

Gu Lingfei 861

Chapter 861 | [Serenity & Zachary]

The moment Serenity opened the door, a palm swung toward her. She reacted quickly and caught the hand. It was Jessica.

Jessica thought the person who came to open the door would be Liberty and raised a hand to slap the moment the door opened. She did not expect it to be Serenity instead. Serenity learned kickboxing and had quick reflexes, so she did not get hit.

“It’s you?”

“What are you doing here?”

Jessica saw that it was Serenity.

Serenity shoved Jessica and her hand aside, resulting in her taking a few steps back and creating space between them both.

“Where’s Liberty? Tell her to get out here. She seduced my husband!”

After work, Hank left her behind at the office in a hurry.

Jessica was already furious when the Hunt family came to the company to find Hank and called him brother-in-law.

Hank and Liberty were divorced. How did they get the nerve to call Hank their brother-in-law? Did they want Hank and Liberty to remarry?

Her in-laws thought that way, and so did the Hunt family. Did they think she was dead?

She secretly followed Hank and found out that he had come to look for Liberty.

Only when Hank had left and was far away did she show herself.

Serenity said sarcastically, “My sister dumped your husband. Why would she go back and seduce him? She’s not blind. What? Did the scumbag you snatch from my sister fail to give you a sense of security?”

“Your sister divorced Hank while Hank and I just got our marriage license yesterday. We’re husband and wife now. Your sister no longer has anything to do with him, so she should stay away from him. Why is she meeting him privately behind my back?”

“Is she trying to take revenge on me? She’s deliberately losing weight so she can seduce Hank, right?”

“Pah, who do you think you are? Are you worth my sister going through that effort? Do you think everyone is like you, treating scum as treasure? Putting aside the fact that Hank had an affair, even if he didn’t do anything wrong, my sister will never go back since she divorced.”

A good horse never goes back to the same pasture.

Her sister was most definitely a good horse.

“Let me tell you this, Yates. You’re the one who failed to control your man. My sister didn’t go to you to settle accounts when he came over to disturb her peaceful life, yet you have the nerve to find her instead. Just chop off your man’s legs if you’re capable of it so he can’t come find my sister anymore. My sister will even thank you for saving her ears.”

Serenity’s words infuriated Jessica. She knew in her heart that it was Hank who took the initiative to find Liberty.

Jessica did not mince her words when she was angry. “If your sister doesn’t plan on remarrying Hank, then what is she losing weight for? She knows that Hank divorced her because he was disgusted with her for being fat. She’s losing weight because she wants to remarry him. She wants to regain her figure and seduce my man.”

“Is that supposed to be a joke? There are so many people in this world who want to lose weight. Are they all trying to seduce that scumbag man of yours? You think too highly of that scum. Only you treat him as treasure. In my sister’s eyes, he’s worse than dirt now.

“My sister can lose weight if she wants to. What has that got to do with you? Don’t tell me you’ve lost confidence in yourself, Ms. Yates. Didn’t you think you were the most beautiful mistress in the world? What? Are you having a crisis now just because my sister lost a little weight?

“You’re afraid my sister will be prettier than you after she loses weight, aren’t you? My sister is already prettier than you!”

Chapter 862 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Jessica knew she was being ridiculous. Whatever she was spouting was nonsense.

She was just angry.

In the past, Hank used to say that he would lose his appetite when he came home and saw how fat Liberty was.

After the divorce, Hank kept looking for Liberty, and Liberty kept losing weight. She had lost tens of pounds in just two months but Liberty was still a fat woman if she were to be compared to a supermodel.

However, for an ordinary person, Liberty just looked slightly chubby.

Jessica felt that Hank came looking for Liberty because the latter lost weight and looked much better than when she got divorced.

Liberty walked over.

When Jessica saw her, she looked at Liberty with resentment and fury, and shouted fiercely, “Liberty, I’m not afraid just because you have a rich aunt. I’m not afraid that your brother-in-law is Mr. York either. I’ll tear you apart if you dare seduce my husband.”

Liberty was highly amused and said, “Ms. Yates, are you feeling insecure because you stole someone else’s husband? Do you always feel that someone will steal your husband from you too?”

“Maybe there’ll be someone with bad judgment like us who will like Hank and learn to be a mistress from you, but that person will never be me. I’m a clean freak when it comes to relationships. If a man I threw away gets picked up by someone else, I’ll think of him as dirty. I will never want him anymore.

“That said, I really have to thank you for picking Hank up. Thanks to you, I could divorce smoothly and obtain the assets I wanted. To repay you, I promise you that even if Hank regrets it later and wants to remarry me, I will never give him the chance.”

Jessica said resentfully, “Hank will never regret it. He loves me the most.”

“If he loves you that much, what are you still afraid of?”

That certainly stumped Jessica.

Hank loved her, but after living with him and getting married, she gradually realized that marriage was not just a matter between two people. It involved two families that had nothing to do with each other.

Hank learned to cook for her. When her mother-in-law scolded her, he would also speak up for her and stand on her side. However, he still sometimes helped his mother.

It was not possible to spoil her completely, nor could he be completely submissive to her like he was when they were secretly dating.

Back then, all the gifts he gave her were expensive. Even the cheapest earrings cost several thousand.

Nowadays, his gifts to her were merely a bouquet of flowers. Her wedding band was a golden ring, but it only weighed ten grams and cost only a few thousand dollars. It could not be compared with the love shown pre-marriage at all.

Did he think she was not as valuable anymore because he had finally obtained her?

“Why did Hank come looking for you earlier? What were you two doing while hiding in the building?”

It was then that Liberty realized Jessica must have followed Hank.

Liberty had wondered how happily this pair of scumbags could live in the future. Unexpectedly, they already lost their trust after just getting their marriage license.

“Hank came to see Sonny and told me some stuff. I believe you should know what he told me since you’re his secretary. He can’t hide from you who he has met.”

“That’s it?”

In fact, Jessica already figured out the main reason Hank came to Liberty. She was just unhappy. She did not like the fact that they still often met after the divorce.

Liberty blocked Hank’s number, but Olivia secretly followed Liberty and found out where she lived. Now that Hank also knew, having his number blocked by Liberty had no effect on him. If he could not call her, he could come directly to her. This made Jessica even angrier.

Chapter 863 | [Serenity & Zachary]

“Ms. Yates, you can go back and question your husband if you don’t believe it. Why are you here to question my sister instead? You need to get this into your head. It was your husband who came to my sister, not the other way around.”

Serenity could not help but add, “If you’re that insecure, cut off your husband’s legs to make sure he can only stay by your side in the future.”

“Move out, Liberty. Move far away from here and don’t let my mother-in-law find out. That way, Hank won’t come to see you.” Jessica ignored Serenity’s mockery. Right now, the person she was most jealous of was Serenity.

She was prettier and younger than Serenity, but it was Serenity who married Mr. York.

Serenity’s life was too good to be true.

Just what did Mr. York see in her?

It was not just Jessica who had those thoughts. Many people did not understand what it was about Serenity that moved Mr. York’s heart and how she became his most beloved.

Before Liberty could say anything, Serenity got furious and said, “Why should my sister move out? If anyone should leave, it should be you guys. Aren’t you afraid that Hank will come looking for my sister? In that case, you’d better move far away and leave Wiltspoon. That way, he won’t come back.

“I’ll throw your own words back at you, Yates. If you can’t manage your man, don’t blame external temptations for being too much. This is what homewreckers like you would say.

“Hurry up and get lost. I want to splash a basin of water on you to wash your brain when I see you.”

Serenity slammed the door shut and said to her sister, “Thank goodness you divorced Hank. Otherwise, your blood pressure might go off the charts from anger.”

“It’s not worth getting angry at her. The angrier we are, the more she’ll pop up, and she’ll actually think that I still have feelings for Hank. She’ll come over more often to show off her sense of superiority as the victor.”

Liberty now felt nothing but calm when it came to dealing with people like Jessica.

“I was in a bad mood, but she came knocking and let me scold her. I feel much better. I’m hungry now. I want an extra serving.”

Liberty laughed. “Eat more then.”

The sisters sat back down at the table to eat.

Serenity’s cell phone rang. It was a video call from Zachary. She did not want to take it, but on second thought, she answered anyway.

Although she accepted the video call, she did not say anything.

“Have you eaten, Seren?”

Serenity kept mum and simply raised her bowl.

Zachary understood she was in the middle of eating.

“Why can’t I see you, Seren? Is your phone broken? I’ll send you a new phone tomorrow.”

Serenity remained silent, but she picked up the phone and held it facing Sonny so that Zachary could see him. Zachary saw him eating with gravy coating his lips.

“Uncle Zack.”

Sonny waved happily at Zachary in the video, took another bite, and said, “Uncle Zack, I’m eating now. Aunt Seren’s cooking is really yummy.”

Zachary spat in his heart, ‘There’s no lie in that, little guy. Unfortunately, I can’t eat it now. You’re so lucky.’

His heart was incredibly bitter, but he smiled and coaxed the little one. “Can you share a little bit with Uncle Zack?”

“Uncle Zack can’t eat it.”

“Why not?”

Sonny answered very seriously, “Because Uncle Zack is inside the phone now.”

Zachary laughed. Even Serenity smiled.

The little one was quite good at talking.

“Sonny, can you let Uncle Zack see your Aunt Seren?”

Serenity was speechless. He was using Sonny.

However, Sonny looked at Serenity in confusion and said to Zachary, “Aunt Seren is right there.” He pointed at Serenity. He could see his aunt. Why could Uncle Zack not see her?

For a moment, Zachary did not know how to explain it to a three-year-old child.

Chapter 864 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity hung up the video call.

Zachary muttered, “She won’t even let me see Sonny.”

If he had known, he would have kept teasing Sonny. That way, he could let Serenity hear his voice.

Liberty looked at her sister but remained silent. She did not ask a single question since she brought her sister home. Serenity would naturally talk to her when she wanted to.

When she saw her son’s mouth covered in gravy, she laughed and wiped the gravy from his face.

Serenity wanted to go out after dinner.

“Where are you going?” Liberty asked while washing the dishes.

“I just want to go out for some air. I’ll use your e-bike.”

“Stay close. The battery might not last. If you go too far and run out of battery, you’ll have to push the bike the rest of the way. Put on a jacket. It’s windy outside.”

“Got it.”

“Don’t ask Jasmine out for drinks. Zachary is worried about you, and I promised him I won’t let you drive recklessly or go drinking.”

Serenity’s mood soured again at the mention of Zachary’s name. She was angry at him, but she could not get him out of her mind. She was reminded of him in everything she did.

She grumbled, “Liberty, I’m your real sister, but you’re helping him to control me.”

“I’m not helping anyone. I’m putting your safety first. You drive like a racer when you’re in a bad mood, and you’re prone to accidents. You go drinking, but you can’t hold your liquor and get wasted with just two glasses. Then, you’ll wake up the next day crying about your headache.”

Serenity was speechless.

“I wanna go, Aunt Seren.”

The little ankle-biter immediately ran over and wrapped his arms around Serenity’s leg when he heard that she wanted to go out for a ride.

Serenity picked up her nephew, brought a child seat for the electric bike, and said to her sister, “I’ll take Sonny out for a few laps outside.”

“Be careful. Put Sonny’s hood on. His jacket has a hood.”

“Got it.”

Serenity carried her nephew out.

Unexpectedly, when she was pushing the e-bike out, she saw Zachary wandering in front of the building.

Serenity did not let him see her during the video call as she did not want to look at him, so she did not notice his background during the call.

She did not expect him to be at the entrance.

How long had he been there?

Serenity looked at Zachary and saw that he was wearing a jacket to keep warm. She picked up her nephew, placed him on the child seat, and put on a kid’s helmet for him. She put on a helmet for herself too before riding the e-bike away from where Zachary was standing.

“Seren...”

Zachary called out.

Serenity did not turn around, let alone answer him.

Zachary jogged after them for a few dozen meters, but Serenity accelerated, so he could not catch up.

After stopping, he immediately called Jim and said, "Go buy me an e-bike and send it to Liberty's place. I'll accompany Seren the next time she goes on a ride."

Whether it was a two- or four-wheeled vehicle, he would accompany her.

Even if she did not pay attention to him, he would be relieved if he could follow her from afar and look at her.

Jim understood.

He immediately went to buy an e-bike.

In any case, Zachary rode all kinds of transportation with Serenity in the months he concealed his identity.

Chapter 865 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity and Sonny made two laps nearby and she ended up bringing Sonny to a nearby supermarket. They went home with a full load of snacks and a carton of milk.

Serenity stopped the e-bike in front of Liberty's block. She instinctively looked around but did not spot Zachary. She was relieved yet had mixed feelings.

"Get down first, Sonny. I'll push the bike into the garage and lock it up."

There was a public garage on the first floor for the tenants here to park their vehicles.

Serenity first lowered her nephew from the e-bike, then placed the snacks and the carton of milk she bought beside him.

The little guy thought his aunt bought all these snacks for him, so he immediately squatted next to the bag and grabbed it with one hand while another was on the carton of milk. It was obvious he was trying to protect the food.

"Sonny."

A familiar voice rang out.

Sonny turned his head and saw Zachary standing behind him. He immediately stood up and called out happily, "Uncle Zack."

Then, he raised his arms to let Zachary hold him.

Serenity had just pushed the e-bike into the garage when she heard Zachary's voice. She instinctively turned her head to look at him and saw him picking Serenity up.

With a split second of distraction, she pushed her e-bike and accidentally collided with a motorbike next to it. The motorbike fell to the other side, and the e-bike tilted with it. Serenity lost her balance and fell on the e-bike.

"Seren!"

Zachary cried out and immediately set Sonny down after he had just picked him up to run over to the garage.

“Seren, are you okay? Did you scrape yourself? Let me see.”

Zachary pulled Serenity up and hurriedly checked her body for bruises.

“Thank you for your concern, Mr. York. I’m fine.”

Serenity pushed away his large hands examining her and thanked him indifferently. Then, she went to pick up the bikes.

Zachary heard the distant form of address and looked at her cold expression. The way she talked to him hurt more than when she ignored him.

“Seren.”

Serenity stared at him.

Cat got Zachary’s tongue when she looked at him like that.

“I—I’ll help you get the bikes. Stand back.”

Zachary sighed in his heart. Like Josh said, what he had to do now was make Serenity trust him again.

“Thanks, but no thanks. I can do it by myself.”

Zachary’s heart felt stuffy. She was always like this. She did not even give him the chance to help her.

After refusing his help, Serenity straightened the e-bike by herself, and then the motorbike she knocked over. She noticed the side mirror of the motorbike was broken and wanted to compensate the owner, but she did not know who it belonged to.

After thinking about it, she took out her phone and called her sister. When Liberty picked up, she said, “Liberty, please bring me a pen and paper. I knocked over someone else’s motorbike when I was pushing the e-bike into the garage. One of the side mirrors broke, but I don’t know who the bike owner is. I want to leave a note for them.”

“All right.”

Liberty did not scold Serenity and soon came down with a pen and a piece of paper.

She was not surprised when she saw Zachary standing in the garage like an ice statue. With his character, even if he could let Serenity go and come home with her, he could not stand by and just leave Serenity.

Had he been standing there the entire time?

Liberty glanced at her brother-in-law.

Zachary understood what that look meant and groaned in a low voice, “Seren won’t let me help her.”

Liberty was speechless.

Serenity refused his help, so he decided to stand there like an ice statue and take up space?

“Here, Seren.”

Liberty handed the pen and paper to her sister. She then shot Zachary a look and gestured for him to follow her out of the garage.

Chapter 866 | [Serenity & Zachary]

After struggling to take his eyes off Serenity, Zachary quietly followed his sister-in-law out.

Grabbing the paper and pen, Serenity wrote an apology and left her name and phone number so she could discuss repairs when the person got in touch.

Seeing the anti-theft lock was unused, Serenity put the note on the pedal and clamped it down with the lock. Once she had done that, Serenity walked out of the parking garage.

She saw her sister and nephew, but Zachary was nowhere to be found.

“Liberty, is he gone?”

“You bought a lot of stuff. Zachary volunteered to move them upstairs for you.”

Pursing her lips, Serenity said nothing more.

“You said you were just going out for a ride, but you ended up in a supermarket. I can’t leave you and Sonny in the supermarket. You shop until you drop.”

With her son in her arms, Liberty chatted with her sister while climbing up the stairs.

“Retail therapy is the best when you’re feeling down. You’ll come out of the store feeling new.”

Liberty burst into laughter. “You and Sonny are just there for the snacks. You just don’t want to admit it.”

By the time the sisters made it upstairs, the door was wide open.

Zachary was waiting for them at the door.

“I put away the things, Liberty.”

Zachary was talking to Liberty, but his eyes were glued to Serenity.

“Thank you, Zachary.”

Zachary immediately replied, “Call me if you ever need help with any heavy lifting. I’ll be there.”

Liberty responded with a smile, “There’s not a lot of heavy labor. It’s cold outside today. Don’t just stand there. Come in and enjoy a hot drink before you leave.”

Zachary looked at Serenity, waiting for her to say something.

Liberty carried her son into the house.

Serenity followed right behind her, looking straight ahead while brushing past Zachary.

She stepped into the house and entered the kitchen.

Standing there, Zachary was overwhelmed with a feeling of disappointment. Serenity did not invite him into the house for a hot beverage.

Serenity soon emerged from the kitchen with a glass in hand. The glass was filled with hot piping water.

She carried the glass of water out and put it down on the coffee table. It was boiling!

Serenity then said to her sister, "I'm going to go and get some rest, Liberty. I have work tomorrow."

Turning on her heel, she went into her room without so much as giving Zachary a look.

Once Serenity shut the door behind her, Liberty turned to the spaced-out man." Zachary, Seren poured you a drink. Why don't you come in for a drink to warm up?"

"Oh." Snapping out of his thoughts, Zachary quickly came in.

He turned his head in the direction of Serenity's room.

Liberty said, "I wouldn't bother if I were you. You won't be living together with your wife any time soon."

Zachary could not get used to the idea.

It took him some time to come to terms with sharing a bed with someone. Now that he had adapted to wrapping his arms around his wife at night, Zachary was bound to have sleepless nights due to the sudden change of sleeping arrangements.

The nights were long.

Left alone in an empty bedroom, Zachary could only find companionship with his pillow.

Zachary took a seat on the couch. Since Sonny had always been fond of Zachary, he slipped out of his mother's embrace and climbed up Zachary's lap. Sonny sat down on Zachary's lap.

"Uncle Zack."

"Sonny."

Zachary held the little guy with one hand and picked up the glass of water with the other. It did not take long before Zachary put down the glass. It was scalding!

Chapter 867 | [Serenity & Zachary]

It crossed Zachary's mind that Serenity personally brought the glass out of the kitchen. She did not break the glass even though the drink was piping hot. The water must be to warm him up.

Serenity was angry and gave him the snub, still refusing to forgive him. Nevertheless, her tiny gestures told Zachary that Serenity was not as heartless as she put herself out to be.

With that in mind, Zachary felt a little better.

As Sonny leaned forward, Zachary immediately moved the glass aside before hot water was knocked over.

Sonny wanted to open the bag of snacks.

Zachary pulled the bag over and opened it for him.

“Thank you, Uncle Zack.”

Grabbing a pack of chips from the grocery bag, Sonny gave it to Zachary and said, “This is for you, Uncle Zack. Aunt Ser said it’s tasty.”

Aunt Ser rarely bought him chips, stating that too much junk food was not good for him.

Why did Aunt Ser always help herself to a bag then?

After Zachary took the bag of chips, Sonny dug out a few more bags and gave them to Zachary. The little boy then slid down from Zachary’s lap and carried the grocery bag with the remaining snacks with a struggle, saying, “This is all mine.”

Liberty amusedly took the bag from her son and uttered, “The bag is heavier than you. Put the bag here. You can’t have any tonight, but you can have some tomorrow. You’ll spoil your dinner if you have them all at once.”

She then turned to Zachary. “Sonny doesn’t share. There’s the occasional exception with a few kids, but not with adults though.”

Zachary had always kept a straight face while interacting with Sonny right from the start. However, Sonny was not afraid of him. In fact, the little man got along well with Zachary.

Despite meeting Duncan multiple times, Sonny still could not look Duncan in the eye. There was something about human relations that was hard to fathom.

Zachary laid out the few bags he got from Sonny and replied, “Sonny, I don’t really like to eat snacks. You can have them back.”

Sonny grabbed the junk food and stuffed it back into the grocery bag.

It made Zachary laugh.

Sonny climbed back into his mother’s arms.

Soon, his young body gave in to weariness as Sonny dozed off in his mother’s embrace.

Zachary did not want to leave, but since Sonny was asleep and his wife was holed up in the room, it was a bit awkward for him and his sister-in-law to sit there in silence. He finished the drink, got up, and said, “I got to go, Liberty.”

“Sure. Be safe on the road.”

Liberty rose to her feet while carrying her son to see Zachary off.

He walked on, telling Liberty that she did not have to. Although he kept his attention on Serenity's bedroom door, his hopes were dashed when the door remained shut and kept the beautiful figure from coming out.

Zachary sighed.

He felt their fight had gone on for a long time, but it had only been a couple of days.

It had been rough for sure.

Zachary did not return to his place at Regent Residences. Instead, he went to Brynfield where he had stayed with Zachary since they signed the marriage papers.

The couple spent many of their moments here.

He pushed open the door to a house of darkness.

Standing outside the door, Zachary was brought back to the day they got married. He came home the first night to find Serenity had locked him out.

He had forgotten he had a wife while it slipped her mind she had a husband too.

It was a marriage of convenience back then, and the couple was cordial, if not distant, with one another.

Now that Zachary thought about it, those moments were near and dear to him.

Chapter 868 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Struck by a thought, Zachary flipped the lights on and hurried to Serenity's bedroom. He flung the door open and looked at the unchanged décor. Her things were still around.

He examined her closet and found a few pieces of clothing missing. Her suitcase was still beside the wardrobe. She did not take all her things with her.

Zachary sighed heavily with relief.

He was so afraid of losing someone for the first time ever.

Sitting on Serenity's bed, Zachary brushed his fingers along her sheets as if he could feel her through her belongings.

"Seren..."

He murmured her name.

"I'll prove to you through my actions that you won't hear another lie from me again!

"You can ignore me for a year if I ever do anything to deceive or hurt you. Um... year's a bit long. Maybe three months."

After much thought, Zachary believed he would go crazy from three months of no interaction with Serenity. He mumbled to himself, "I think a week is fine. I lost my mind when you didn't talk to me for a day. A week would push me over the edge. I think it's a hard enough punishment."

Serenity would be speechless if she were there now.

Zachary stayed in her room for a while before going out to close the main door. He did not lock the house in case Serenity woke up in the middle of the night from the cold and missed his warm embrace. She might just come running home to him.

Of course, it was all wishful thinking and could hardly become a reality.

Even if Serenity was willing to talk to him, their relationship could not possibly go back to where it once was right away.

That night, Zachary slept in Serenity's bedroom.

It was a quiet night.

The following morning, Serenity got up early to make her sister and nephew breakfast just like when she was still staying with her sister. After breakfast, Serenity grabbed her car keys and phone and went out the door.

She had to return to the shop today and rush her orders out. Her clients were already asking for updates.

Heartbreak was no big deal. It could not come in the way of her making money.

A day was good enough for her to let out all her bad feelings.

Since it was early, traffic was pretty decent.

Serenity brisked through traffic all the way to Wiltspoon School.

Pulling up outside the shop, Serenity got out of the car and saw Mr. Charles standing outside his shop with a plate in hand. He greeted her with a wave and a smile.

"Morning, Mr. Charles. Having breakfast, are you?"

"Good morning, Serenity. I just had mine. Have you had yours?"

"I came after breakfast. I thought you'd only open for business on the first day of school."

Mr. Charles replied with a grin, "The school term starts the day after tomorrow. We came early to tidy up the place and prepare for the students' return."

Still holding the plate, Mr. Charles drew close and added, "I thought you'd be close for business."

Mr. Charles and the rest of the neighbors were aware that Serenity was Mrs. York. Mr. Charles even told his wife smugly, "I told you Serenity is destined for riches and will move up in life, but you said I was full of baloney."

Unable to stand her husband's gloating, Mrs. Charles snapped back, "Why don't you tell my fortune if you're so good at it? When will I hit the jackpot and get a new husband?"

"You might as well become a fortune teller or psychic. I bet business will be booming, better than our shop here."

Mr. Charles replied hesitantly, "It's just a hobby."

Anyway, he was right about Serenity. He would be entitled to bragging rights for a long time.

Even Jasmine would welcome a life of wealth and privilege. However, her family was well-off, to begin with, so there was not much of a reversal of fortune for her, unlike Serenity who went from rags to riches.

Chapter 869 | [Serenity & Zachary]

Serenity said with a smile, "Of course, we'll be open for business."

"They said you'll sell the business and take it easy with life when we found out you were the missus of the York family. They also said they are willing to buy your business no matter the cost because of the good energy in your shop."

Mr. Charles added amid chuckles, "The place only has good energy because you're there."

Did these people think they would marry up like Serenity just by taking over her shop?

Nevertheless, it was not a bad idea to buy Serenity's business. He could advertise saying that the shop once belonged to Mrs. York.

"I'm still the same me, Mr. Charles. Jasmine and I put a lot of hard work into the shop. I can't just give up on the shop after running it for *so* many years."

"I heard that the wives of wealthy families can't work. Does Mr. York allow *you* to work?"

Mr. Charles was in the mood for some gossip.

Serenity kept quiet for a while before answering, "I'm a free person, Mr. Charles."

Zachary had her fooled for more than four months, and his whole family was in on it too.

The lies would have begun to show their cracks if Serenity was not permitted to work. The women were probably allowed to work in the York family.

Although Serenity was upset that Zachary lied to her, she had to admit that the Yorks were well-cultured.

It dawned on her now that they were the blueblood through and through. Their manners and bearings were bred in the bones, not something an ordinary person could pick up.

Serenity finally understood why her mother-in-law suggested that she took a class in etiquette.

The Yorks were a family of high social standing.

The social gap put a lot of pressure on Serenity.

Mr. Charles said with a smile, "That's what I said, but they wanted to bet on it. I'll put in my wager and bet that you will still be open for business. They believe you'll sell the business now that you have a rich husband. Apparently, you don't need to work since you have the money."

Serenity grinned. "You should bet big then."

“I’ll put all my secret savings on it. Don’t tell my wife that I have extra cash stashed away, Serenity. Oh, are you going to bet too?”

Serenity answered, “It doesn’t seem fair to them if I bet on myself.”

Even if she wanted to sell the business, Serenity would hang on just to win the bet. Besides, it was not as though her shop was not making money. There was no way she was going to give up on her business unless the landlord ceased to rent the space, but that was something out of Serenity’s hands.

“Haha. You’re right. Don’t place a wager. It’s not good to be greedy. I can win some money if I bet all my savings on it. I’ll buy you a meal.”

“Is there a time frame for the bet?”

“Of course. It’s a month.”

Serenity replied with a grin, “You’ll win for sure.”

“It’ll be all thanks to you. That’s what they get for arguing with me and doubting me. I’m a good fortune teller, you know. Hahaha.”

Mr. Charles walked away with a spring in his step.

Serenity was caught between tears and laughter.

Fortune teller?

Mr. Charles was so happy it looked as though he would be winning a house from the bet.

Serenity opened the side entrance to get into the shop before unlatching the main entrance.

The fresh air whisked into the shop, clearing the stuffiness out of the room. It did not take long for the sunlight to replace the mustiness.

Out of habit, she started moving the display racks out of the shop.

“Seren.”

Riding on her e-bike, Jasmine approached and saw Serenity out and about. She parked her ride and remarked with a smile, “I thought you’d take a few days off.” Serenity responded, “I can’t say no to making a buck.”

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Jasmine smiled. “Now this is the Serenity I know.”

After parking her bike, Jasmine went to move the display racks out with Serenity.

“Did Mr. York bother you afterward?” Jasmine asked with concern.

While dusting off the racks, Serenity replied, “Do you think he would let me breathe and cool down for a few days?”

“Nope.”

Jasmine added, "Just turn a blind eye so long as he doesn't cross the line by knocking you out and putting you under house arrest like last time. Mr. York is distressed and scared to lose you."

Serenity was without a word.

Seeing that Serenity was not in the mood for a relationship chat, Jasmine took the hint and stopped diving into the topic.

"Ah, the shop's finally open. Serenity. Serenity."

The voice from the door was one to dig under Serenity's skin. Old Mr. Hunt, leading his group of sons and grandsons, walked not the shop with big smiles.

"Serenity."

Old Mr. Hunt beamed, looking at Serenity as if she was a goldmine. Man, he was blinded by the shimmering gold.

It never occurred to him that his granddaughter would be so lucky. Serenity was a nobody, and all she had was her sister. Yet, the girl managed to bag herself a rich husband. What a lucky girl!

These were the Yorks, the wealthiest family in Wiltspoon!

His grandson told him that the Yorks were worth billions.

Billions!

Old Mr. Hunt had to use a calculator to make out exactly how many zeros there were.

With his son and grandson egging him on, Old Mr. Hunt could not keep it together anymore. He and his offspring made haste to the city to demand money from Serenity. Um... Hang on. It was to reunite with his granddaughter.

Of course, it would be better if the reconciliation came with money as well.

Serenity could leave him crumbs, and it would be enough for Old Mr. Hunt to live comfortably until the day he died.

"Mike, John, bring in the local produce for Serenity."

Old Mr. Hunt happily told his grandson before turning to Serenity. "I brought you some local produce, Serenity. Don't think of it as tacky. It tastes like home. It's your parents' favorite food when they were still around."

Serenity furrowed her brows.

Hank alerted her sister last night that the money-hungry wolves were in town.

Serenity thought their first pitstop would be York Corporation to look for Zachary.

Knowing her granddad, Serenity imagined Old Mr. Hunt would rush to play the part of a grandfather to the heir of the Yorks.

“Thanks, but I can get my own food if I want it,” Serenity faintly responded as she approached with a duster.

Old Mr. Hunt went on to sit down behind the cash register.

Serenity whacked the duster on the table, scaring the old man. Observing the look on Serenity’s face, Old Mr. Hunt reluctantly came out from behind the cash register and pulled a chair to sit. He said to Serenity, “Your grandmom is doing well, Serenity. I don’t need to be with her 24/7. I’ll work the cash register for you. I’m old, so I can’t help with the heavy stuff, but I can handle the money.

“That reminds me. Your uncles, cousins, and I haven’t had breakfast since we rushed over. Is there anything to eat in your shop? Can you make us something, or at least order us some takeaway?”

“Granddad, I ordered takeaway. The delivery should arrive any minute,” John chimed in.

Granddad was used to ordering Serenity around, but the latter was now the wife of a wealthy heir. Since they had not buried the hatchet, there was no way Serenity was going to cook for them.