

Gu Lingfei 71

Gu Lingfei: Married At First Sight Chapter 71

In a show of support, Jasmine circled Serenity's new ride and complimented, "Not bad. How much was it?" "About a hundred thousand bucks." "Was it paid in full or are you taking up a loan?" "My man made the full payment." Jasmine beamed and patted her best friend's shoulder. "Wow, Serenity.

It did not take long for you to bag that man and get him to buy you a car.

"I knew you had it in you even though you didn't know each other before the marriage. Mr. York must be blind if he didn't fall for your charms." Serenity was the best in Jasmine's eyes.

Once in the shop, Serenity poured herself a glass of water and chugged down half before replying, "You're crazy.

Zachary found out that Shawn drove me home last night.

We nearly got into a fight because he thought I was cheating on him.

So he felt he did me wrong after I cleared the air and gave me a car as an apology." Jasmine, "... Here she was, imagining a Lifetime movie out of Serenity's life when reality gave her a rude awakening.

"Jasmine, I'll be honest about Zachary and I since we're close. I didn't even tell my sister.

Truth is, Zachary gave me a contract to sign after we met the families on Saturday.

"The contract was in his favor. He seemed to have a misconception that I was out to get his money. It was written in the contract that we'd have an amicable separation if we didn't develop feelings for each other in the next six months.

He'd transfer the ownership of the house and car to me as part of the divorce settlement.

I guess that's the damage to losing my youth.

"He's pretty generous on the matter.

The house is all paid for and a prenuptial property.

I simply moved in with my bags.

I didn't want to take what wasn't mine, but since he had drafted the terms on the contract, I just let him be and signed it.

Still, I don't intend to accept anything that's his.

I'll move out the same way I move in when the divorce happens.

"I told him I'd pay him back when we were getting the car.

He didn't seem too pleased about it and just left me.

Well, he can be unhappy all he wants.

I better be clear on this before things get ugly during the divorce.” Jasmine, “...” A while later, Jasmine poked her best friend on the forehead and uttered.

“What’s in that head of yours, Serenity ? Mr. York said you’ll divorce if you don’t fall in love with each other within the time frame.

Why don’t you give it a go then? “Mr. York tends to keep to himself, so I bet you don’t get much out of him. Men like that are softies.

I believe you’ll have a happy ending if you can snag him.

Do you think divorces are fun? Did you talk about the divorce with Mr.

York just now?” Serenity remained silent.

Jasmine knew Serenity too well that the silence was her answer.

nir Caught between laughter and tears, Jasmine remarked, “ Well, don’t blame Mr. York for ditching you.

Although he bought you a car as an apology, he had changed his attitude toward you for the better.

Otherwise, he could’ve put the whole thing behind by saying sorry or giving you a bunch of worthless flowers.

Why bother splurging on a car?» Serenity fell silent for a bit before answering, “I don’t want to owe him even though we’re married.

It’s not like we have feelings for each other.

But, I must admit that he’s better than my brother-in-law.

At the very least, he paid for the living expenses and didn’t make me go Dutch.

“I have the means to get my own car.

I’m going to wire him the money later or I won’t feel comfortable taking the car.

It’s like this car is a ticking time bomb, threatening to blow up in my face one day.” Jasmine gave it a thought.

“Sounds good.

You’re an independent woman.

Since Mr. York suspected you had a motive, you could prove to him that you’re not after his money.” It would take time to get to know a person well.

Free-spirited as she was, Serenity quickly put the matter behind her.

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Zachary felt brushed off. He pulled a long face the entire afternoon, leaving everyone at York Corporation on tenterhooks. It was a mystery who stepped on the toes of the stone-faced CEO.

As if his usual aloof demeanor was not enough, the tensed lines running along his chiseled face only made him scarier.

Even Callum and Josh refrained from hanging around Zachary.

Despite feeling exasperated, Zachary kept his promise and waited for Serenity at the shop after work.

Since Serenity was busy, he stepped into the shop to help out behind the cash register.

However, the combination of his stern outlook, his quiet presence, and his towering build scared the students away from the cash register.

The students could only muster the courage to approach Serenity and Jasmine.

Serenity said to him point-blank, "I'll take over from here, Mr. York." Tilting his head, Zachary stared into Serenity's eyes with utmost profundity.

It took a while before he got up with a sour face and walked around the cash register to head outside the shop and stand like an ice sculpture.

It was hard not to notice as Zachary stood there, emanating ominous vibes to stay away.

Now the issue was not that no one came to him to make payment, but no one dared to set foot into the shop other than the people who were already there.

Serenity, "... " Realizing this, Jasmine drew close and whispered in her best friend's ear, "Serenity, take Mr. York away now. I can handle the shop on my own. His presence at the entrance is causing our sales to plummet."

"Appreciate it, Jas." Serenity helplessly got up and walked out.

She told Zachary, "Come on." Zachary stood still, refusing to move.

It was only when Serenity tried to pull him away that he hissed through clenched teeth, "You think I'm no help!" Not knowing what to think, Serenity reached out and grabbed his arm.

"I don't think so. It's not a job for you, that's all. The students are afraid of you. They're more terrified to see you than their teachers." She dragged him into the car.

"I'll take the new car home, and then you can drive us to my sister's." Zachary did not voice an opinion, quietly agreeing to her plan.

He felt a little better.

Serenity was right.

As the heir of the Yorks, Zachary had never dabbled in the service sector.

His birth as the firstborn had decided his fate to take over the family businesses and affairs.

Zachary assumed his position as the CEO of York Corporation the moment he came of age and had the capability to carry on the business.

Being at the top only added an air of aloofness to him.

Apart from a few close executives , everyone else at York Corporation shied away from him.

It was extraordinary that Serenity did not hold his stoic nature against him when they signed the papers minutes after they had just met.

Hmm...

He should really thank Serenity for not dismissing him.

Zachary would have been humiliated if Serenity shunned him when he was willing to get a marriage license with her.

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By the time Serenity parked her sweet new ride and got into Zachary's car, Zachary adopted a milder tone. He asked her, "This will be the first time I have dinner at your sister's.

I should bring her a gift.

What do your sister and brother-in-law like?" Serenity buckled up.

"Get a toy for Sonny. My brother-in law smokes, so get him a pack or two. We can just bring some fruit."

"Right," Zachary replied.

As the car drove out of Brynfield, he asked his wife, "Where should we get the stuff?" "There's a store not too far from here. We'll make a pit stop and get everything we need there. Mr. York, have you lived here before I moved in? I've noticed you don't seem familiar with the vicinity." Zachary took the time to pause before replying, "I bought this house ages ago, but I let it sit because I was staying with my parents. I thought I shouldn't take up space at my family's home after we got married, so I moved into this house."

"Does your family have a big house?"

Since Zachary rarely brought up his family situation, Serenity took little interest in getting to know him.

Now that Serenity picked up on his misconception and precaution toward her, Serenity would rather stay out of his personal affairs.

"Our one big family is staying in the house under Nana and Gramps' name." Zachary was not lying about that.

The Yorks' estate was registered to Nana and Gramps.

After Gramps passed away, Nana urged Zachary's dad to transfer the estate ownership to Zachary's dad and uncles.

The estate was jointly owned by the family anyway.

Nevertheless, Liam had not gone through with the ownership transfer yet.

Zachary believed his dad wanted the house passed straight down to Nana's grandchildren to save the family from cutting through red tape.

Serenity took it that the Yorks were a middle-class family so the whole family was living together under one roof.

Grandma May did mention before that she loved having her children and grandchildren around.

Nana probably did not want the family to break up and live in different parts of the city.

“I’ll take you there at a later date.” Zachary proposed without Serenity even asking.

She was his wife in the eyes of the law.

Zachary ought to show her around the family home, one way or another.

The family estate had multiple buildings across the land.

Some of the buildings were for the employees.

Zachary could use one of the employees’ residences to fool Serenity if this were to happen before his identity reveal.

“Give me the heads – up when you want to visit your family home. I need to prepare myself for it.” Zachary curled his lips but quickly pressed his lips together in case Serenity caught him smiling.

“Sure.” All that talk cut the journey short.

They soon arrived at the store Serenity mentioned.

The couple went in empty-handed and came out with Zachary’s arms full of shopping bags.

Serenity said to not overdo the shopping, but Zachary wanted to make it extra special since it was his first visit to her sister’s place.

While he did not mind being labeled cheap, Zachary did not want people to think that Serenity made a poor choice by marrying him.

Ring, ring, ring...

With Serenity’s phone ringing, she thought it was Liberty.

Serenity pulled out her phone and saw that it was another unidentified number.

She had a feeling that it was a call from the Hunts. She had already blocked cousin Mike’s number.

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“Are you going to take the call?” Zachary asked as he caught his wife staring at her phone when he entered the car after loading the shopping bags in.

“It might be my money-hungry relatives.” “You’ll know who it is when you pick up the call.

You can’t run forever.

Don’t fear them.

You got me.” With him around, he would have her back no matter what.

Serenity was embraced by warm tingles when Zachary said he got her.

The guy might have many flaws, but similarly, she was not perfect either.

Zachary had gone above and beyond for her even though they got into the marriage knowing nothing about each other.

That scored Zachary another brownie point in Serenity's books.

Serenity accepted the call from the unidentified number.

"Serenity, it's me.

Granddad." A slightly unfamiliar voice resounded with command over the phone.

Despite losing contact with the family back in hometown, Serenity identified the voice to be Granddad's.

Serenity hummed a response, waiting for Granddad to go on.

"Mike called you in the afternoon to tell you that your Grandmom is sick and needs to be admitted into a hospital in the city.

You were supposed to make an appointment with a specialist, but you didn't. We came this far only to be told to redo the examination before Grandmom could be admitted since we didn't have an appointment.

"Where are you and your sister staying? We couldn't find you at your last address.

The people staying there said you moved away a long time ago.

Couldn't you let your family know beforehand? Do you have any respect for your family? "A lot of people have come along on this trip, so we don't have a place to stay.

Hurry up and text us your current address.

We need accommodation for two days.

Get cooking now.

We haven't had dinner.

You could also wire me cash if you think we might be a bother in your house.

We can stay at the hotel." Serenity saw a rush of blood to her head.

Refusing to let his words get the better of her, Serenity asked with a flat voice, "How did you get here? By bus or on your own?" "Your cousins took us in their cars.

Speaking of which, don't forget to pay for your cousin's gas.

The trip cost a lot." "Oh, so your precious children and grandchildren are talking about, Serenity? Just because you and your sister have it good in the city, it doesn't give you the right to say that about your family.

penniless and strapped for cash?" "What are you

Well, excuse me.

You must be fairly disappointed because your cousins are successful in their careers.

Your cousin, John, has an annual income of a million..." Serenity cut Granddad off with a tap on the screen.

She knew Granddad had a big mouth.

The latter would brag about every tiny achievement of his children and grandchildren so the world would know how great his offspring was.

It stroked his ego, that was for sure.

Despite having successful children and grandchildren like John who made a million a year, Granddad had the nerve to get Serenity to pay for the hotel and gas.

Did they take her for a pushover? Granddad's eyes widened as he was interrupted from blowing his horn, and rage quickly took over.

Stopping himself from smashing the phone, Granddad lashed out, "Serenity, that b*tch, hung up on me!" Mike said, "She probably blocked my number." "Does she think she doesn't have to pay by refusing the call? Do you know where the sisters are working? Make them show up and cough out the money for your grandmom's medical fees.

We'll need some funds to stay here and take care of her.

Get the sisters to pay for that 100." Mike shook his head.

"I don't know, but I have a way to make them come looking for us and pay up." As ruthlessness flashed past his eyes, Mike decided to use his connections to teach the sisters a lesson.

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Serenity knew her money-driven relatives were not going to stop there. Nevertheless, the family had no idea where the sisters were living.

Since it was not easy to scour the whole city for her and Liberty's whereabouts, Serenity quickly put the matter behind her so she could enjoy a nice dinner at her sister's.

Having been listening to the conversation the whole time, Zachary did not take the matter lightly.

He had instructed Josh to get a file on the Hunts' and trust that he would hear back soon.

The couple arrived at Liberty's apartment and ran into Liberty who was taking out the trash downstairs.

"Liberty." Happy to see her sister, Serenity darted toward Liberty.

"You're here, Seren." The fatigue across Liberty's face was swept away at the sight of her sister and brother-in-law.

With Zachary retrieving bags of gifts from the car, Liberty whined, "We're family."

You shouldn't have to get us anything." "It's only some fruit, Liberty." Taken in by Zachary's kind gesture, Liberty was warming up to her honest and courteous brother-in-law.

Although a man of few words, Zachary was attentive and considerate toward Serenity.

Serenity would probably be stumped to find out what Liberty thought about Zachary.

"Is Hank back yet?" Serenity affectionately held Liberty's arm.

"Where's Sonny?" "Hank is on the way home.

He should be here soon.

Sonny's upstairs.

My in-laws are here too.

They're watching over Sonny so I can take the trash out." Hearing that Liberty's in-laws were heretoo, Serenity furrowed her sleek brows without saying a word.

There were certain things the sisters could keep between themselves.

There was no need to say it in front of Zachary.

SI The Browns were aware that Serenity had gotten married.

Hank's sister, Chelsea , was here to inform Liberty that she would be sending her children to a school in the city.

The children would be staying with Liberty so she could keep an eye on them.

Since Liberty was already a stay-at home- mom, a few more children would not hurt.

In fact, it had always been Chelsea's plan, but Hank did not have enough room to accommodate her children.

Chelsea's daughter was eleven this year and entering junior high in the upcoming school year while her son was ten.

Both her daughter and son certainly could not share a room.

Chelsea's youngest son was three years old and could only fall asleep in the company of adults.

Now that Serenity had married and moved out, Hank's place had an extra room for Chelsea's two kids.

It was more than once that Chelsea moaned to Hank about Serenity living on Hank's property.

Hank had no obligation to provide shelter for Serenity.

Chelsea resented Serenity for occupying a room that could have been for her children instead.

Partial to his family, Hank started to find Serenity an eyesore.

He started to pick fights with his wife and managed to force Serenity out of the house.

Liberty beckoned Serenity and Zachary to come up to the apartment.

They had just stepped out of the elevator when Liberty overheard her son's cries.

"Sonny's crying." Serenity was more anxious than Liberty.

The latter then whipped out her house keys and opened the door, saying, "The children must be fighting over a toy." Chelsea's youngest son was older than Sonny by a year.

The two boys often fought over toys when they played together.

-- Liberty walked into the house to Sonny running over with his favorite toy, asking for hugs.

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Chelsea's youngest son was right behind Sonny, wailing and demanding, "I want the plane Sonny got." Gripping the toy plane against his chest, Sonny nervously looked back at his cousin and murmured, "Huggies, Mama.

Huggies, Mama." Liberty picked her son up.

"Liberty, tell Sonny to give the plane to my son.

We're your guests.

Sonny should be nice to my son." Chelsea came over and wiped away her son's tears before standing up to grab the toy plane from Sonny.

Seeing that Sonny refused to let go, Chelsea was about to snatch the toy right out of Sonny's hand when she caught a glimpse of Serenity and her husband.

Zachary had his hands full with bags.

She immediately withdrew her arms and greeted Serenity with a smile.

"Long time no see, Serenity.

Is this your husband? Why, he's a handsome and striking man, isn't he?" Not only was the man attractive, but he also carried himself with a presence and grace that even Hank, despite being in a managerial position, could not beat.

Chelsea was envious of Serenity.

2/4 "Long time no see, Chelsea.

This is my husband, Zachary." Chelsea exchanged greetings with Zachary.

Aloof as ever, Zachary gave a nod without a word.

Zachary took an instant dislike to Chelsea after witnessing the woman snatching Sonny's toy for her son.

Sonny was younger than his cousin, and most importantly, the toy belonged to him.

Why should Sonny give in to his cousin's demand? As someone who has his people's best interest at heart, Zachary was not going to stand by and let one of his own get the short end of the stick.

Zachary adored the little man and could not bear to put Sonny in that position.

Liberty asked Serenity and Zachary to come in as Chelsea picked up her son.

Her son must be spoiled silly because he was still fussing over Sonny's toy.

Hank's parents were all smiles, seeing that Serenity and her husband came bearing gifts.

They were not fond of Serenity before, but those feelings changed now that the latter was married and had moved out.

Mr.

and Mrs.

Brown heard that Serenity's husband owned a house at Brynfield debt-free and was in a senior position in a major company.

These were good enough reasons to get on Serenity's good side.

Everybody took a seat.

Zachary put the shopping bags on the coffee table.

Spotting a new toy among other stuff, Chelsea opened the shopping bag and took out a new toy set to give to her son.

She said, "Don't cry, bubs.

Let's play with the new toy.

"We don't like Sonny's old toy, do we?" Zachary clenched his jawline and gave Chelsea a grimacing look as tension rose in the room.

Mr.

Brown nudged his wife, hinting her to hold down their daughter from going too far.

Serenity's husband brought these new toys for Sonny.

Chelsea was only embarrassing herself for claiming things without permission.

Feeling awkward, Chelsea's husband, George Repton, got up immediately to grab the new toy set from his son and put it back on the coffee table.

George carried his son and settled him down.

"Be a good boy now, bubs.

I'll get you a new toy later." Chelsea could not read the room to save her life.

Zachary blurted, "Let him play with the toy.

I bought a lot of new toys for Sonny.

He won't be missing that." Having noticed the dirty hands of the Repton's child, Zachary regarded the toy that was touched as soiled and tainted.

Hence, the kid could have the toy for all he cared.

He gestured to Serenity to give the new toy set to the Repton kid.

Not wanting to make things harder for Liberty than they already were, Serenity picked up the toy and gave it to Chelsea's son.

Then, Serenity noticed the little guy's soiled hands and understood the reason behind Zachary's sudden generosity.

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' Since Zachary was a bit of a germaphobe , the kid's dirty hands on the new toy did not sit well with him.

That was why he was generous to give away the new toy.

Now that the two young ones got over their whining, the negative vibe among the adults subsided.

Although Zachary said nothing, the Browns got the hint from his eyes and expression to never rub him the wrong way.

Mrs. Brown already had the impression that Serenity was bad news, but her man meant business too.

She was aware of Liberty's relationship with Serenity and her son's deeds too, so she needed to warn her son against going overboard.

Liberty might have taken an unpaid role as a stay-at-home mom, but she did give the Browns their first grandson, and that should count for something.

Hank soon returned home.

After everybody had a brief rest on the couch, Liberty called them to the dining table as dinner was ready.

Serenity followed her sister to the kitchen to bring out the food.

While there, Serenity noticed a few seafood dishes.

She whispered , "Liberty , Zachary and I can just have your everyday home-cooked meals.

You didn't have to get us seafood." "Your brother-in-law told me to get a lot.

You know Chelsea's family loves seafood, but they wouldn't have it at home since it's expensive.

Ironically, they expect a seafood gourmet every time they come, and I'm talking about the expensive kind.

My mother-in-law is the same when it comes to beef.

“Why should I pay for their meals? I didn’t use the good stuff for lunch and kept it all in the fridge for tonight’s dinner.

I want you and Zachary to enjoy a nice meal.” Liberty only cooked a pot of pasta for her in-law this afternoon and paid no heed to the nasty looks she got in return.

: It was a pleasant dinner for everybody though.

After dinner, Zachary stayed for a little while before making a move.

As his wife, Serenity had to leave with him too.

With the couple gone, Liberty started clearing the dishes of her side of the family to wash in the kitchen.

With the thought of serving dessert to his parents and sister, Hank swung by the fridge to take out the watermelon when he caught sight of the mess in the dining hall.

He raised his voice, “Liberty, why haven’t you cleared the table? Get out here and clean up the place.” Instead of leaving her task at hand, Serenity replied from the kitchen, “You said we’re going halves.

The groceries today make up for the money I used to get the clothes.

We’re even on that front.

“But we should do our part in the house so that it’s fair.

I’ve cleared Serenity and her husband’s, as well as my plates.

The rest is yours and your family’s.

I don’t care whether you do it but you’ll have to use the same plate tomorrow if you don’t clean it up.” The Browns turned their gazes toward Hank.

Mrs. Brown and Chelsea had suggested to Hank to go fifty – fifty with Liberty as Liberty was milking Hank dry.

The women in Hank’s family felt the pinch in his wallet for his sake.

Now that the couple started going Dutch, Liberty was expecting the same with household affairs.

Seeing red, Hank grabbed a fruit knife and charged into the kitchen but his mother held him back.

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“Liberty, Hank has to go to work every day to earn for you and Sonny. His job can be busy and tiring. As his wife, you should be taking care of him. How can you leave the house chores to him? .: “Hank only mentioned going halves so you don’t overspend the money.

Why should you fuss about every little thing with your husband? Hurry up and clear the table.

Don’t make Hank angry.

It’s hard enough he has to bust his *ss out there, so show some understanding.” 1 Chelsea echoed her mom’s thoughts.

“Yeah.

As if you know what that feels like.

All you do is take care of Sonny at home while spending Hank’s money.

You have the cheek to order Hank around.” Liberty left the kitchen and approached the children’s toy motorbike to pick Sonny up.

With a blank face, she replied, “I don’t have a job or a source of income.

I can only rely on Hank because I’m a full-time mom.

Yet, he expects me to pay for my half?! So, what is this? “Fine.

I’ll pay my half, but he must do his share of house chores too.

We’ll go halves in everything.

Didn’t you say I have it easy at home and that I don’t do anything? Well, you get your wish.

I’m not going to do anything so Hank will know the house doesn’t clean itself.

His dirty clothes and socks don’t wash and fold themselves.” Liberty held her son and grabbed her brother – in-law’s gifts before making a beeline into the bedroom.

She slammed the door behind her.

“She’s gone mad!” Livid, Hank banged the fruit knife on the coffee table and rolled up his sleeves with the intention to get into the bedroom and show Liberty who was boss.

“Hank.” Mrs.

Brown pulled her son back.

“What are you trying to do? Sonny is inside.

Don’t scare Sonny.

Wait until Sonny’s asleep before you teach her a lesson.

Also, don’t beat her in visible places.

Serenity will go after you if she sees the bruises.

We got to watch our backs with her husband.” Hank was aware that Zachary worked in a major corporation, but the sisters never gave the name of the company.

Despite Hank’s attempts to befriend Zachary, the latter had always kept his distance from him.

Hank was also a manager in his company, so Zachary’s attitude put him off from playing nice.

Following her mother’s words, Hank started to think Zachary looked down on him.

Flipping his top, he said, " Whatever happens between me and my wife is none of their business! What? Is Serenity going to hit me? Well, they should be the ones watching their backs!" Chelsea added fuel to the fire.

"Hank, Mom's right.

Don't scare Sonny if you're going to teach Liberty a lesson.

You've been nothing but nice to Liberty, but that doesn't seem to be enough for her.

I can't believe she expects you to handle the house chores.

I always give my husband a nice foot rub when he comes home from work.

"While men work toward their career and bring home the bacon, women should be running the household smoothly.

She's not a good wife to make her husband do her work." On the surface, it seemed like Chelsea was calming her brother down, but she was only aggravating the situation.

Chelsea hoped Hank would beat the living daylights out of Liberty right now.

Since his son was young and his mother refused to let him go, Hank had to quit the thought of showing his authority to his wife for now.

"She'll get her punishment when Sonny goes to bed.

All she does is eat and sleep all day.

The pig had the nerve to give me an attitude! She expects me to do the dish?! Ha!" Hank picked up the fruit knife and sliced the watermelon.

Mrs. Brown called her daughter to clean up the mess from dinner.

The mother and daughter returned to the sofa a while later and took a seat.

Chelsea took a slice of watermelon to eat and said to her brother, "Hank, your niece and nephew are entering junior high.

I was thinking of getting them into one of the schools here.

Can they stay with you if I transfer them to an elementary school here for a year or two? It'll be easier to enroll them to a junior high here after that."

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Chelsea added, "Your place is not too far from the school. I believe it's in the catchment area. "Liberty can take care of the two kids, cook, and clean for them.

The boarding expenses..." Hank interrupted her.

"Chelsea, they are my niece and nephew.

Forget the boarding expenses.

I'll get the kids transferred to the school here.

Liberty will do the pickups and drop-offs.

It's not like she has anything else to do anyway." Seeing that Hank did not hesitate to say yes, Chelsea and her husband were over the moon.

Mrs. Brown pointed something out to her son.

"Hank, you should discuss this with Liberty.

She's part of the family too." She then turned her attention to her daughter.

"I heard the kids don't get an automatic placement for the junior highs here.

The parents must live or own a property in the catchment area to get into local schools.

Chelsea, it's not like you're living in the countryside .

It's suburban.

The schools there aren't too bad.

You and your brothers studied there and got to college just fine." Mrs.

Brown believed the location did not matter so long as the children did their due diligence studying.

"Oh, this reminds me.

Hank, how about I named you the parent of the kids or you can transfer the title deed to my name? Once the kids graduate, I'll revert the guardianship to me or the house ownership to you." Mr.

Repton held his son as he helped himself to some watermelon.

He had no comment on the matter.

Hank was quick to sign off on it without a second thought.

Nevertheless, he said, "I'll let Liberty know later.

I call the shots in this family, but Mom's right.

She's part of this family.

Besides, she has to send the kids to and from school, as well as cook for the kids.

I'll need to get her opinion on this.

"I'll call you once we reach a decision, Chelsea.

Don't worry.

I want my niece and nephew to get into the best schools." Ah, the love between siblings.

Hank had a lot of faith in his sister and was willing to help out as much as possible.

Besides, his niece and nephews were not outsiders; they were family.

Chelsea was tickled pink, to say the least.

Switching to a lighter tone, she persuaded Hank, "Don't be mad at Liberty.

It's normal for couples to have fights.

You've been together and in love since college.

For Sonny's sake, just let it go." She was afraid that instigating a fight between the couple would steer Liberty away from cooking and playing.

chauffeur for her kids.

That would foil Chelsea's plan in sending her kids to her brother's.

Chelsea got to lie low when asking for a favor.

Mr. Brown chimed in.

"Hank, your sister's right.

Don't go around talking about beating up your wife.

Sit down and talk things out.

Don't take the violent route.

Look at me and your mom.

We've been married for years, but I've never laid a finger on your mom." Hank grumbled, "It's because my mom is the best.

Liberty can't be compared to mom.

She's getting worse by the day.

She's not contributing anything to the family and thinks she's doing me a favor because she's caring for a child.

I only suggested going halves to save money because she's spending money as if they grow on trees.

In one day, she can spend half of the three thousand bucks I give her for monthly expenses! "Mom and Chelsea proposed the idea to me.

If I don't do that, Liberty won't figure out a way to earn some money or understand the struggles.

It's a challenge to provide for the family.

Yet, here she is, splitting the house chores with me.

Well, she's got another thing coming." "She spent over a thousand in a day!? That's excessive.

You have a mortgage and child to think about.

She could've been a little more considerate since she's relying on you without an income.

Going halves sounds like a good idea.

I'm not saying you shouldn't do that to her." Mr.

Brown took his son's side immediately.

"Desperate times call for desperate measures.

She can take up a part time job while caring for the child.

But don't keep talking about teaching her a lesson.

Marriage is forever.

It hasn't been long since the wedding, and you're already killing each other.

How are you going to survive a lifetime?" Hank pursed his lips and said, "Got it, Dad."

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The family gathered together and enjoyed the watermelon in front of the TV. Soon, the Browns retired to their rooms for the night.

The Browns were sticking around for a few days.

Now that Serenity had moved out, there was an extra room for the whole Brown family to stay.

However, without Serenity helping around the house while Liberty took care of the child, groceries, and cooking, the house did not seem as clean as before.

Before retreating to bed, Chelsea discreetly pulled Hank to a corner and said, "Serenity and her husband brought a lot of stuff tonight.

Liberty was so angry she carried the bags into her room just now.

I took a look inside the bags.

There was some good stuff.

"I saw cigarettes and alcohol.

Give some to your brother-in-law.

Liberty doesn't smoke or drink.

You also don't need the stuff anyway.

Your brother – in-law can't bring himself to get the good cigarette brands.

Ah, Dad hasn't tried that alcohol.

Give the spirit to Dad." Hank burst into laughter.

"Just take what you like, Chelsea.

Give your baby a bath and get to bed.

I'm not working late tomorrow so I will take all of you on a drive." "Alright." Beaming, Chelsea happily went to her room.

Sonny was asleep by the time Hank entered his bedroom.

As she was getting out of the shower, Liberty gave Hank the cold shoulder and sat on her side of the bed to turn in for the night.

"There's something I need to discuss with you, Liberty." Drawing comparisons to Jessica's waistline, Hank stared at Liberty's fleshy figure in disgust.

Hank drew close and took a seat by the bed.

He caressed his son's face with tender eyes.

Regardless of everything, Hank loved his son.

"What do you want?" Liberty's tone was flat.

"My sister wants to send her eldest two to a school here.

They'll be living at our place.

You'll help with the cooking, pickups, and drop-offs.

You have to cook every day anyway, so what are a few extra mouths to feed? "I'll add a thousand dollars to your monthly allowance.

The kids won't take up much of the expenses, so a thousand bucks is more than enough.

"We're in the catchment area for Wiltspoon Wood High.

We can either take guardianship of Chelsea's kids or transfer the title deed to my sister's name.

Once the kids have graduated, the house comes back to my name.

"It's my sister we're talking about.

We can trust her.

There's no concern about her refusing to give back the house." Liberty had kept her resentment bottled up inside the whole night.

She was ready to put the matter behind her and saved herself from another fight with her husband, but Hank's words brought out the worst in her.

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