

Married At First Sight Chapter 3801

Chapter 3801

Rowan's family didn't pay much attention to him, especially his mother. She rarely showed concern for him, believing that with eight older brothers to look out for him, he'd be fine. But this also meant Rowan faced a lot of pressure with his studies. Many of his teachers had taught his older brothers before him, so if his grades slipped even a little, they'd compare him to them.

Rowan was always under a lot of pressure.

Despite this, he was still one of the top students in his class and ranked among the top ten in the entire city. Yet, when compared to his brothers, he felt like he fell short.

His eight older brothers had skipped grades throughout elementary, junior high, and high school, while Rowan had to progress at a regular pace after entering junior high.

Having one excellent older brother is tough enough; having eight exceptional ones made the pressure even worse.

"Grandma asked me to make sure you're picked up from the airport today," Rowan said. "Since I went home yesterday for the holiday, I thought I'd come to get you myself."

He glanced at the bodyguards following his eldest brother, who were busy carrying the luggage, leaving him with nothing to do.

"Sister-in-law, are you hungry?" Rowan asked Serenity. "I brought some snacks in the car for you. You can have them when we get in. Grandma also asked the chef to prepare a few of your favorite dishes. Oh, and Young Master Julian is here with his fiancée. Grandma's hosting them at home."

Rowan chatted with Serenity as they walked, calling Zachary "big brother" and playfully pinching Sonny's cheek. They strolled side by side, looking so close that anyone who didn't know them might think they were actual siblings.

Zachary, holding the still-sleeping Sonny, watched his wife and little brother walk ahead with a hint of jealousy.

Sonny had slept through everything, even Rowan's pinch on his cheek. Zachary thought that with Sonny now so well-rested, he probably wouldn't nap when they got home. And with Rowan there to keep him entertained, the two of them might be bouncing off the walls all afternoon.

Rowan, just starting his vacation, deserved a few days to unwind and relax. Everyone in the family understood this.

Education is crucial, but maintaining mental and physical health is even more important.

These days, too many high school students suffer under the weight of academic pressure, parents' constant expectations, and the demands of school. Some even experience severe stress and depression, with tragic cases where kids feel like there's no way out.

Zachary didn't want Rowan to reach that point. Although Rowan seemed to handle stress well, Zachary knew that if the pressure ever became too much, they could always send him abroad.

For now, Rowan didn't have to worry about getting into college—it was just a matter of which university he would choose. He didn't want to go abroad too early, and the family respected his wishes.

"Rowan, can you help me hold Sonny?" Zachary called out. "I've been carrying him the whole way, and my arms are getting sore."

Rowan quickly stepped over and took Sonny from Zachary's arms. "How long has Sonny been sleeping?"

"He fell asleep just after we boarded the plane and hasn't woken up since. He sleeps like a log," Zachary said with a laugh, gently pinching Sonny's cheek.

Rowan hoisted Sonny up so that the boy's head rested on his shoulder. As he walked with Serenity, he kept chatting with her, sharing funny stories from his school.

"Sister-in-law," Rowan asked, "when is my little nephew due? Will he be born after I take my college entrance exams? It'd be great if he waited until after, so when he's born, he'll see me, his ninth uncle, first. That way, we'll be close right from the start!"

Zachary couldn't help but tease, "My son will definitely see his dad first, not his little uncle. Don't forget, you've got a lot of older brothers and so many elders ahead of you!"

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On the day Serenity gave birth, Rowan worried he wouldn't even get close enough to be among the first to see the baby. He wanted to be the first one the baby saw, but that seemed like wishful thinking!

Rowan was at a loss for words.

Serenity laughed and said, "It doesn't matter who the baby sees first. Relationships grow over time. Once the baby is born, you can hold him and play with him whenever you can. That's how you'll build a bond, and he'll become close to you."

She could already picture their baby becoming the York family's little darling.

With so many family members and this being the only baby, everyone would shower the child with love and attention.

Rowan said, a bit dramatically, "Being the youngest means I never get any of the perks."

Zachary replied, "When you get married and have a child of your own, then you can be the first one to see your baby. But as for this nephew of yours, don't even dream about it."

Rowan said, "I'm still too young for that. I'm far from getting married and having kids—it'll be at least another eleven or twelve years, maybe even fourteen or fifteen. Big brother, weren't you thirty-two when you became a father?"

Zachary asked, "Do you have to follow in my footsteps?"

Rowan said, "Of course! You're my role model, big brother. I want to be just like you."

Zachary teased, “Then I’ll send you some practice papers when we get home. I did a ton of them back in the day, way more than you’ve done. That’s how you can be like me.”

Rowan quickly protested, “Sister-in-law, look at big brother! He can’t handle seeing me do well. I work hard at school, studying as soon as I open my eyes. Now that I finally have a holiday, he still won’t let me relax.”

“Feeling pressured?” Zachary asked with a smirk.

“Not really,” Rowan replied. “If I were aiming for your college, maybe I’d feel 1% pressure.”

Serenity smiled and said, “That’s practically no pressure at all. Your brother’s just teasing you—he won’t really make you study. Don’t scare him, husband! Let him enjoy his break. Rowan, do you want to take a little trip? There are still a few days before the New Year. You could go out and have some fun, maybe take your friends to the north to see the snow and explore some new places.”

Rowan said, “Nah, my friends just want to play video games. I’ll just hang out around Wiltspoon for a few days.”

“That sounds like a good plan,” Serenity agreed. “And you can help take care of Sonny.”

Rowan was momentarily speechless.

“Think of it as practice for looking after kids,” Serenity added with a smile. “That way, you’ll be ready to win over your nephew. Don’t you want him to be close to you?”

Rowan still couldn’t find the right words. He felt like Zachary was giving him a hard time on purpose—probably because Rowan and Serenity were getting along so well.

Just then, they heard a surprised voice calling out, “Serenity?”

Everyone turned to see who it was.

It was Hank.

Hank had come to the airport to pick up some guests.

When Serenity met his gaze, Hank realized he was indeed looking at his ex-sister-in-law, her husband, and his son, Sonny.

Sonny was being held by a young man.

After staring for a moment, Hank remembered that the person holding Sonny was the youngest of the York brothers.

Back when Zachary was hiding his true identity, Hank and Liberty were still married, so they had met some members of the York family. Hank had seen several of the York brothers back then, though he hadn't gotten to know them all well.

Hank asked his guests to wait for a moment and jogged over, his eyes first settling on Sonny.

"Serenity, are you back in town today? Do you need a ride?" Hank asked, gently touching Sonny's cheek. His expression softened as he added, "Sonny's still asleep."

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Serenity responded calmly, "Grandma arranged for a driver to pick us up, so there's no need to call a car. Sonny fell asleep on the plane. Are you here to pick up someone?"

She glanced at Hank's car parked nearby.

Hank explained, "Yeah, I'm picking up a guest who came back for the New Year. He booked a ride in advance, and I accepted the job. I've been waiting a while before he finally arrived."

"Sonny, Sonny," Hank softly called out to his son.

After the winter break, Sonny had been staying with Serenity at the Johnson household.

Hank had wanted to take Sonny home for a while so his parents could enjoy some family time, but Sonny went with Serenity instead. Hank hadn't seen Sonny much, and his parents were always complaining, saying he didn't visit

Sonny enough. If he didn't bring Sonny home now and then, they worried Sonny might forget about his biological father and grandparents.

With Liberty and Duncan likely getting married soon, Hank feared Sonny would eventually see Duncan as his new dad and forget about him.

Sonny had been asleep for a long time. After hearing his father call his name a few times, he slowly opened his eyes, still groggy. When he first saw Hank, he thought he was imagining things. After rubbing his eyes and looking again, he realized it really was his dad. In a sleepy voice, he mumbled, "Dad."

Sonny wondered how his father was here, considering his uncle had been holding him just moments ago. Was he dreaming?

Seeing Sonny awake, Hank immediately took him from Rowan's arms. Rowan, noticing Zachary and Serenity didn't stop Hank, let go and allowed Hank to hold the boy.

Back when Hank and Liberty were divorcing, Hank's parents had taken Sonny to their hometown. Zachary had to call his brothers to help get Sonny back. Rowan hadn't been involved at the time, as he was still in school, but once he learned what had happened, he grew to dislike Hank and the Brown family.

It didn't help that the Browns constantly bothered Liberty. They couldn't stand seeing her doing better without Hank and went out of their way to make her life difficult. Rowan thought they were an unpleasant family.

"Dad," Sonny called out again.

Hank responded eagerly, kissing Sonny's face and holding him tightly.

He had never shown such warmth toward his son as he did at that moment.

"Sonny, Sonny," Hank kept calling his name, unable to contain his emotions.

"Did you have fun?" Hank asked gently.

Sonny nodded. "Yes, I had a lot of fun."

Zachary and the others stepped aside, giving Hank and Sonny a moment together.

But Sonny kept glancing at Serenity, worried she might leave without him.

“Dad, are you here to pick up Aunt Serenity and me?” Sonny asked.

Hank kissed his son’s face again and replied, “I didn’t know you were coming back today. I came to pick up a guest. Your aunt’s family arranged a ride for you, so I don’t need to.”

Serenity would rather take public transportation than ride in Hank’s car.

Hank then asked in a quiet voice, “Sonny, is your mom back yet? When will she be home?”

Sonny answered honestly, “Mom said she’ll be back in a few days for the New Year.” He then added excitedly, “Uncle Duncan went to be with Mom. He didn’t wait for me to come back, but they’ll be home soon. Uncle Duncan said he bought me lots of new clothes and toys. Dad, Uncle Duncan and Mom are getting married. I heard it from Aunt Serenity. I’ll have two dads soon, Dad! Isn’t that cool?”

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With a cheerful smile, Sonny held up two fingers and said to Hank, “Other kids only have one dad, but I have two.”

Hank felt uneasy hearing about Duncan and Liberty’s upcoming marriage, but he couldn’t say much. After all, he had been the one to let go of Liberty first. He was the one who betrayed their love and their marriage.

No matter how uncomfortable he felt, Hank had no choice but to wish Liberty and Duncan happiness. Deep down, he knew Duncan was a better man than he ever was. Not only was Duncan more successful, but he was also more devoted in love.

Hank sighed inwardly.

Who could he blame for his situation? Only himself. His dissatisfaction had led him here.

When he achieved some success, he looked down on Liberty. He cheated on her, and now, he had lost everything. Once an executive earning a million dollars a year, he now couldn't even find a decent job. No company wanted to hire him for fear of upsetting Zachary. To make ends meet, he was driving for a ride-hailing service.

He had squandered every opportunity life had given him.

If only—if only he hadn't turned against Liberty, hadn't listened to his parents and sister, and had treated Serenity like his own sister. He could have had a thriving career, a happy family, a loving wife, and a son who didn't call another man "dad."

Hank asked, "Do you like Uncle Duncan, Sonny?"

Sonny nodded eagerly. "Yes, I like Uncle Duncan. Dad, he's not a bad person. Don't say he's bad. He's really not."

Sonny could already tell the difference between good and bad people.

At first, Sonny was scared of Duncan when Liberty met him. But over time, as he got to know Duncan, he realized Duncan wasn't scary or bad at all. Children are perceptive, and Sonny could see that Duncan genuinely cared for him.

Hank forced a smile and said, "You're right. Your Uncle Duncan isn't a bad person. I shouldn't have said those things before. When you live with him, make sure to be good and listen to him. Don't make him angry, or he might not like you anymore."

Even though Duncan treated Sonny well now, as his biological father, Hank worried about the future. What if Duncan's attitude changed? What if Sonny started to resent him? And what if Liberty and Duncan had a child together—would that child take all the attention?

Hank feared Liberty's affection might shift to a second child, leaving Sonny feeling left out.

"Dad, Uncle Duncan won't dislike me. I'll be good and won't make him mad," Sonny reassured him, confident in his place. He knew he was lovable. Everywhere he went, people admired how cute he was.

Who could possibly dislike him?

Hank hugged Sonny tightly for a moment before releasing him and setting him down. He took Sonny's hand and began walking toward Serenity and Zachary.

"If Uncle Duncan ever stops liking you, and your mom is too busy to take care of you, go to your aunt, okay?"

Serenity would always look after Sonny. Hank trusted her more than anyone.

As much as Liberty loved her son, Hank worried that things would change once Liberty and Duncan had their own child. Would Liberty still be as devoted to Sonny? Would Duncan love him as much when he had his own biological child?

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Sonny nodded confidently, "Uncle Duncan won't dislike me."

Liberty hadn't always been able to look after Sonny herself. In the past few months, for instance, she was too busy, so Sonny stayed with Serenity and Zachary.

After a moment of silence, Hank spoke gently, "But if your mom and Uncle Duncan have another child, they might love their new baby more and not care about you as much."

Sonny immediately shook his head and responded firmly, "No, Dad. Mom said even if she and Uncle Duncan have another baby, she would still love me the most. Aunt Seren said the same thing."

Hank insisted, "I'm just saying it's a possibility, not necessarily true. Just remember to stay close to Aunt Seren; she wouldn't play favorites."

Although Serenity was just an aunt, she treated all her nephews fairly. However, if Liberty and Duncan had another child, they might favor their own baby over Sonny.

Sonny pouted and spoke up, “Dad, that’s just what you say because you don’t like Mom being with Uncle Duncan. You always think he’s a bad guy and talk badly about him. But I’m not a kid you can fool. I know who’s good and who isn’t. Uncle Duncan isn’t a bad guy. He told me he liked me first and then slowly liked Mom. You’re only pretending to be nice to me to make Mom happy. Dad, you’re being unfair.”

Hank sighed, “Alright, alright, it’s my mistake. I shouldn’t have said those things. Don’t be upset, Sonny. I won’t say them anymore. Just remember, I’m still your dad. If you ever feel wronged or don’t want to live with your mom, you can come to me. I may not be as wealthy as your mom, but you’re my only child. I’d give up everything to help you succeed and give you all my love.”

Sonny replied, “I don’t hate Mom, and I won’t hate Uncle Duncan. I’ll stay with Mom. I don’t like living with Grandma or playing with Lucas and the others. They always try to take my things, and Grandma sides with Lucas. She even tells me to give him my stuff and to help him when I have money in the future. Why should I give him my money? Why should I help him when he bullies me? I’m not someone who can be pushed around anymore.”

He continued, “Grandma keeps saying that Lucas and I are brothers, but Lucas doesn’t treat me like one. I know that. Titus is nice to me and treats me like a real brother, unlike Lucas. And Aunt Chelsea always asks about how much money Mom has and how much I have, and then wants me to give her some.”

Hank’s face turned pale at Sonny’s words.

He didn’t doubt what Sonny was saying. He knew Liberty and Serenity well enough. Realizing Hank wasn’t going to divorce Jessica and that there was no chance of getting back with Liberty, his family became greedy and tried to manipulate Sonny.

Liberty was no longer the same person she used to be, and they couldn’t take advantage of her. So now, they targeted Sonny, trying to win him over and fill his head with their schemes.

No wonder Liberty was becoming more reluctant to let Sonny spend time with Hank’s family or stay over with them.