

## Gu Lingfei 981

### Chapter 981 | [Serenity & Zachary]

“Liberty, are you hiring at the moment? I don’t have a job, and my age makes finding one a pain. I can’t beat those young girls out there.

“You can hire me if you’re looking to hire. I’m not asking for a lot. I’m happy with eight thousand dollars a month with meals and accommodation included.”

Chelsea changed the subject.

Echoing her daughter, Mrs. Brown told her former daughter-in-law, “Liberty, Chelsea has been out of work for a long time. It’s going to be hard for you to run the place and look after Sonny. You should hire someone to help you. Chelsea is not an outsider. Plus, she’s a good worker. It’s better for you to hire her than someone you don’t know. You might end up with a thief for all you know.

“I can look after Sonny, so you can focus on running the business.”

If Mrs. Brown was watching Sonny, Liberty would have to go to the Browns’ home to pick the boy up, and she would bump into Hank. Liberty and Hank had known each other for more than a decade, and they had a son together, so sparks may reignite.

Mrs. Brown could kick the Yate girl out when Hank had a change of heart to go back to Liberty. The Browns never had a quiet day since the prodigal and wretched girl married into the family.

Jessica was useless in the kitchen, and Mrs. Brown could not tell Jessica off without making her cry. That was usually how Hank and his parents got into fights.

With a long face, Liberty uttered, “I’m not hiring. I can’t afford it.”

A monthly salary of eight thousand dollars?

Liberty was only a small-time business owner. She would be lucky to break even and make a small profit, much less hire anybody. Even if she planned to bring someone on board, she could not afford that kind of salary. Besides, Liberty would never hire Chelsea.

“I can look after Sonny. He’s attending kindergarten in September.”

Liberty knew what Mrs. Brown was up to.

The old lady was trying to use Sonny to get her and Hank back together. As if Liberty would remarry Hank.

Liberty had been down that road before. She was not foolish. Why would she put herself through hell again?

Sure, Liberty still had feelings for Hank before the divorce happened.

However, the messy divorce killed whatever love she had left for the man. Now, Hank was dead to Liberty.

She would rather be a single mother forever than take Hank back.

The Browns were having second thoughts now because Liberty had a rich aunt, and her sister married into a wealthy family. The Browns were merely looking out for themselves just like the money-hungry Hunts.

“Why can’t you afford to hire? It’s not like you don’t have the money. Hank gave you a lot for the divorce settlement. You don’t need a lot to set up a restaurant. I bet you don’t want to hire me. Liberty, no matter what, we were once family, you...”

With her mother nudging her, Chelsea stopped short and left her words hanging.

Chelsea was used to it.

She was used to having her way with Liberty.

Grandma May turned on her heel and went to the loo. Shutting the bathroom stall behind her, the old lady whipped out her phone and gave Zachary a call.

Zachary soon took his nana’s call.

“What’s the matter, Nana?”

Grandma May could tell from Zachary’s husky voice that he was in a good mood. Needless to say, Serenity had something to do with it.

Such were the men of the York family. They only had eyes for the love of their life.

They would give all their emotions to their beloved, and only their wives could trigger any emotions in them.

“Give me Duncan’s number. I don’t have his number saved. I need to talk to him about something urgent.”

## **Chapter 982 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“You can talk to me about it, Nana. No need to look for Duncan.”

“I don’t need you. Stop with the questions. Hurry up and give me Duncan’s number.”

Zachary skeptically gave his best friend’s number to his nana. At the end of it, he persistently asked, “What happened, Nana? Why do you need to talk to Duncan?”

“It’s none of your business. Go back to work.”

Grandma May immediately hung up on her darling grandson after getting Duncan’s number.

Over on the other side, Zachary was speechless.

Could he not be a little nosy to ask about it?

Grandma May dialed Duncan’s number and spoke in an anxious tone when Duncan picked up, “It’s bad, Duncan! It’s bad! Those absurd people are out to get Liberty again. It’s Liberty’s ex-mother-in-law and sister-in-law. They’re jealous that Liberty set up a diner. They want Liberty to transfer the ownership of

the restaurant to them. Liberty can't face those two women alone. She's no longer the two-hundred-pound woman she was.

"I'm only an old lady. There's only so much I can help with. I couldn't scare them away by lying on the ground. I can only call you for help. Your office is the nearest to here. You can send a few security guards over."

Without giving Duncan a chance to speak, Grandma May terminated the call.

"I'll know what you're after if you come here in person, but I could be wrong about you if you send your security guards instead."

Clenching onto her phone, Grandma May exited the loo.

There was no telling what the Brown mother and daughter said because Liberty appeared furious and was chasing them out.

Grandma May nearly went to drag Mrs. Brown and Chelsea back.

How was Duncan supposed to play the hero without the Browns around?

Luckily, Grandma May could count on Mrs. Brown and Chelsea to stick around. They refused to leave like that.

"Liberty, Chelsea is in a tough spot. Hank doesn't have a lot of money since the wedding is coming up. It's not like you spend a lot on yourself and Sonny. You have your sister to help you anyway. You have the money to lend Chelsea two hundred thousand dollars to start a business. Don't worry. It's just a loan. She'll return the money. We're family after all."

The real reason Mrs. Brown and Chelsea were here was to get money from Liberty for George to start a business.

With a straight face, Liberty clicked her tongue. "Don't play the family card with me. My mom only gave birth to me and Seren. We're unrelated. You should leave before I grab the broom."

Liberty should let her relatives deal with her former in-laws. It would be a battle between the nasties.

"No matter what, I'm Sonny's aunt. Can't you look upon Sonny's sake..."

"You're Sonny's aunt, not mine. Sonny is living off his mother now, so using his name won't get you anywhere. Get out of here. Stop coming over to harass me."

Chelsea scowled. "You can either lend me the money or give me a job. Otherwise, I'm not leaving. You can't make me go!"

She then walked to a table and took a seat.

Liberty was annoyed. The nerve of these people!

Grandma May watched without making a sound.

Liberty removed Hank from her list of blocked contacts and gave Hank a call. She waited until he picked up before callously uttering, “Hank, hurry up and take your mom and sister away. They came here to talk ill about you and Jessica again. I’m getting sick and tired of listening to them.”

Hank was at a loss for words. Did his mother and sister not go to Liberty to ask for money?

How did it turn into badmouthing him and Jessica?

### **Chapter 983 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

“I’ll be right there. I’m sorry, Liberty.”

Hank apologized on behalf of his mother and sister before ending the call. Picking up his car keys, he told his father, “Dad, Mom and Chelsea made a fool of themselves at

Liberty’s diner again. Come with me to bring them back.”

Black in the face, Mr. Brown took a moment to swallow the news and said, “They have nothing better to do.”

They had a nice thing going on as a family, and it had all come to an end. It took Hank to get a new wife for Mrs. Brown and Chelsea to appreciate Liberty. Now the ladies would not stop harassing Liberty, and it was embarrassing.

“I’ll take your mom back to our hometown after your wedding. We won’t come to the city unless necessary.”

Mr. Brown believed taking his wife and daughter back home could give the newlyweds some space. The absence and distance would do them all some good. At least, the family would not be having fights every day. That way, his former daughter-in-law would be left alone too.

Hank’s silence reflected his acceptance of his father’s decision.

Liberty just got off the phone with her ex-husband when Duncan pushed open the glass door, all guns blazing. He had a team of security behind him too.

She was lost for words.

What was going on?

Grandma May thought to herself, ‘Oh, my. A party came.’

“Kick these troublemaking women out!”

Duncan entered and ordered the security guards to chase the mother and daughter out. Duncan tensed his scarred face and looked grimacing as he walked out of the restaurant and stood before the Browns, who were quaking in their boots.

“I own half the commercial spaces on this street. Are you trying to disrespect me by giving my tenant problems? I’m warning you. You’ll be in serious trouble if you continue to give problems to my tenant.

“Get lost!”

“W–We... We’ll leave r–right now!”

Mrs. Brown was scared out of her pants.

She grabbed her daughter and ran.

The mother and daughter raced into the car and drove off.

Jessica was watching everything from outside when Duncan came along with a security team. It was her cue to take cover in her car. Jessica secretly observed and even took a video to show Hank later.

Liberty had gotten herself another man. Hank had become the past, so he should just forget about Liberty and focus on his life with Jessica.

Once the mother and daughter were gone, Duncan returned to the diner while the security guards stayed put outside. However, it was rather striking to have a dozen men in uniform hanging around. Liberty’s neighbors popped their heads out to see what was going on.

These people did not know who Duncan was because Duncan hired someone else to collect the rent. They had no idea that the scarred face guy was their real landlord.

Duncan looked at the wide-eyed Liberty and then at Grandma May who was watching keenly. He had the feeling that he had been fooled.

After all, who was Grandma May?

Sure, Grandma May was old, but she was fit enough to handle Mrs. Brown and Chelsea. Besides, Liberty was no pushover. She could team up with Grandma May to kick those two out. There was no need for Duncan to play the hero.

Grandma May set him up.

Realizing that he had been duped, Duncan kept calm on the surface and approached Sonny like nothing ever happened. He got on his knee and pulled Sonny toward him to give him a cuddle.

Sonny did not take kindly toward Duncan’s hugs, so he started putting up a fight.

“You must be scared, Sonny. Don’t be scared. I’m here to save you.”

Liberty was speechless.

## **Chapter 984 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Grandma May was lost for words.

Snapping out of her trance, Liberty asked, “Mr. Lewis, h-how did you know they were here?”

Duncan let go of the struggling boy. Despite giving Sonny many pinwheels, he still could not get through to the little man. Duncan believed he was a failure because he could never get the three-year-old to like him.

“Grandma May called me and said your former mother-in-law and sister-in-law were stirring trouble at your place. She told me to hurry over with security, and I did because I was worried that they might scare Sonny and hurt Grandma May.

“Are you all alright?”

Liberty was in a daze. No wonder Duncan showed up out of the blue. It turned out Grandma May called him for help.

Well, Lewis & Co. was nearby after all.

It made sense why Grandma May sought Duncan for help.

Without thinking much of it, Liberty said, “They have no shame, but I’m not afraid of them. I was going to splash them with water, but your arrival was perfect timing.

“Thank you, Mr. Lewis.”

Duncan replied, “All that matters is that you’re alright. You can chase them out if they drop by the next time. Don’t waste your breath on them. You can’t reason with these people.”

Liberty could very well call the cops on Mrs. Brown and Chelsea if they vandalized the property. However, Mrs. Brown and Chelsea came to whine and borrow money. There was no reason for Liberty to call the authorities.

“Grandma May, Liberty, I should go back to work. Call me if you need me. I’ll let the person-in-charge know to tighten the security around here so this doesn’t happen again.”

Duncan came and went in a rush. He stayed for less than ten minutes.

Liberty had no idea that Grandma May was putting out the feelers on Duncan. After Duncan left with his security team, she said to Grandma May, “Mr. Lewis is such a nice landlord. I had my eye on this space not because of the high foot traffic, but because there are many offices including Lewis & Co. around. I should be able to

make a living here. I’m glad I picked this place to open a breakfast diner.

“It’s not about profit for Mr. Lewis. At least, he cares for his tenants.”

Grandma May snickered.

Half the block belonged to Duncan. Yet, the other tenants had no clue who Duncan was, much less be under Duncan’s protection.

Grandma May knew that for a fact, but she did not say it out loud.

Duncan and Liberty did not have the hots for each other yet.

Grandma May intended to observe without giving her two cents.

Duncan returned to his office and called his best friend to complain. He said, “What’s your nana up to, Zachary? The old lady can fight. Heck, she still got it. She can handle the two women herself. Why did she need my help?”

“Can you explain further? I have no idea what you’re talking about. Why did my nana call you? Who did you meet?”

Zachary was confused.

“Your sister-in-law’s former mother-in-law and sister-in-law went to the diner to cause a scene. Your nana called me for help. Zachary, I have the feeling that your nana is possessed by my granny. I get this weird feeling when she looks at me.”

Zachary finally got the whole story.

His nana must have caught on to something and was trying to sound Duncan out.

Zachary uttered nonchalantly, “You can send some of the men to help when Nana called. What? Did you ditch your work to help my sister-in-law chase away two women?”

“It’s not just me. I gathered a dozen of my office’s security guards and headed there, all guns blazing.”

Having the scenario in mind. Zachary answered with a smile, “That’s a bit of an overkill, don’t you think?”

### **Chapter 985 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Duncan replied nonplussed, “What’s your nana trying to do, Zachary? Does she think that I have feelings for Liberty? I honestly am fond of Sonny. That’s all.”

Zachary believed his best friend’s eagerness to explain was a dead giveaway.

His nana had a good eye for this kind of stuff.

Nana would not put the feelers out to Duncan if Duncan was not interested in his sister-in-law that way.

In the past, Zachary noticed that fate tended to draw Duncan and Liberty together.

Wiltspoon was a bustling major city. Yet, the pair kept bumping into each other. If that was not fate, then what was it?

“Hmmm... I adore Sonny too. It’s your business whether you like my sister-in-law or not. It’s not my problem either, but I hope you only take a liking to Sonny. I don’t want you hanging around the diner because of Sonny’s mother.”

Since Duncan was Zachary’s best friend, Zachary knew him well. Duncan would not make a good couple with his sister-in-law, mainly because of Mrs. Lewis.

Liberty was a divorcee. Mrs. Lewis would not take kindly to Liberty even if Liberty was single too.

“Of course, it’s all for Sonny,” Duncan added.

“I’m really fond of the child. Why do you all think I’m interested in Liberty?”

Even if he showed Liberty some concern, it was only because she was Sonny’s mother.

“Zachary, tell your nana not to play matchmaker for me.”

Zachary answered with a smile, “Is my nana a cupid? You all seem afraid that she might set her sights on you guys. Don’t worry. Nana has her plates filled with all her grandsons. She doesn’t have time for her grandson’s best friends yet.

“Mr. Young–Johnson asked me to hook Mr. Johnson up with some girl. Otherwise, I wouldn’t meddle in his business. I mean, Nana got me the girl. That was why Mr. Young–Johnson sought help from Nana. I think Nana should open her own dating agency to introduce girls to all the eligible bachelors like you.”

Grandma May would make it huge in that industry.

If she could make it happen for an eligible bachelor in his thirties like Duncan, the

Lewis would spare no expenses and reward Grandma May handsomely.

Duncan fell silent before uttering, “Grandma May is so young at heart. Her stunt today scared the hell out of me.”

He dared not look Grandma May in the eye. He kept getting this strange feeling of guilt.

“Alright now. That’s all I want to talk about. It’s just to vent. Dinner tonight?”

“No. My wife will be delivering me a packed dinner. I have had an upset tummy lately, so she’s taking care of my three meals. She’s nursing me back to health.”

Detecting the bragging in Zachary’s tone, Duncan quietly ended the call.

So what if Zachary had a wife?

Duncan could marry a wife if he wanted to. Zachary was acting as if the rest of them could not get a wife.

Zachary believed he had bragging rights since he had a wife.

Before Jim delivered his dinner, Zachary left work at a little past four o’clock. Surrounded by his team of security, Zachary arrived at Wiltspoon School.

John’s car was parked outside the shop. All four of his tires were flat. Anyone who was dropping in the shop or passing by would notice the car.

While John wanted to call a tow truck to remove his car, he could not get it done in broad daylight in case Serenity gave him a piece of her mind.

He wanted to wait until her shop was closed before calling a tow truck and getting his tires changed.

Elisa was there by the time Zachary arrived at the bookshop.

“You’re here, Elisa.”

Zachary felt a little less awkward with Elisa now that they broke the ice as cousins–in- law.

## **Chapter 986 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Zachary did not have mixed feelings about it.



Sure, Elisa was younger than him by a few years, but she was Serenity's older cousin, so he should not be awkward about acknowledging Elisa as the older cousin-in-law.

"Yeah, I came to pick Seren up. Did you skip work to come here?"

Zachary replied in a husky voice, "I left early after finishing my work. No one will say anything."

Elisa pursed her lips. Zachary was the boss of York Corporation, so whatever he said goes. No one would say anything even if he skipped out on work for a whole month, much less the occasional early dismissals.

"Mr. York is a busy, busy man, but he has nothing to do when Seren is at stake," Elisa teased.

Zachary never had time to meet Elisa in the past. Now Elisa found out that it was not that he did not have the time—he simply was not interested in her.

He would make time for Elisa no matter how busy Zachary was if he truly liked her.

With that registering in her mind, Elisa saw the light.

Zachary was a brilliant man, but she was no less a woman either. Only, she was not the woman for Zachary.

It did not matter. There were a lot of fish in the sea anyway. One day, she would find the right fish for her.

"Where's Seren?"

"She said your stomach has been acting up recently, so she wanted to watch your nutrition intake. She made you an early dinner to deliver to you later, but you showed up here instead. At least she doesn't have to make the trip. Hang on. I'll call Seren over. Can't you bring a little something when you visit? I can't believe you came empty-handed. Where are your manners?"

Zachary was speechless.

Elisa found it amusing that she stumped Zachary. Only Serenity, who did not care about formalities, could get used to Zachary.

Jasmine got up and went into the kitchen to take over as the cook, so Serenity could attend to Zachary.

"You're finished with work early, Zachary. I have the stew over the stove, but it should be ready soon."

With Serenity emerging from the kitchen, Zachary breathed a sigh of relief at the sight of his wife.

Truth be told, Zachary felt the pressure to get along with Elisa. He was too proud to kiss up to Elisa. At the same time, Zachary did not want to be nasty to Elisa in case the latter would tell on him to Serenity.

"Seren, have a talk with Zachary. I'll get in the kitchen to see if I can help out."

Refusing to be the third wheel, Elisa planned to take cover in the kitchen.

Prior to leaving, she leaned against Serenity's ear and whispered, "Zachary really loves you. Stop putting up a front and cherish him. You'll become the happiest woman in Wiltspoon."

Since Zachary quit being awkward around her and acknowledged her as a cousin-in-law, Elisa was glad to put in a good word for him.

Elisa soon turned on her heel and offered her help in the kitchen. Though, an heiress like her could not be of much help. She took up some space in the kitchen while watching Jasmine and Mrs. Lane make dinner.

Once Elisa was gone, Zachary nervously asked Serenity, "What did she say to you? Is it something bad about me?"

Serenity moved a chair over for him to sit down. She went behind the cash register to move her crafting tools aside, clearing the countertop.

"Elisa said that you're a brilliant man. She told me to cherish you. Apparently, I'll regret it if I pass up on you. Don't always assume the worst of Elisa. Honestly, she never said a bad thing about you to me."

Before the couple kissed and made up, Elisa had been advocating for Zachary.

The way Elisa put it, Zachary must be an outstanding man since someone of high standards like her ogled over Zachary for years. Serenity could trust him for the rest of her life.

As for Zachary's actions of withholding his identity, Elisa told Serenity to stay mad but only for a couple of days as Serenity would regret it someday for taking things too far.

#### **Chapter 987 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Elisa found it a shame that she could not become the love of Zachary's life. However, she was comfortable with Zachary being her cousin-in-law and wished Serenity nothing but happiness.

Judging by the shimmer in his dark eyes, Zachary was taken by surprise.

He thought Elisa would take the chance to discredit him in front of Serenity.

Poor Elisa. Zachary totally had her misjudged.

"Is the car outside with the flat tires John's?"

"Yes."

Pulling out his phone, Zachary said, "I'll call the traffic police to tow the car. It's parked there, obstructing traffic."

"He secretly came by twice to check on the car. I guess he's waiting until I'm not around to get the tow truck to come around." There was sarcasm in Serenity's tone. "He's acting like a thief."

"That reminds me. I need to tell you that your cousin has made an appointment for surgery with a plastic surgeon. What looks do you think she should go by?"

Serenity wickedly uttered, "She wants to resemble me and take my place. Since she likes being someone else, she can go under the knife and look like my oldest cousin. She's Mike's sister, and she's married."

She wanted to see how her relatives would react when Harriet had all the hallmarks of Mike's sister. What would her oldest cousin and her husband do when they found out? It would turn the Hunt family upside down.

"What is your oldest cousin's name? I can let Josh know, so he can look into it. We can get the Harriet girl to look like Mike's sister if we get a picture of her face."

With Serenity revealing her oldest cousin's name to Zachary, Zachary immediately texted Josh. [Get that Harriet girl to look like this woman.]

Josh replied with a voice note. "Zachary, did you leave work early again?"

Zachary spoke in a matter-of-factly manner, "Yes, I left work early. Do you have a problem with that? I thought you all would be happy about it."

Josh was speechless.

Everybody celebrated when Zachary was not in the office, but not Josh. He wanted to get off work early to spend time with Jasmine too.

Of course, Josh was happy for Zachary that he managed to make peace with his wife. The storm was finally over.

"Are you free two days later?" Serenity asked Zachary.

"What's the matter?"

Zachary stared intently at Serenity. "Tell me if you need anything at all. I'm always free for you."

"You don't have work during the weekend. Come with me to my hometown. I'm going to get bricks and gravel, one truck each, delivered to my parents' house. The trucks will be unloaded in front of my parents' home to put the word out that my sister and I are coming back to renovate the house."

Before Zachary could say anything, Serenity added. "Nana said that my granddad and relatives have been stalking them. These people have no shame and know no bounds. They think we're no threat to them now that they lost their businesses and jobs.

"Well, we'll start with my parents' home then. My sister and I talked it through, and we planned to take back our house after the new year. With the word out, I can guarantee that my granddad and the others will rush back.

"They can't get anything out of me. They probably won't let go of the house left behind by my parents. At least by us doing so, they will head back to our hometown. It's time to take this to the court since we're way past reconciliation."

The Hunts had crossed the line far too many times. Serenity had been figuring out a way to divert their attention elsewhere, and her parents' home came to mind. She decided to start with the house. It was high time she took the legal route anyway.

Zachary's dark eyes glistened as he believed Serenity's plan would work. It would also solve the issue with the house too.

“Alright, I’ll go with you to your hometown on the weekend. It’s been a while since you visited your parents’ grave. I can pay your parents’ a visit with you and your sister this year too.”

### **Chapter 988 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

The Hunts had moved the graves of Zachary’s parents—in-law elsewhere, and Serenity and her sister had no idea of the location. The Hunt family’s intention was to stop the sisters from visiting the graves while pushing John to pay respects to Serenity’s parents as their son. John could then inherit the property from Serenity’s parents.

The mention of her parents put Serenity in low spirits.

Holding her hands, Zachary soothed Serenity, “Your parents in heaven will be happy to see you and your sister doing well in life.”

“I’ll take back everything that belongs to my parents!”

“You got me. Go and get them. I will hire the best lawyers to fight the case. We won’t let them win!”

Serenity gave a firm nod.

“Ahem.”

Clearing her throat, Elisa interrupted the couple.

Elisa drew close as the couple watched on.

“Seren, my mom called and told you to come home with me. We can start getting ourselves ready for the event.”

She then turned to Zachary. “Seren made you an early dinner. The food is ready now. Do you want to have it here, or have it to go?”

Zachary looked at Serenity.

He hoped Serenity could stay with him.

“Have dinner before you leave. I’ll sit with you.”

Serenity knew her man well. His appetite was better when she stuck around.

She personally cooked him three meals a day to nurse him back to health.

“We usually won’t eat much during the event, so we should have a little something before we go too.” Having found herself an excuse, Elisa set the table up and grabbed a cloth to wipe the table. “You’re going to your hometown on the weekend, Seren. Do you mind if my mom and I tag along?”

“I want to see where Aunt Lisa used to live. I bet my mom would love to see that too.

She has been wanting to check out your hometown and meet Aunt Lisa’s adoptive parents.”

After her passing, Aunt Lisa’s adoptive parents took away a chunk of the insurance money and stopped any contact with Serenity and Liberty. It was clear that they were cutting ties with Serenity and Liberty. However, it did not change the fact that they raised Aunt Lisa.

Mrs. Stone wanted to know about her sister's childhood, and the only way of getting that information was through her sister's adoptive parents.

No matter what, Mrs. Stone was grateful to her sister's adoptive parents.

If it were not for them, her sister might not make it to adulthood and would not leave behind two nieces as a consolation for Mrs. Stone who had been in search of her sister.

"Of course, I don't mind. Aunt Audrey mentioned that she wanted to go back to my hometown with me and visit my mom's grave... I've just been busy over the new year, so I haven't made it happen."

It was not too long after New Year's when she found out about Zachary. The fight between the couple became a cause of concern to the people around them. The plans to go back to the hometown had since been delayed.

Elisa then said, "I heard what you said to Zachary. It's best to solve the property issue as soon as possible. Always remember to ask us if you need anything."

"Don't worry. I will be forthcoming when I need help with anything."

Elisa scoffed and replied, "That's what you always say, but you never include me in anything. You always charge ahead without me."

She could never forget the time Serenity brought a group to wreck Hank's home. Jasmine asked Serenity if Elisa should come along, but Serenity never bothered to mention it to her.

Elisa missed out on the most exciting thing ever!

### **Chapter 989 | [Serenity & Zachary]**

Serenity chuckled and went ahead to give Elisa a hug. She settled Elisa down, "Don't be mad, Elisa. I won't let you miss out on the next fun."

"Don't hold me. Your man is glaring at me."

Nudging Serenity away, Elisa teased her before turning around to bring the food out of the kitchen.

With Serenity looking at her man, Zachary answered in a stiff voice, "Even if she's a woman, I mind that you hug her. You can hold me if you want to hold anyone."

Leaning in, Serenity quickly gave him a smooch on the face and pinched his cheek." Alright, alright. I'll only cuddle with you from now on. Go and wash your hands. I have to get to my aunt's place once you're well-fed."

Zachary whined like a man who was not getting any action. "I have nothing to do, and yet you won't let me go with you. We have not attended an event together since we got married."

Serenity looked askance at him and asked, "And whose fault is that?"

Zachary shut up right away. It was his fault and his problem.

They would have attended social meetings together as a couple a long time ago if he had not hidden his identity from her. Zachary would have her by his side for social and business events, unlike now where he was ditched at home while she worked the social mingling.

Despite Zachary's resentment, he had to watch his wife get into Elisa's car and leave with the wind. Alas, he was left behind.

Zachary stood outside the bookshop for a long time before saying, "I get the feeling that I've just been ditched by the missus, Mrs. Lane."

Standing not too far away, Mrs. Lane replied, "Sir, everything the missus is doing now is for you. You should be happy."

Serenity was close to Mrs. Lane. After Zachary came clean about who he was, Sam gave it some thought and decided to let Mrs. Lane continue her employment with Serenity.

"I don't mind it at all." Zachary knew of his wife's concern, but her upbringing did not matter to him.

To him, Serenity was good enough.

So what if she came from a poor family? Everybody was poor once. Not everybody was born in a big city.

"But the missus cares about it. She's willing to learn and adapt to your circle because she loves you. The road ahead is long for you both, and it's not going to be easy. The missus wants to learn to stand by your side.

"We should give our full support to the missus."

It was not easy to be a wife to a wealthy family. There were pressure and responsibilities that came with being Mrs. York.

The missus was motivated to learn for Mr. Zachary. With her trying to be a competent wife, it could only mean that the missus loved Mr. Zachary. Otherwise, who would be willing to change themselves for someone else?

"I'm concerned that she might not get used to it. The last thing I want is her asking for a divorce, quoting that we're not compatible."

Mrs. Lane replied, "You should have faith in yourself and the missus, sir."

After a long silence, Zachary gave an affirmative answer and added, "She can kill me if she wants to be free from me. The only way she can be single is when she becomes a widow."

Mrs. Lane was speechless.

It was a good thing the missus had left. Otherwise, Mr. Zachary's tyrannical words might start another fight.

Zachary only left with his security detail once he had John's car towed away by traffic police.

Back at the Stones' residence, Serenity finally put on a gown chosen by her picky aunt. Audrey personally selected Serenity's wardrobe.

## Chapter 990 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity thought she could just put on whatever.

However, Audrey said they had to dress for the occasion.

Tonight's event was for the upper middle class. Audrey initially had no intention of attending the social meeting, but since Serenity asked for a favor, she thought it would be perfect for Serenity to start off with. Hence, she told the host that she would be attending for Serenity to ease into the circle.

Since it was not an event among the upper crust, there was no need to be overly dressy. Audrey did not pick out the fanciest gown for Serenity.

Serenity had a slim figure and a great face. She carried herself with grace too. Any gown would bring out her natural beauty.

With Serenity coming out in the gown, Audrey complimented, "Seren, you just have that refined air about you. You have a great figure that works nicely with the dress. It would be perfect if you don't walk too quickly."

Serenity was trained in the art of self-defense. Although she was endowed with natural beauty, she walked and carried out tasks like a boss. The way she walked was definitely faster than any lady could keep up.

"Aunt Audrey, I can stamp someone with these heels."

Since Serenity always had either sneakers or flats on, it was easy for her to move around. She was not used to wearing high heels. The most she would do was put on a pair of kitten heels whenever she attended social gatherings in the higher society with Jasmine and Mrs. Sox. She rarely ever wore high heels.

"I'll give you my full support if you go ahead with investing in some project or business with Elisa. It won't bother me that you take things fast, but tonight, you must be a lady. Pace yourself. I could barely keep up with you when we went shopping the other day."

Rosiness crept onto Serenity's cheeks.

Elisa brought out the killer stilettos for Serenity tonight.

Intimidated by the stilettos, Serenity asked, "Aunt Audrey, Elisa, I'm scared I won't be able to walk in those heels. The heels are so high and thin. Will the heels break when I run?"

Audrey was rendered speechless.

Elisa remarked with a smile, "No one is asking you to run in those heels."

Serenity stole a glance at her aunt's face before putting on the stilettos. Grabbing Elisa's hand, she stood up and took a few steps. She was tempted to kick the stilettos off her feet.

Oh, how she longed for her house loafers.

“Wear these heels down the stairs and walk a few rounds on the front lawn. We can leave when you feel comfortable in them.”

Audrey was so focused on picking outfits and shoes for Serenity the other day that she forgot to let Serenity practice wearing the heels.

Serenity quietly stuck her tongue out. Without defying Aunt Audrey’s orders, she cautiously strutted out of the room.

“I’ll go with Seren, Mom.”

Taking pity on Serenity, Elisa merrily went with her cousin.

Once out of the room, Elisa gave Serenity a sympathetic look as the latter clung to the barrister and walked. Elisa commented, “You asked for it. You could’ve asked anyone for help, but you sought guidance from my mother. My mom is all about etiquette. She could probably work for the Queen. She probably will tell you to start over if you don’t do a good job.”

Serenity was lost for words.

Who else could she look for, if not Aunt Audrey?

If she were to go with Zachary, Zachary would dote on her so much and be cool with her leaving home in her loafers.

“It’s still hours before the event anyway. You can take your time to practice.” Elisa added with a smile, “I’ll be here with you.”