. Blowing his top, he cursed Serenity and her forefathers out with a finger up her nose.

Serenity remarked snarkily, "Aren't my forefathers yours too? Aren't you afraid your father's father might come back from the grave to haunt you?"

Old Mr. Hunt choked.

"The day you took my parents' blood money, kicked me and my sister out, and denied us the visit to our parents' grave was when you were no longer my granddad. So don't try to act like one now.

"You won't get a penny out of me. You're welcome to take my life though, but that's if you dare."

With an ashen face, Old Mr. Hunt pointed his finger shakily at Serenity. The anger overtook his every being.

Why did he have an unforgiving granddaughter like Serenity?

### **Chapter 873 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“Just you wait. I’ll kick up a fuss at your husband’s office and demand that he forks out the money. Otherwise, I’ll ask your in-laws instead. You won’t be able to show face there. Your in-laws will find you an eyesore and kick you out!” threatened Old Mr. Hunt.

That was what he intended to do.

Prior to coming, his grandsons showed him the ropes in case Serenity and Liberty hated their guts too much to pay up.

Now that Serenity was Mrs. York, she must want to keep up with her appearance more than ever.

Serenity would pay them hush money for the sake of her in-laws’ reputation if they brazenly cause a commotion.

The Hunts could make a racket at Zachary’s office or the Yorks’ family home if Serenity refused to give them money. Serenity was not on good terms with them, but it did not change the fact that they were family. Their existence would be an embarrassment to Serenity regardless.

Serenity was unlikely to gain a foothold since she married into the York family as a nobody. Heck, her in-laws probably did not like her. The Hunt’s public blow-up was a surefire way to make a fool out of the Yorks while intensifying the conflict between her and the Yorks.

It might lead to Zachary divorcing Serenity.

John suggested to Old Mr. Hunt that they test the waters with Serenity here. They could come back for more if Serenity was willing to pay the hush money. The Yorks were wealthy anyway. The whole family could indulge in the good life for a while, and all they had to do was ask every time they were low on cash.

Of course, they came prepared in the event Serenity refused to give them the money -they would go ahead and contact the press to furtively take videos of them causing a commotion at York Corporation or the Yorks’ residence and publish the videos online. They bet the Yorks would be furious, and Serenity would take the brunt of their anger.

The Hunts had nothing to lose since they were without jobs anyway. They were here for the long run and would make things difficult for Serenity until she was driven out of the York family.

Why should Serenity relish in her role as Mrs. York when their lives were a living hell right now?

“You don’t have to go to my office. I’m right behind you.”

A husky and flat tone was heard.

Old Mr. Hunt cocked his head to see it was Zachary. His sons and grandsons appeared frightened as Zachary’s security details shut them out.

God knew when Zachary arrived.

How much of the conversation had he overheard?

Zachary always had the habit of waking up early, but now that his wife was no longer on the other side of the bed, he was up before the sun rose. He then went to his sister -in-law's place to wait for Serenity downstairs.

Despite the long wait, Serenity was nowhere to be found. It was not until his sister-in-law emerged together with Sonny that Zachary realized Serenity was already at the shop.

Hence, he quickly made his way to Wiltspoon School.

While on the way, he bought a bouquet of roses from a florist.

As he was approaching, Zachary noticed the few cars parked outside the shop. There was a crowd standing at the door. Thanks to his keen eyes and good memory, Zachary was able to identify the lot from afar.

It was the money-hungry Hunt family.

His mother brought the Hunts up yesterday, worried that the family would come to demand money from Serenity after finding out who he was.

It never occurred to him that this absurd family came first thing in the morning to harass his wife.

There were no boundaries to Old Mr. Hunt's crudeness.

Were Serenity and her sister not Old Mr. Hunt's granddaughters?

Why was the old man always trying to bleed the sisters dry?

Serenity would never turn her back on Old Mr. Hunt if he asked nicely and was drowning under the high cost of living. At least, she would offer a bit to cover the living expenses.

Nevertheless, the Hunts were doing well. Sure, Zachary had driven them out of business and caused their job losses, but the Hunts had put away a lot of money in the bank. Their savings were enough to carry them through the years even if they were booted out of their careers.

Yet, all they wanted was to mooch off Serenity and Liberty as if the girls were not family, or worse, people.

## **Chapter 874 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

The Hunts treated the sisters more like enemies than families.

"Here you are, my good grandson-in-law. Hurry up and do something about your wife. Serenity doesn't know her manners. Without tough love from her parents, she hasn't learned much about respect. I'm sure your family's all about social graces since you're an heir. You should divorce the uncultured girl.

"You better keep her on a tight leash if you want to stay with her. Hit her if she refuses to listen. You need to beat her into submission. Her grandmom used to be defiant, but I gave her a beating every day until she did everything I say.

"Serenity drenched my clothes. You might want to give *me some* money to get a change of clothes."

The stoic air around Zachary gave Old Mr. Hunt the chills. Still, Old Mr. Hunt psyched himself up to put forth his opinion without shame.

Jasmine was tempted to whack the old man.

A grandfather like Old Mr. Hunt was unheard of.

She had a strong reason to doubt that Serenity's father was not one of Old Mr. Hunt's own.

Livid, Serenity carried the buckets into the loo and refilled them with water.

With Serenity hoisting another bucket of water, was Old Mr. Hunt going to get another round of splashing?

Old Mr. Hunt was only vulnerable to Serenity's water strike because he was caught off guard the first time.

He tried to take cover behind Zachary.

"Seren, the bucket is heavy. Let me."

Zachary, who was aloof a minute ago, went up to carry the bucket for Serenity. He even tenderly uttered, "Don't toil yourself with the heavy lifting. Just say the word, and I'll do your bidding."

Old Mr. Hunt was speechless.

Turning on his heel, Old Mr. Hunt made a run for it.

Zachary came out with a bucket of water in hand.

As nimble as a deer, Old Mr. Hunt jumped into John's car. Well, John's luxurious car would guarantee a comfortable ride. That was his choice of ride whenever he took a trip.

The car made him look good.

His grandson's success reflected well on Old Mr. Hunt as the grandfather.

Sure, his granddaughter had married into a rich family, but she did nothing to make him proud. In fact, his granddaughter and grandson-in-law poured water on him.

Serenity and her sister were nothing but liabilities!

Old Mr. Hunt had told the midwife in private when Serenity was born that she could drown the baby in the chamber pot if it was a girl. At least then, his daughter-in-law, Lisa, could work on giving his son a son.

His son, Scott, was not having it and threw a fit.

Scott said that he would never dump his flesh and blood, be it a son or a daughter!

Old Mr. Hunt was enraged as all he did was try to get Scott a son to carry the family name.

Back then, the government was offering generous benefits to parents to raise their kids, albeit the perks were only extended to a maximum of two children. With Scott having two children already, both daughters, he had no room or financial ability to have a son.

As Old Mr. Hunt suspected, Serenity was a girl.

Scoff and his wife loved the daughter all the same.

Daughters were liabilities. Serenity was making it big now, but she disowned her grandfather and even threw cold water at him!

Old Mr. Hunt believed he should have unsparingly left Serenity to drown in the chamber pot more than twenty years ago. Now that Serenity was all grown up, she was giving him hell.

### **Chapter 875 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

There was no justice in the world. Old Mr. Hunt's other granddaughters were rather dutiful, but the insolent granddaughter was one who bagged herself a rich husband.

Seeing that Granddad had made a quick exit, John and the others had no reason to stick around.

They all ran back to the cars and sped away.

Zachary plonked the bucket down onto the ground, splattering water onto his pants.

"I dare you not to run, old man!" Zachary shouted at the runaway cars.

He was thinking of getting his bodyguards to haul Old Mr. Hunt into the car for them to drive away if the old man would not budge.

It made things a lot easier as the old man did not hang on for long and took off on his own.

Serenity and Jasmine emerged from the shop.

Jasmine said, "Seren, are these people here to patch things up? Well, don't make peace with them even if they make a public apology online. They're jealous that things are going well for you."

With a long face, Serenity uttered, "I have no intention of making peace with them. It's not like we can bury the hatchet and move on."

"Is he not your grandfather? I doubt your dad is his son. No grandfather would do such a thing to their granddaughter."

Serenity fell silent before saying, "When my parents were still around, my mom often commented how my dad took after the old man the most. There's no denying they're father and son."

"My dad wasn't the oldest, but he wasn't the youngest either. I guess the middle child doesn't get much attention."

Digging into her childhood memory, Serenity remembered that her grandparents were not kind to her parents at all. Her grandparents mooched off her family and expected her parents to take care of them for every little thing. Serenity's parents did not get so much as a thank-you for doing the legwork and forking out money.

Serenity's aunts would offer a small plate of leftover turkey to Old Mr. and Mrs. Hunt when it was Thanksgiving, and the old folks would not stop boasting about it all year. Apparently, their sons were devoted enough to remember them during Thanksgiving.

It seemed to slip the old folks' minds that Serenity's family would give the best part of the turkey to them, and this did not just happen during Thanksgiving!

Yet, all Serenity's family got in return was criticism!

"Why is he playing favorites when all of them are his children?" Jasmine moaned. "That will never happen in my family."

Serenity took a moment of silence before commenting, "I guess some people can't love their children all the same."

Jasmine looked at her best friend sympathetically.

She believed her best friend would have her happy-ever-after if she could resolve her differences with Zachary-kiss and make up.

It never occurred to anyone that Serenity's money-hungry relatives would latch onto the sisters like a leech. They stayed on the down-low for a while but came back stronger and more unscrupulous than ever.

Zachary reached out and put his arm over Serenity's shoulder to offer her solace.

The girl pushed his arm away and faintly uttered, "Stay out of it next time, Mr. York. You're the heir of the York family. It can only damage your name if someone catches you in the act and posts your video on the web."

Looking deeply into her eyes, Zachary replied, "What's the point of having a good reputation without you in my life?"

"Don't be scared or feel threatened by them, Seren. I'll call the cops on them if they bring it to my workplace. They can't enter the office or our home. Their intimidation tactics are nothing to me.

"There's always a black sheep in the family, even in the wealthiest family."

No family, regardless of social class, was saved from a few bad apples.

Serenity glanced at him before turning to return to the shop.

Jasmine gave Zachary a look and went into the shop too.

Zachary wondered if he said anything wrong.

Why did they look at him and leave for the shop without a word?

Zachary stood there, frozen.

The bodyguards were anxious for their boss as the latter was thrown into a daze.

Mr. Zachary could put on a bold face and cling onto the missus like glue. Why was he standing there?



There was a bouquet of roses waiting to be delivered.

The bouquet was still in the car!

On the way over, Zachary told Jim that he would stick around the shop to be with Serenity even if Serenity chased him out with a broom.

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Mr. Zachary said something about putting his dignity aside to win his wife back.

He seemed to care about his dignity when it came down to it though.

Jim rushed into the car to grab the roses for Mr. Zachary.

“Sir, these are the flowers you bought for the missus. You haven’t given them to her.”

Jim handed the bouquet to Zachary.

Zachary snapped out of his thoughts. That was right. He bought Seren some *roses*.

Grabbing the bouquet from Jim, Zachary uttered in a husky voice, “I’ll let Sam know to double your bonus.”

Although over the moon, Jim remained respectful on the surface. “The bonus doesn’t matter to me so long as you and the missus can get back together.”

“I’ll use your bonus to buy my wife some flowers then.”

Jim was speechless.

All Jim did was pledge his loyalty, but Mr. Zachary took away his doubled bonus.

Everybody turned their heads away to hide their laughter.

With the bouquet in hand, Zachary was about to step into the shop when he pulled his leg back. He told his security detail, “Go on home. Your presence will remind Seren that I lied to her.”

His bodyguards were the symbol of his status as Mr. York in Wiltspoon.

The security team was lost for words.

Without a care about his security detail’s feelings, Zachary clutched onto the roses and entered the shop.

Sitting behind the cash register, Serenity was busy crafting.

Jasmine sat opposite Serenity, cupping her face with her hands while quietly observing her best friend.

With Zachary here, Jasmine rose to her feet to give Zachary her seat.

Serenity lifted her gaze to meet her eyes.

Jasmine sat back down, not moving over for anyone.

Uh, she nearly betrayed Serenity.

“Seren, these flowers are for you.”

Zachary put his hands out to offer the bouquet.

“Thanks, but no thanks. Please take the flowers away. You’re blocking my view.”

Serenity’s tone was flat as she met Zachary’s eyes. “Mr. York, I told you—I need some time alone.”

Zachary looked at her in silence, still holding the flowers up.

Tension ran high between the couple.

Jasmine quietly scooted over together with the chair.

“Serenity, Jasmine, I’m back. I bought you a lot of presents. Come out and help me carry them in.”

While the couple was at a standstill, Elisa’s voice echoed into the shop before her physical arrival.

Color drained from Jasmine’s face.

Elisa mentioned that she would be back today.

She came straight to the shop upon her return from her holidays.

Serenity looked as though she had seen a ghost.

Feeling bad, Zachary locked his grip on Serenity’s hand.

“Serenity, Jasmine, look what I got you... Zachary!”

Elisa excitedly barged into the place with her hands full of shopping bags. She bought whatever tickled her fancy during her travels as gifts for her best friends. Seeing that Zachary was here, Elisa had the shock of her life.

## **Chapter 877 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“Why are you here, Zachary?” asked Elisa, baffled.

There was no reason for a man of Zachary’s status to be here. However, it was Zachary in the flesh.

Unable to believe her eyes, Elisa blinked a few times before taking a closer look at the man. Sure enough, it was the Zachary she knew.

Elisa’s eyes widened in shock when she saw the bouquet between Zachary and Serenity. Zachary was even holding Serenity’s hand.

The only logical explanation that came to mind was that the man simply resembled Zachary, but he was not Zachary.

How could Zachary, an aloof man who never went anywhere without his security detail to keep young women away, possibly hold another woman’s...

Ah, before she forgot, Zachary had a wife now, and his wife had his heart. It was rumored that he spoiled his wife crazy. Although Elisa had never seen his wife, she believed Zachary was the type to give his wife all the love in the world.

For Zachary, it was forever once he fell in love. That was why Elisa did not find it strange that Zachary became an uxorious husband.

It was a shame that she was not the woman for Zachary.

It dawned on Elisa that Serenity's husband had the last name, York. Could Serenity's husband be Zachary?

Once the thought registered in her head, the shopping bags slipped out of Elisa's hands without her noticing.

As a multitude of complex emotions fled across her face, Elisa locked her gaze on the couple.

Withdrawing her hand from Zachary's grasp, Serenity got up and walked away from the cash register, but before she could do anything, Elisa took strides ahead and stood beside Zachary. She grabbed Zachary by the arm and gave him a pull so that they came face-to-face.

Zachary shook her hand away and dusted off Elisa's invisible contact on his clothes. He curtly uttered, "What do you want, Elisa? Stay away from me!"

Black in the face, Elisa coldly scoffed. "You're one to ask, Zachary. I should be asking you that. What are you doing here?"

She was fuming more than Zachary.

Serenity jumped in to explain, "We didn't mean to keep the truth from you, Elisa. I only found out about who he is."

Had Serenity known that Zachary was the heir Elisa had been in love with for years and initiated an overt courtship, Serenity would have never married Zachary.

"I know," Elisa answered.

Elisa turned her attention to Serenity and added, "You wouldn't have given me ideas to go after him if you knew your husband was Mr. York. No wife would help her love rival chase her husband."

Serenity was not the type to fight over a man with another woman.

Elisa knew Serenity well. Serenity adopted a realistic mindset toward love, probably because she was past the age of believing in fairytales.

Serenity began to develop feelings for her husband after the marriage. Their relationship grew steady after the couple spent time together. It took time to know

about one another and get used to each other's presence after all.

Elisa criticized Zachary, "I can't believe you lied to Seren for a long time, Zachary. No wonder I never saw you around when I came over. It explains why you couldn't visit my family house with Seren. You have

never been honest with Seren! Here I was, wondering how you were always one step ahead of me when I took Seren's advice to go after you. You had already known about the plan.

"You knew Seren and I are best friends. I bet you got the kick out of making me and Seren fools when she gave me ideas to chase you. You could've said something. Even if I was dying to have your love, I would've stopped harassing you.

"You kept your marriage with Seren a secret while playing it cool and enjoying the courtship. Sure, you never responded to my feelings. You didn't even let me into your office building. It was all one-sided. You were unmarried, and I was single. Even if my love was unrequited, I didn't feel embarrassed.

"Everybody has the right to go after their happiness, but you made me the other woman in my cousin's marriage. It's not like you're the only one for me."

### **Chapter 878 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

"Seren, what kind of cock and bull story does he give you? Has he been stringing you along that he was just a salaryman?"

Serenity thought Elisa would be livid and cut ties with her the moment the latter found out that Zachary was Mr. York.

When faced with the truth, Elisa was fuming but the anger was targeted at Zachary for deceiving both parties. Elisa would have quit on him if Zachary had told her he was married right off the bat.

Nevertheless, Zachary kept his mouth shut, leading Elisa on that he was single. Elisa was all over him and somewhat became the homewrecker in someone's marriage. Out of all people, it had to be the marriage of the cousin she hit it off with.

"When did you get your marriage license, Seren?" Elisa suddenly asked.

Serenity replied, "Early October, I believe."

It was a hasty marriage, and Serenity was simply looking for a marriage of convenience, so the date was not that important to her. All she remembered was that it was somewhere at the beginning of October.

"Seren, our wedding anniversary is on the tenth of October."

Finding himself in a hot seat, Zachary finally spoke up and relayed the date they got married.

"I confessed my feelings to you after you and Seren got the marriage license. You did it on purpose, Zachary!"

It was excusable if Elisa professed her love for Zachary before he got married but that was not the case.

While Zachary did not accept her feelings, he did not make it clear that he was unavailable. Zachary merely put on his wedding band after the harassment got too much. Elisa stopped making advances when she saw the wedding ring.

Zachary gruffly uttered, "Do I need to report to you about my personal affair with Seren?"

“No, you don’t need to, but you could’ve said you were married. I would have steered clear of you from the start. Why didn’t you say anything about being married? You were annoyed by my pestering, but you didn’t stop me from going after you because it fed into your ego.”

Zachary was stumped for words.

Nervous, he moved his gaze to Serenity.

Serenity looked back at him.

“Seren, we talked about keeping our marriage a secret... That was why I didn’t let Ms. Stone know that I had a wife.”

Serenity stared at him without a word.

Since she had already given Zachary a piece of her mind, there was nothing more she wanted to say to him now.

“Elisa.”

Jasmine gave Elisa a tug and waited until Elisa cast her a glance before whispering, “Can I have a word with you?”

Elisa followed Jasmine out of the shop.

Serenity had no idea what was said between them out there. Her settled mind was all over the place following Elisa’s accusations of Zachary.

She took a seat behind the cash register and picked up where she left off with her crafting. Serenity said, “You should leave, Zachary. You’ll only make Elisa mad by being here.”

Scowling, Zachary blurted in rage, “Serenity, do you care more about Elisa than me? Are you going to dump your husband just because she’s angry?”

She was kicking him out because of Elisa!

## **Chapter 879 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Serenity lifted her gaze to meet his eyes.

Alas, Zachary had turned away and walked off.

She stared blankly as Zachary took large strides away. The hurt sneaked up on her.

Serenity had no idea whether it was because of him or herself.

Jasmine and Elisa were talking about something outside when Zachary came out of the shop with a grimacing look. Without looking at the girls, he made a beeline to his usual ride—the Rolls Royce.

Zachary had gotten rid of his security team, but the chauffeur stayed behind in case Zachary needed a ride.

Seeing that Zachary was out, the chauffeur got out of the car and opened the door for him.

Zachary, together with the Rolls Royce, disappeared out of Jasmine and Elisa's sight in no time.

Elisa and Jasmine were left staring at each other.

The girls immediately turned on their heels and rushed back into the shop.

Serenity was not behind the cash register. Her crafting tools sat quietly on the cash register with trails of blood all over the surface. There were also traces of blood on the scissors.

Was Serenity hurt?

"Seren."

"Seren."

Jasmine and Elisa called out to her while waltzing deeper into the room.

Serenity was in the loo.

Zachary switched to an angry tone with her out of the blue, but by the time she looked at him, he had stormed out.

Distracted, Serenity cut her finger with the scissors. The cut was deep enough to draw blood. She grabbed her go-to ointment, bandage, and antiseptic solution from the drawer to stop the bleeding. With a cotton bud, she applied the antiseptic solution and poured the ointment over the injury before wrapping gauze around her finger.

Blood got all over the table and her fingers, so she went into the loo to wash the blood off her hands.

"I'm here."

Serenity responded as she came out of the loo.

"Are you hurt?" Jasmine uttered with concern. "Let me see."

Showing off her bandaged finger, Serenity acted like nothing ever happened and said, "I accidentally cut myself with the scissors sometimes. No biggie. It's bleeding a little, but I'm fine."

Jasmine held Serenity's finger up as she examined it carefully. Although the finger was bandaged, blood was oozing through the gauze. She said in distress, "It's still bleeding. The cut must be deep. You need to go to the hospital to get it checked out."

"It's fine. I applied some ointment to stop the bleeding. The bleeding should stop in a bit."

Serenity withdrew her arm and waltzed away, remarking, "I'll just redress my wound."

Her two best friends followed behind her.

Returning to her seat behind the cash register, Serenity grabbed a fresh roll of gauze and swathed it around her finger.

"Seren, get your wound checked out and redressed in the hospital. You should get a tetanus shot too."

The bloody scene made Elisa queasy as she was afraid to see blood.

“I’m fine. There’s no need for that. I often get cuts on my finger, and this is how I handle it. The cut will heal in a few days.”

Jasmine told her off, “It has been many years since you got a cut. What did Zachary say or do to you? You nearly cut your finger off.”

### **Chapter 880 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“It has nothing to do with Zachary. I cut myself by accident.”

Acting like everything was okay, Serenity said to Elisa, “Elisa, the thing about me and Zachary...”

“I don’t blame you, Seren. You don’t have to explain or apologize to me. It’s not like we just met. I’m only furious that Zachary lied to both of us. He made a monkey out of us cousins.”

Moments ago, Jasmine had told Elisa the whole story about Serenity finding out Zachary’s identity. Elisa’s heart went out to her cousin who was fooled the whole time.

“Seren, I gave up on Zachary a long time ago. I got over Zachary the moment I found out he was married. I feel more at peace after I backed off and stopped thinking about him for a while. Don’t let me come in the way of your decision. Lying aside, he’s someone you can spend the rest of your life with.

“Of course, since he played you like a fiddle, I hope you take your time in forgiving him. At least, make him suffer for a bit.”

Now that Elisa thought about it, she was the older cousin-in-law to Zachary now. Elisa could straighten Zachary out for her cousin.

“That’s what I think, but I won’t interfere with what you think or how you want to deal with the matter.”

Elisa picked her injured finger up for a careful inspection. “The bleeding doesn’t seem to stop. Let’s get you to the hospital. You’re looking a little pale too.

“I’ll drive you to the hospital.”

Serenity refused even though her finger was hurting like hell.

The scissor really drilled deep into her finger. It was a good thing her finger was still intact.

“I’m your cousin, older at that too. You have to listen to me.”

Not taking no for an answer, Elisa dragged Serenity out.

Jasmine was on Elisa’s side, convincing Serenity to clean and redress her injury at the hospital.

Serenity gave in to her best friends’ persuasion and let Elisa drive her to the hospital.

Meanwhile, Zachary was headed for his office after picking up what was left of his dignity and leaving the bookshop.

Josh was surprised by Zachary’s return. Ditching the work at hand, Josh rushed to Zachary’s office.

“What brings you back? Didn’t you say you won’t be at the office for a while? Look at your scary face. Don’t tell me you had another argument with your wife.”

Josh poured Zachary a glass of water. "Have a drink. Calm yourself down."

Zachary helped himself to the drink and downed the water before slamming the glass on the table. He remained without a word.

"Say something. Tell me if you're facing another issue. I told you time and again—you need to do something about that temper of yours."

"Elisa is back from her travels."

Josh unconcernedly replied, "So she's back. Are you scared she's going to do something to your wife when she finds out? I trust you are capable of protecting your woman."

Zachary answered, "It'd be easier to handle if she does anything to hurt Serenity, but she didn't. Elisa was furious and criticized me for lying to Serenity. She accused me of making a monkey out of her and Serenity. Things were starting to get slightly better between me and Serenity, but Elisa blew it by turning up and now we're back to square one.

"Serenity even tried to kick me out! I told her off in the heat of the moment... I ran away before I lost my temper and did something to hurt her."

Josh stared blankly at him.

Hot and bothered, Zachary added, "It's so hard to appease women! I let her go home with her sister when she wanted to stay with her family. She wanted to cool off, but my presence wasn't a bother to her. Why did she ask me to leave then? I just wanted to see her. That's all."

"What did you say to her?"

"I asked if she cared more about Elisa because she'd rather have Elisa around instead of me. She always does that to me. She chooses others over me while I always put her first. I guess I can't even compare to Sonny. Well, Sonny is her nephew, so I can't take it to heart, but I can't believe Elisa is more important than me."

Now that Josh got to the bottom of things, he composedly uttered, "You're jealous of

Elisa. It did not sit well with Serenity that Elisa gave you a piece of her mind, so she asked you to leave. Yet, you got riled up. Zachary, I don't know how to make this clearer to you."